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THE
POSTAGE STAMP

EDITED BY

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3 APRIL, 1909.

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Gossip of the Week

BY "THE SUB."

New Russian Stamps.

FROM all accounts the rumour that a set of stamps is to be issued commemorative of the tercentenary of the rule of the Romanoffs, and bearing portraits of the various monarchs including the present Czar, is simply a fiction due to the over-imaginative brain of some journalist. Possibly it had its origin in the early reports of the arrival of the first values in the new design now adopted. At any rate, according to the St. Petersburg correspondents of various newspapers, "such a use of the imperial head is utterly inconceivable in Russia." We are told that, as postage stamps are made to be defaced, "no Russian—not even a Revolutionist—would subject the effigy of the 'Little Father' to such usage." Thus Dame Rumour once more upholds her reputation as a lying jade.

A Novel Suggestion.

An esteemed correspondent in the United States has a gentle growl on a rather curious point. Briefly, as a subscriber to most of the English philatelic journals, he objects to getting his literature in chunks and then perhaps waiting a week or more before he sees another journal. He puts forward the novel suggestion that the editors and publishers should agree to issue their particular publications on different days, so that he would then have a never-ending succession of philatelic fare. Ah! but, my dear friend, you don't know the wicked editors on this side of the ditch. Bless your life, they spend most of their spare moments trying to forestall one another.

We Blush.

Our correspondent concludes: "As a subscriber from the States I must congratulate you on the excellence of your paper. Personally, as a dilettante philatelist, I look forward to but two periodicals, and one of these is *The Postage Stamp*." Fie, fie, sir! Remember we are of a modest and retiring disposition. But wild horses would not drag from us the name of that other journal.

The Prince of Wales.

At the meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society held on March 18th, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, in his capacity of President, displayed his magnificent collection of the

stamps of Grenada. Needless to say, the display was quite up to the usual standard of excellence we have now come to connect with His Royal Highness's philatelic work.

Stolen Zanzibars.

We are indebted to several correspondents for cuttings from the general press relating to the theft of "a valuable collection of stamps belonging to Sir Edward Grey"—a fact which seems to have unduly excited some of our contemporaries. One thing has been established beyond doubt, and that is that Sir Edward Grey is not a philatelist. He has denied the soft impeachment so far as collecting anything but a modest number of current unused ½d. and 1d. British stamps is concerned.

However, it seems that some stamps were stolen, but from whom, and what has become of them, are mysteries. According to an official list supplied by Scotland Yard to pawnbrokers and stamp dealers, a complete set of unused Zanzibar stamps, varying in value from 1c to 200 rupees, has been stolen. They were on a white mount enclosed in an oak and walnut frame, and we are told that no effort is being spared to trace them as "more than a monetary value attaches to them."

More Penny Postage.

Evidently our postage, unlike certain other things, is not "to cost us more" in the future. We already have penny postage within the limits of the British Empire and between this country and the United States, and now, according to the Secretary of the British Chamber of Commerce in Paris, penny postage between France and the United States will soon be an accomplished fact. It will not be long, we trust, before the *entente cordiale* will be further strengthened by the establishment of penny postage between Britain and la belle France.

The Newcastle Exhibition.

By the time this number of *The Postage Stamp* is in the hands of our readers the Newcastle Exhibition will be over. The North of England Philatelic Society is showing commendable enterprise in engineering this exhibition, for local shows of this sort must be of inestimable benefit to philately in general. We understand that there will be an excellent display, and we are sure the exhibition will meet with all the success it deserves.

A Nankivell Story.

Apropos of exhibitions Mr. Whitfield King tells us an excellent story. We cannot do better than relate it in his own words:—"It was at the Exhibition in London in 1897. Mr. Nankivell was at the back of my stall, seated on a chair, conversing with me and my brother, when word came that the Prince of Wales (now King Edward) and the Duke of York were coming round. In a few minutes they were in front of my stall, where Mr. Tilleard introduced the Prince to Mr. Castle, who had only struggled into his coat just in time (the visit being unexpected), as he had been a moment before in his shirt sleeves. Mr. Nankivell had no time to get out, and I pushed him forward to the counter, and told him to represent the firm whilst I took a back seat, and I believe he was on that occasion taken for Mr. Whitfield King!"

New Bhopal Stamps.

Last July many collectors were in possession of a new 1a. Bhopal stamp which was unknown in India, and it subsequently turned out that this curious fact was due to a theft of the stamps from the printers, Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. Whether this incident had anything to do



with it, or whether a previous decision to dispense with special stamps for the ordinary postal service was adhered to, we cannot say, but it is curious that the only new stamps yet issued are for official purposes only. We are indebted to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co for specimens of the 1a. and 1a. in green and carmine respectively, and our correspondents tell us there is also a 2a stamp in blue. The design is exactly like that

of the stamps stolen from the printers, illustrated above, with the exception that the inscription on the left has been superseded by a new one reading upwards as follows:—"H. H. BEGUM'S SERVICE." In addition the stamps are surcharged "SERVICE" in black, so that there can be no mistake as to their intended use.

English on the Continent.

We were favoured with a price list from Vienna the other day, on which the following mysterious effusion appeared:—

To America only for cash before!
or for a selection in value of
1 Dollar = Kronen Austr. 4.90

Selections are wanted only from United States particularly: Stamps of service, Edwards-Isles, Newfoundland, New-Scotland, Canada, New Brunswick, Spain and Portugale.—I wish only better worthes for dealer prices! Please to calculate net prices! When conveniently J take them in exchange for above mentioned Jub Stamps.

Within twenty days all remittances from and to America are released!

We are glad something has been released from America in the way of remittances!

An Italian Scandal.

The scandal in connection with the surcharged stamps for use in the Italian post offices in the Levant bids fair to more than rival the Cayman Islands affair. In this case, though, there will not even be an official white-washing of the chief sinners, for the official issues themselves are every bit as bad as those issued under more or less shady authority. The latest outburst consists of

no less than eight distinct sets—one for each of eight separate offices! Collectors will do wisely to leave this rubbish severely alone.

Cretan Vagaries.

Our Cretan friends seem to be doing their best to out-rival Paraguay and the Italian Levant in the matter of surcharges. And they believe in fostering home industries with a vengeance for, *à la* Cayman Islands, stamps are sold only over the post offices counter, so that when a "good thing" is on the local speculator has a good time and usually he is far from modest in his demands when he wishes to unload. Still, if collectors like to be bled in this way they certainly cannot complain.

Stamp Issuing Indian States.

It is refreshing to find that the lumber of stamp issuing States in India is now confined to, at the most, eight, viz.:—Bhor, Cochin, Datia, Hyderabad, Soruth, Kishergarh, Travancore, and possibly Orcha. The Indian Post Office has gradually abolished special post offices so far as is possible, and our contemporary, the *Philatelic Journal of India*, has been indulging in a little mild speculation as to the fate of those stalwarts who still persist in issuing their own stamps. We make the following interesting excerpt:—"The first to yield will most likely be Datia and Kishergarh, followed by Orcha. These three are in Central India and are situated among other States that have recently surrendered their posts. Until a year or two ago Kishergarh was under a minor and it was producing an appalling series of philatelic monstrosities accompanied by all the usual paraphernalia of a string of minor varieties. That, we should have thought, would have been a favourable and useful time to press on the advantages of the imperial post. On the Rajah's coming of age a European issue of stamps was introduced, and the State is now philatelically harmless, so that it does not matter very much whether it comes in or not. But we should be glad to see Datia nipped in the bud before it may be too much tempted to embark on a career of crime.

"The fourth State to come in, according to our speculation, should be Junagarh, known to catalogues as Soruth. It is the only Kathiawar State which now uses its own postage stamps, and it may easily follow the good example of its neighbours, though the change will probably not take place during the lifetime of the present Rajah. Bhor also is likely to wait for a change of ruler. Both these Bombay States are harmless, the former having had only two stamps in 20 years, and the latter only one in half that time, and neither being likely to add to the number.

"The two Southern States of Cochin and Travancore will probably stand out or come in together. They form that part of India which is least affected by Western influence, and where native arrangements are efficient and conservative. Finally, there is Hyderabad which is not in the least likely to succumb in our day."

The Postage Stamp Binding Covers.

Handsome dark blue covers in buckram, gilt lettered side and back, may be had from our Publishers, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Amen Corner, London. Price 1s. 6d.

Bargains in Stamps.

If you want real bargains in Postage Stamps read the advertisement pages of *The Postage Stamp* every week. Every week there is something new, and many special bargains. If you miss a week you may miss the very stamp you want to complete a series

King's Heads to Date

BY BERTRAM W. H. POOLE

Straits Settlements

FROM a philatelic point of view the Straits Settlements is essentially a country for the specialist, for its issues abound in complicating varieties, due to its numerous provisional stamps, that provide those problems so dear to the heart of the real philatelic student. The stamps form the subject of a most sumptuous handbook written and published by Mr. Wm. Brown in 1894, and though many articles have appeared from time to time in the philatelic press since that date, there are still many problems to be investigated, and a study of these stamps can be confidently recommended to any collector thirsting for philatelic fame.

However, in this present series, we are only concerned with the more modern issues bearing the portrait of His Majesty King Edward VII. These King's head stamps form an interesting group, and as there are no highly priced stamps a complete collection is within the range of practical politics for almost everyone. There are some rather high values—\$25 and \$100—but the ordinary collector can leave these severely alone for, though they are inscribed "postage and revenue," their postal necessity is open to question. If a country having the enormous volume of postal business of Great Britain, with its many ramifications and services, can make shift with a highest value of £1, I think we may contend that \$5 is an ample limit—so far as necessity is concerned at any rate—in the case of a Colony of the importance of the Straits Settlements. On the score of beauty the majority of these King's head stamps have, perhaps, but little to recommend them, but four of the lower values present a diversity of design that is a pleasing change from the stereotyped De La Rue types.

The stamps have run through the usual change from single to multiple watermark, the Postal Union values have appeared in the single colours recommended by the Berne authorities, and, as the new colour scheme suggested by the Crown Agents has been adopted, further changes are on the boards. Indeed, at the time of writing, it is rumoured that the colour of the 5c. has been changed from lilac to orange.

1902. The set consists of 12 values all of the same design and printed from the "stock" De la Rue plates. The head plate, consisting of the King's portrait and the words "POSTAGE & REVENUE," is the same for all values. I believe all were printed from plate 2 which is still in use and consists of 240 stamps arranged in four panes of 60 (10 horizontal rows of 6) placed two and two. They are all printed on single CA paper and perforated 14 in the usual De la Rue style.

Wmk. Crown CA. Perf. 14.

	Unused.	Used.
	d. s.	s. d.
1c. pale green	0 1	0 1
3c. purple and orange	0 3	0 1
4c. purple on red	0 3	0 1
5c. lilac	0 6	0 1
8c. purple on blue	0 4	0 1
10c. purple and black on yellow	1 0	0 4
25c. lilac and green	2 0	2 0
30c. grey and carmine	5 0	2 0
50c. green and carmine	6 0	2 0
\$1 dull green and black	12 6	5 0
\$2 lilac and black	15 0	12 6
\$5 dull green and brown orange	30 0	20 0

There is also a \$100 stamp which can of course be used in the defrayment of postal charges, but whether there is any legitimate use for such a value is so doubtful that I have omitted it altogether. Some of the values exist in strikingly varying shades. For instance the 1c. can be found in a distinct grey green, the 30c. can be found with the main portion in black instead of grey, the green of the 50c. varies considerably, and so on.

Range of Catalogue Prices: Unused.

With the exception of the lowest values they have all advanced pretty considerably as soon as they became obsolete. The 30c. jumped from 10d. to 2s. in 1906 and then to 5s. in 1908, and though the others have not advanced on the same scale in proportion to face value, the rise, all round, has been fairly rapid.

	1904	1905	1906	1908
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1c.	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1
3c.	0 2	0 3	0 3	0 3
4c.	0 2	0 3	0 3	0 3
5c.	0 2	0 2	0 2	0 6
8c.	0 3	0 4	0 4	0 4
10c.	0 4	0 4	0 6	1 0
25c.	0 9	0 9	2 0	2 0
30c.	0 10	0 10	2 0	5 0
50c.	1 4	1 4	—	4 0
\$1	2 8	2 8	—	12 6
\$2	5 3	5 3	—	15 0
\$5	12 6	12 6	—	30 0

1903-4. New designs were adopted for the 1c., 3c., 4c. and 8c. values all having a portrait of King Edward VII. in a central medallion similar to that on the Transvaal stamps. The borders differ in each case. On the 1c. are palms which are meant to typify Singapore; on the 2c. *pinang* trees are shown, these being emblematical of Penang; on the 4c. the *nipah* palm is depicted, this being intended as a compliment to Malacca; and on the 8c. appears the *Kris* which is an allegorical reference to Malaya as a whole. These borders were, it is said, designed by Sir Walter Egerton. They are on Crown CA. paper as before.

Wmk. Crown CA. Perf. 14.

	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	s. d.
1c. green	0 3	0 1
3c. lilac	1 0	0 6
4c. purple on red	0 9	0 2
8c. purple on blue	1 0	0 3

Range of Catalogue Prices: Unused.

The 1c. has been stationary since 1906, but the other three values have advanced steadily since the date of issue as is clearly shown in the following table:—

	1905	1906	1908
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1c.	0 2	0 3	0 3
3c.	0 4	0 6	1 0
4c.	0 2	0 3	0 9
8c.	0 3	0 6	1 0

1904-6.—Same designs as before, i.e., large head for 1c., 3c., 4c. and 8c., and small portrait for the others, but printed on the paper with multiple Crown and C.A.

watermark. The perforation is the same as usual. With the single exception of the \$2 all values exist on ordinary and chalk-surfaced paper, most of those on the first paper being now somewhat scarce.

Wmk. Multiple Crown C.A. Perf. 14.

	Unused.		Used.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
1c. green	-	0 1	0	1
3c. lilac	-	0 2	0	1
4c. purple on red	-	0 3	0	1
5c. lilac	-	0 4	0	1
8c. purple on blue	-	0 9	0	6
10c. purple and black on yellow	-	0 5	0	1
25c. purple and green	-	1 0	0	4
30c. grey and carmine	-	1 2	0	4
50c. green and carmine	-	1 8	0	6
\$1 green and black	-	3 4	1	6
\$2 lilac and black	-	6 0	2	6
\$5 green and brown orange	-	16 0	7	6

There is also a \$25 stamp but, for the reasons given above, as its postal status is open to grave doubt, I do not include it in the above list.

Range of Prices.

As most of the values are still current the prices are stationary, but in those cases where there has been a change of colour (the 4c. and 8c. to wit) prices have advanced. For some obscure reason the 5c. is priced at 4d. though it is apparently still current.

1906-8. In 1906 the 8c. was issued in the Postal Union colour of blue, and in 1907 the 4c. followed suit by appearing in red. Later, in July 1908, it was found that the 3c. more nearly approached the equivalent of 1d., and 10 centimes and this was issued in red. Shortly after the 4c. appeared in purple to prevent confusion. In August, 1908 another change took place, the 10c. being issued in lilac only instead of lilac and black as before. The 3c., 4c., and 8c. are in the distinctive designs introduced in 1903-4, while the 10c. is in the small-head type. All are on multiple watermarked paper (unsurfaced as regards the 3c., 4c., and 8c.) and perforated 14.

Wmk. Multiple Cr. CA. Perf. 14.

	s.		d.	
3c. carmine	-	-	0	2
4c. "	-	-	0	2
4c. purple	-	-	0	2
8c. ultramarine	-	-	0	4
10c. lilac on yellow	-	-	0	5

This completes the history of these stamps to date but, as I stated above, the introduction of the new colour scheme will probably result in many changes before long.

Note.

For special offers of the stamps of this country see Mr. W. H. Peckitt's advertisement in a previous number of "The Postage Stamp."

Holland & Dutch Indies Stamps

Some interesting Items from Schuster's News Circular

A GENTLEMAN of this city and a friend of ours, well acquainted with Postal matters in the above countries and formerly of Dutch East India, has, at our request, given us some interesting details in regard to postal matters and postage stamps in the Dutch East Indies and Holland. We give the substance of his letter herewith, which, no doubt, will be of interest to our readers.

Commenting on how difficult it is to procure the high values of Dutch Indies and Holland stamps, and why some of even the low values are high, quoting from his letter, he says:

"Take, for instance, the present issue of Holland stamps. You will see that the following values, ½ cent., 1 cent., 2 cents., 2½ cents., 3 cents., 5 cents., 10 cents., are very common. The 7½ cents. value, however, is about ten times as scarce as any of the above-mentioned, because it is a stamp that is very seldom used on account of the domestic as well as foreign postage rates. The domestic rate for printed matter is 1 cent. and multiples of 1 cent. The foreign rates are 2½ cents. and multiples, but it is seldom that circulars and similar printed matter are so heavy that they require three times the postage (7½ cents.), and even then you will find out of a hundred pieces of printed matter over 90 will carry three 2½ cents. stamps instead of one 7½ cents. stamp. Though the 12½ cents. stamp is catalogued low, it is a stamp that is hardly ever used in domestic mail, and, therefore, not so easy to get. The 15 cents. stamp is pretty rare. The

rates for domestic letters in Holland are 1 to 15 grams (½ ounce), 5 cents.; 15 to 200 grams (7 ounces), 10 cents.; 200 to 500 grams (17½ ounces), 15 cents. It is seldom that a letter will weigh so much, and, therefore, this stamp is hardly ever used.

"The 20 cent. stamp is, in fact, only used between Holland and Belgium, where there is a special rate of 10 cents. for ½ ounce. The 22½ cents. stamp was created to fulfil the demand for a stamp paying, at the same time, the rate for foreign postage and the additional registry fee. It is a fact, however, that hardly any one brings his letters to the post-office without having affixed beforehand the necessary stamps on the envelopes, and, as the Government sells very handy books containing one or two Guilders worth of stamps (which are fit for nearly every purpose), in 1 cent., 2½ cent. and 5 cent. values, it occurs very seldom that the 22½ cents. value is used, and, of course, this is the reason for their scarcity.

"The 25 cent. stamp, though notwithstanding a higher value, is much more easily procured, because it is the stamp used for foreign correspondence in case the letters weigh two times the common weight, which is often the case.

"The 50 cent. stamp is for the same purpose, but is rarer because of the lack of many letters whereon such a high value of postage is necessary. 1 gld. and 2½ gld. stamps are very hard to get. The reason is that those stamps are used practically only on Parcels Post packages. When you send away a Parcels Post package in Holland or

India you have to affix the stamps on an addressed card, which goes along with the parcel, and you are not allowed to affix the stamps on the parcel itself. When the receiver of the parcel signs for it, he does it on the addressed card, and the post-carrier takes this card with him as a receipt for the delivery. The stamps that are affixed to this card become the property of the Government, and sometimes are destroyed and sometimes are sold at public auction. Here is, practically, the only way to get any good-sized quantity of these stamps, and as all the wholesale stamp dealers are present at these sales, they bring very high prices. There are a few business houses, such as large banks and exporting firms, who receive letters with valuable papers, on which the postal insurance is so high that the postage often amounts to from 4 to 7 guilders, and the only way to buy these higher values, without going to dealers, is to obtain them from the clerks or managers of those business houses.

"All that I have written you here about the stamps of Holland will apply equally well to the stamps of Dutch East India. As you go over the catalogue you will see that the lower values, $\frac{1}{2}$ cent, 1 cent, 2 cents, $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents, 5 cents,

are very reasonable in price; 8 cents stamps are about five or six times as scarce. The only reason for this is that the 8 cents stamp is a stamp that is used for city correspondence, and, as a matter of fact, there is very little city correspondence done in India, because life over in those countries is not like it is in European cities, and if people have to ask each other something, they use the telephone or they send one of their native servants, which is considered as a more courteous way of transmitting errands than by letter, while, in the second place, a letter requires much longer time, as in most cities there is only one delivery a day.

"The higher values in India are very difficult to get, because in domestic mails in India they are hardly ever used, and the only people that use stamps of the higher values are those that send regular important and valuable letters to their offices in Europe, and, as a rule, those valuable stamps are returned by the special request of the firms who sent the letter, under pretension that they use them for collection, but I know it is a fact that they ask for them because they can always sell them at a good price to local dealers or collectors."

The Late Mr. Nankivell

An Appreciation

I HAVE been asked to write a few personal reminiscences of Mr. Nankivell for readers of *The Postage Stamp*, but how impossible it is, in the course of a few short notes, to describe to those who only knew him by his writings, the magnetic charm of his personality. His kindly nature, genial humour, and enthusiasm for all that he undertook, endeared him to all, but perhaps more than anything else one was struck by his generosity as a collector. It was a real pleasure to him to be able to help others, and he took as much delight in obtaining desirable copies of stamps for friends as for himself. More than one of my most treasured possessions I owe to his kindly thought—"Here is a stamp going at auction that so-and-so would like," and he would run to the telephone, ring up some friend, and give him full particulars; or again, you might go to him for help in elucidating some knotty point—his library, his knowledge, and his time were all at your disposal, and he had a wonderful way of explaining difficulties.

"Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might," could well have been his motto throughout life, and his thoroughness in everything he did was well known to his friends. If he were mounting a collection, writing an article for some paper, or editing one of his magazines, he always endeavoured not only to do it well but to do it as perfectly as possible. Would that readers of this journal could know how much time and thought he expended in his endeavour to make it of real use to them—every detail connected with its production was carefully thought out, and personally supervised, and he was constantly striving to introduce improvements. "I must alter this type, it is too trying for the eyes;" "Send me a list of subjects which you think would help beginners," and many such remarks illustrate well the pains he took over his work.

At the time of his death, he was preparing, in conjunction with others, a book on the stamps of Egypt, and his advice to colleagues is worth noting:—"Collect all the information you can, don't form any theories, and on no account commence writing your part of the book yet; remember this is not only to be a book on the stamps of

Egypt, but it is to be *the* book on the subject,—the final word on every thing connected with them up to the time of publication."

An advocate of the strenuous life, from early morning to late at night he was usually to be found at work in his study; every hour of the day had for him its appointed task, and at the side of his desk hung a time table with his scheme of work carefully mapped out. Holidays, as others know them, were not for him, and it was only on rare occasions he could be persuaded to snatch a few hours from work for a "blow at the seaside" or to attend a meeting of the "Royal." And what a delightful companion he made on these excursions! With racy anecdote, stories of bygone times, and all a boy's enthusiasm for the incidents of the day, the hours sped by all too quickly.

Once when we were travelling to Brighton to see a mutual friend (and ardent collector), two small school-boys entered our carriage, and shortly afterwards Mr. Nankivell opened his pocket book to show me some new issues. No sooner did the boys catch a glimpse of the contents of the book than they became visibly excited; nearer and nearer they approached, and just as he was going to put the stamps away, they could restrain themselves no more, but burst out with, "Oh, do let us look." Then began a delightful conversation, Mr. Nankivell being closely cross-examined on many points, and having to confess that he actually owned a triangular Cape of Good Hope stamp. When the boys left the train they stood on the platform gazing with evident admiration at the man who knew so much about stamps, and who appeared to possess all that they desired.

Mr. Nankivell dearly loved a good story, and from among many I cannot forbear giving one. On a certain occasion, many years ago, he was sent to report some after-dinner speeches. Unfortunately one of the speakers had fared too well, and not too wisely, and the reporters were in difficulties as to what he had really intended to say. As the speech was an important one, early the next morning Mr. Nankivell called on the speaker, presented his copy, and boldly invited corrections. After

reading the report, the gentleman in question hurriedly tore it up, presented Mr. Nankivell with his speech as it should have been, and laying his hand affectionately on his shoulder, solemnly remarked, "Young man, let this be a warning to you; in future never drink anything stronger than water when you are about to report speeches!"

His collections are all beautifully arranged, with full notes, record of date of purchase and price paid; every unused stamp in mint condition, and the used copies so clean and clear that the postmark only adds to their

beauty. He always maintained that no stamp could look valuable or interesting if slovenly mounted, and that a blank space is preferable to a dirty or badly centred copy.

Apart from his work, he took the greatest interest in his garden, and last summer had a wonderful display of roses, which he always most generously cut for his friends. As a journalist and philatelist he was well known, and will be greatly missed, but only those who had the privilege of calling him friend can in any way realise the extent of our loss.

J. CECIL RIX.

Correspondence

DEAR SIR,—As your correspondent Mr. Victor F. James asks for your readers' opinions on his Ideal Catalogue, I will venture to make some remarks on this subject, and first I should like to say that if this correspondence is to do any good, expressions such as he uses, "It is foolish to catalogue, etc., and more foolish to buy, etc." should be avoided. I fancy that for one collector who does not collect these New Zealand Stamps (Gibbons No. 141 to No. 188a) in their various perforations and shades, twenty collectors do buy and collect them, and without therefore being fools. If this ideal catalogue is only to be a simplified catalogue it will certainly not be a success. You can not set the clock back, and he who has once tasted the charm and the pleasure of hunting after minor varieties will never wish to return to the simple collecting of days gone by. It must soon pall on all serious collectors, and if minor varieties had been disregarded in the past, stamp collecting would not occupy its present grand position.

Only a catalogue for "Advanced Collectors by Advanced Collectors" can have any authority, and if this much talked about catalogue (which I am sure will never be

completed) should only be a simplified one, no serious collector will use it. They will prefer our good old Gibbons, which allows all collectors just to collect what they like. If Mr. James prefers the simple way, nobody will quarrel with him or call him foolish, but I am sure he does not require a special catalogue to back him up. Whitfield King's catalogue or Field's simplified catalogue is all he wants. As regards the catalogues of 20 years hence, we may safely leave them to the future, and in the meantime I would say, with Mr. Castle, "*Après nous le déluge*, it is more profitable and pleasureable to contemplate the present aspect of affairs."

For what purpose should serious collectors form philatelic libraries if they are to return to the simple old days?

Completeness and thoroughness are the order of the day, and no collection is complete without minor varieties, and no catalogue is of any use to serious collectors which does not list all minor varieties, as they are the delight of genuine and serious collectors.

I am, dear Sir, your truly,

KARL WIEHEN.

Philatelic Dictionary

BY B. W. H. POOLE

(Continued from page 310).

Nadruk.—This is Dutch for "reprint," and this word is found impressed on the back of most of the reprints of the 1852 issue for Holland.

Name Tablet.—This is the space provided in "general" plates—such as the type employed for the current King's head stamps for the Leeward Islands—for the insertion of the name of the particular Colony requiring supplies from these plates.

Nandgaon.—(See "RAJNANDGAON.")

Napoletana.—The Italian rendering of Naples as shown upon the stamps for that province.

Nash Mills.—The paper manufactory of Messrs. Dickinson & Longman at which "Dickinson" paper was manufactured. All the paper used in the production of the Mulready envelopes was made at these mills.

Nashville.—The capital of the State of Tennessee, U.S.A., having a population of over 80,000. South of the town, on December 15th and 16th, 1864, the Federals

won a victory over the army of Tennessee. In 1861 the postmaster, Mr. W. D. McNish, was responsible for the issue of 3c., 5c., and 10c. stamps, which remained in use until they were superseded by the general Confederate States issue.

Natal.—A British Colony on the south-east coast of Africa, so called from its discovery on Christmas Day (*die Natalie*), 1497. The Dutch made an unsuccessful attempt to colonise Natal early in the eighteenth century, and were followed by the British in 1823. The English Colony was, however, broken up in 1828, by Dingaan, King of the Amazulus. In 1835 Dingaan granted a concession of land, and a British Colony was formed at Durban. The Boers first entered Natal from Cape Colony in 1835, and after defeating the Zulus attempted to establish a republic; but this was resisted by the British, and ultimately, in 1843, the country was annexed to Cape Colony. Natal was made an independent Colony in 1856. In 1879 came the war with Cetawayo, King of the Zulus, who was defeated and captured; and in 1897 Zululand was annexed to Natal. The Transvaal Boers

invaded the Colony in 1881 and defeated the British at Majuba Hill. In the war of 1899-1902 Natal was the scene of the most obstinate and sanguinary fighting. After the war, Utrecht, Vryheid, and part of Wakkerstroom were taken from the Transvaal and added to Natal. Zululand and Amatongaland now form a province of Natal, and the total area of the Colony is about 44,000 square miles. The population consists of about 98,000 whites, over 40,000 Indians, and well over a million natives. Postage stamps were first issued on June 1st, 1857.

National Bank Note Co.—A well-known firm of printers and engravers of New York, who produced all the stamps for the United States from 1861 until 1873.

Native Paper.—This is the name given to paper of Oriental manufacture, used in the production of the early stamps of Japan, and also for some of the stamps of the Indian States of Nepal and Kashmir, in contradistinction from European paper. The Japanese paper is either wove or laid, and is of a peculiarly tough fibrous nature; while the Indian variety is, I believe, always laid, and has the appearance and feel of parchment.

Native States.—The general name given by philatelists to the stamp-producing protected and feudatory States of India. It may also be just as correctly applied to the stamps issued by the various native States of the Straits Settlements.

Naumann, C.—A firm of printers of Frankfurt, Germany, who constructed the plates and printed all the stamps of Thurn and Taxis.

Navarra (or Navarre).—The Spanish portion of the ancient kingdom of Navarre, now forming a province in the north of Spain. It was one of the four provinces which, during the Carlist rising of 1872-75, used the special stamps issued under the authority of Don Carlos.

Navy.—The inscription shown on the United States stamps issued for use by the Navy Department in 1873. These stamps have been superseded for some years now by the so-called "penalty envelopes."

N.C.E.—A surcharge found upon many of the stamps used in New Caledonia, the letters being a contraction for "Nouvelle Calédonie."

Neapolitan Provinces.—The two portions of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies—Naples and Sicily—for which a provisional issue of stamps, superseding the two separate issues, was made in February, 1861. These were in turn superseded by the stamps for the Kingdom of Italy in 1862.

Nederland.—The Dutch equivalent for the Netherlands as shown upon most of the stamps of Holland.

Nederlanden.—Another form for Netherlands as shown upon the current gulden stamps of Holland.

Nederlandsch-Indie.—The Dutch equivalent for Dutch Indies as shown upon the current stamps of that Colony.

Nederl. Indie.—The name as shown upon the first issue for the Dutch Indies. The first word is an abbreviation of "Nederlandsch."

Ned. Indie.—Another abbreviated form of "Nederlandsch-indie" as shown upon all the stamps of the Dutch Indies in use from 1870 to 1902.

Negri Sembilan.—One of the protected States now included in the Federated Malay States. It is situated

north of Malacca, in the Malay peninsula, and has an area of 2,600 square miles. The inhabitants, numbering nearly 100,000, are chiefly Sumatran Malays. Postage stamps were first issued in 1891, and they were superseded in 1900 by the general issue for the Federated Malay States.

Nelson Centenary Issue.—A set of commemorative stamps issued in Barbados in 1906 to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the death of Nelson; but, as the great admiral died in 1805, the issue of the stamps seems a little belated.

Ne pas livrer dimanche.—A French inscription appearing on a tablet at the base of all Belgian stamps issued since 1893, meaning "Not to deliver on the Sunday." Letters franked with the stamp from which this label has not been removed are not delivered on Sundays.

Nepaul.—An independent State of India, situated on the southern slopes of the Himalayas. It has an area of 54,000 square miles and a population of over four millions. Nepal is a densely wooded mountainous country, very fertile, and abounding in wild animals. The people, called Gurkhas, are supposed to have come originally from Rajputana. They are of Mongoloid type, and their religion is Hinduism. There is a sovereign, but the real power rests with the prime minister. Their frequent aggressions led to a war with the British in 1814, and under a treaty, concluded at Segauli in 1815, a British Resident resides at the capital, Katmandu. Relations have, however, long been very friendly, and in the recent difficulties with Thibet, Nepal co-operated with the Indian Government. The policy of seclusion is consistently followed by the native rulers, and the British Resident does not interfere in internal affairs. Representatives of Nepal greet each new Viceroy with messages and presents. By arrangement with Nepal, India obtains many fine recruits for its Gurkha regiments. Postage stamps were first issued in 1881.

Netherlands.—(See "HOLLAND.")

Neu-groschen.—The value in which most of the stamps of Saxony were expressed. The neu-groschen was the thirtieth part of a thaler, and worth about 2½d. in English currency.

Nevis.—An island in the Leeward group, British West Indies, situated about two miles south-east of St. Kitts. Its total area is 50 square miles and its population numbers about 13,000. It is an extinct volcano (3,600 feet), with cultivated slopes bearing limes, oranges, and sugar-cane. Nevis was colonised by the British in 1628. It is subject to hurricanes and earthquakes. In 1882 the island joined St. Kitts and Anguilla in forming one Presidency, now known as St. Kitts-Nevis. Postage stamps were first issued in 1861.

New Brunswick.—A province of the Dominion of Canada, having an area of 28,200 square miles and a population of about 350,000. The major portion of its surface is still covered with dense forests, and it is a favourite rendezvous for hunters of moose and caribou. New Brunswick was made a separate Colony in 1784, and its earlier history is that of Nova Scotia. Postage stamps were first issued on September 6th, 1851, and these were superseded in 1868 by the issue for the Dominion of Canada.

To be continued.

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, addressed C/O BALDWIN'S, Grosvenor Printing Works, Tunbridge Wells

After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

Brazil.—(Vol. III. p. 104).—*Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* chronicles the 500r. on 300r. of 1899, perf. 11, 11½—a variety not hitherto known. The list of postage stamps with this surcharge now known, perf. 11, 11½ is as follows:—

1899. Surcharged in magenta.
Perf. 11, 11½.

	s.	d.
50 r. on 20 r. green	0	2
100 r. ,, 50 r. ,,	0	3
300 r. ,, 200 r. violet	0	6
500 r. ,, 300 r. slate	—	—
700 r. ,, 500 r. olive-buff	1	6
1,000 r. on 700 r. pale brown	—	—
2,000 r. ,, 1,000 r. olive-yellow	4	0

Colombia.—(Vol. III. p. 129).—Our paragraph on page 69 of the last volume regarding the stamps of the re-drawn type produced at the Government Printing Works, Bogota,—they can clearly be identified by the imprint at the base, which consists of the words "LIT. NACIONAL"—was hardly quite accurate and, as we now have a new variety of perforation of the ½c. to record on the authority of *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*, we take the opportunity of revising our chronicle. The list of varieties now known is as follows:—

Redrawn type with imprint "LIT. NACIONAL."

Perf. 10.

½c. orange.
2c. carmine

Perf. 13.

½c. orange
2c. carmine
5c. blue

Crete.—(Vol. III. p. 311).—In a previous number (page 286) we record several values with the "ΕΛΛΑΣ" overprint double, and *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* now publishes the following information as to how these might have been caused:—"With regard to the double overprints, these have apparently occurred through the forms set up for overprinting the ordinary small-sized stamps,



being used for stamps of a different size. Thus on the 2dr., which is an upright stamp, taller than the ordinary stamp, but of the same width, the variety consists of one overprint at the top and one at the foot, whereas on the 25l. and 3dr. stamps, wider than the ordinary stamp, but of the same height, there are three overprints to two stamps, the extra overprint generally falling on one stamp, though occasionally printing partly on both stamps."

Hyderabad.—(Vol. III. p. 262).—We learn from *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* that a 3 annas stamp in the type inscribed "POSTAGE" has been issued making the list of varieties now known as follows:—

Inscribed "POSTAGE."

Watermark of Arabic Characters. Perf. 12½.

	s.	d.
½a. blue	0	2
½a. pale grey	0	1
½a. orange	0	2
½a. vermilion	0	2
½a. green	0	1
1a. carmine	0	2
2a. lilac	0	3
3a. brown orange	—	—

Martinique.—(Vol. III. p. 286).—The remainder of the set in the new type shown in the accompanying



illustration, consisting of 20c., 25c., 30c., 35c., 40c., 45c., 50c., 75c., 1fr., 2fr., and 5fr. stamps, has been issued according to *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*. As no details are yet to hand regarding the colours of these, we defer our formal chronicle until the necessary particulars are available.

Panama.—(Vol. III. p. 319).—We gather from *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* that the 1c. of 1906 has been found with inverted centre in addition to the values recorded on page 284 of our last volume. The list of errors is now as follows:—

Error. Centre inverted.

No wmk. Perf. 12.

½c. carmine, blue, green and orange
1c. green and black
2c. carmine and black
5c. blue and black

Rio de Oro.—(Vol. III. p. 202).—According to the *Madrid Filatelico* an entirely new series of stamps has been issued for this Spanish Colony. In the centre of the upper portion of the stamp is a profile portrait of King Alfonso XIII. with head to right, and on each side of this are palm trees. At the top is "CORREOS," and on hexagonal tablets in the upper corners are figures of value at the left, and "Cs" or "Pa" at the right. On a large tablet at the base extending right across the stamp is the name of the Colony, viz:—"COLONIA DE RIO DE ORO." The colours and values are said to be as follows:—

New design.

1c. carmine	} Complete set of 13 for 20/-.
2c. orange	
5c. blue-green	
10c. red	
15c. deep green	
20c. brown lilac	
25c. blue	
30c. rose	
40c. brick-red	
50c. violet	
1p. brownish-black	
4p. currant red	
10p. deep rose	

We understand that 10,000 of each of the centimos values have been printed, and 5,000 of each of the peseta stamps.

Sierra Leone.—(Vol. III. p. 117).—A correspondent informs *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* that he has seen a postally used copy of the 2s. stamp in colours conforming to the Crown Agents new colour scheme. The complete list of King's head stamps on the paper with multiple watermark is now as follows:—



Wmk. Multiple Cr. C.A. Perf. 14.

	s.	d.
½d. purple and green	0 2
½d. green	0 1
1d. purple and carmine	—
1d. carmine	0 2
1½d. purple and black	0 3
2d. " brown-orange	0 3
2½d. " blue	0 6
2½d. ultramarine	0 4
3d. purple and grey	0 3
4d. " rosine	0 6
5d. " black	0 7
6d. purple	0 8
1s. green and black	1 3
2s. " blue	2 6
2s. blue and purple on blue	2 6
5s. green and carmine...	6 0
£1 purple on red	24 0

Spanish Guinea.—(Vol. III p. 263).—According to the *Madrid Filatelico* an entirely new set of stamps has been issued for the Spanish territories in the Gulf of Guinea, which will supersede the separate issues for Fernando Poo, Spanish Guinea proper, Elobey, Annobon and Corisco. The design is exactly the same as that described above for Rio de Oro, with the exception of the inscription on the name tablet which is "TERRITORIOS ESPAÑOLES DEL GOLFO DE GUINEA." The list of values and colours is as follows:—

New design.

1c. dark red	} Complete set of 13 for 35/-.
2c. currant red	
5c. blue green	
10c. red	
15c. brownish black	
20c. violet	
25c. blue	
30c. brick-red	
40c. rose	
50c. brown-lilac	
1p. deep green	
4p. orange	
10p. carmine	

The numbers issued are as follows:—1c., 200,000; 2c., 200,000; 5c., 100,000; 10c., 100,000; 15c., 100,000; 20c., 60,000; 25c., 80,000; 30c., 80,000; 40c., 100,000; 50c., 150,000; 1p., 25,000; 4p., 25,000; and 10p., 25,000.

NOTE.

The Prices affixed are those at which Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. will supply any of the stamps chronicled that may be in stock.

The stamps are supplied at lower rates to subscribers to their New Issue Service, particulars of which can be had on application to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich.

The Prices quoted are for unused.

Back Nos. of "The Postage Stamp."

Those of our friends who are lacking any back numbers of the present vol. will do well to write direct to our Publishers, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, 1 Amen Corner, London, E.C., for what they require. Many newsagents do not care to bother about back numbers. Any number still on sale may be had for the published price and postage, i.e., 1½d.

Handbills for Circulation.

We have prepared and shall now be glad to send any number of neat handbills of *The Postage Stamp* to any of our friends post free, on application. These little handbills include a specimen page, and being only leaflets are very suitable for enclosing in letters to philatelic friends.

Applications for supplies should be addressed only to Mr. Baldwin, Printer of *The Postage Stamp*, Tunbridge Wells, and friends should say how many they can use. They can be had in dozens, or hundreds, and even thousands, if desired.

In the Stamp Market

Inverted Surcharges.

In the majority of cases stamps with inverted surcharge are of considerable rarity in comparison with normal specimens, and consequently stand at much higher prices. But there are exceptions—especially in the issues of those countries which make a hobby of surcharging such as Paraguay and Hayti. In the case of the latter prices seem to have a downward rather than an upward tendency, and in this connection some of Gibbons' revised prices make interesting reading, viz.:

		1909 Revised	
		Catalogue	Price
		s. d.	s. d.
1904.	5c. used	4 0	1 0
"	10c. "	7 6	1 6

The drop, it will be noted, is far from inconsiderable.

Mixtures.

Unless one's collection is a very small one the practice of buying mixed lots is one hardly to be commended, as one is sure to be stuck with a lot of unsaleable duplicates. A contributor to the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* has been writing a little homily on the subject of mixtures, which we reprint below.

"Mixtures are a fascinating venture, but are often disappointing; there is no disguising the fact that when a buyer knows exactly what he is going to buy he is not so keen, but let a veil be thrown over the purchase, let him order some mixed lot, the contents of which are not precisely defined, and at once the glorious possibilities of a venture add a zest to the bargain. Someone has said 'Frailty, thy name is woman,' and we may add, 'Curiosity, thy name is the stamp buyer.' I have often named a price for a definite lot, and have been denied a sale, and have often offered a parcel whose mysteries are not unfolded to the buyer, and he has snapped at it. There is no doubt that many a packet has been bought from a shop window just because the purchaser wanted to know what there was inside it. But, as we said above, mixtures are sometimes disappointing, although here and there there are really good things to be met with, which experimental purchases alone can reveal. Most of us would like to meet with 1000 mixed Colonials, cat. 3d. to 6d. each, all in good state for a pound or two, but search for such a lot is likely to be in vain. I have a London price list of ten years ago, giving prices per dozen for such things as 3d. to 1s. values of Sierra Leone Queens; it would gladden one's heart to be able to buy these stamps at the same prices to-day."

Scarce Indians.

Those of our readers who collect official stamps will doubtless have found the 1s. and 2s. Service stamps of the King's head issue, used, anything but easy to get at the catalogue figures of 3d. and 4d. each respectively. It is therefore hardly surprising to find Gibbons have advanced their prices for these two stamps and at the present moment they stand at 1s. 6d. each.

A Rare Stamp.

Mr. I. J. Bernstein informs me he has discovered a nice used copy of the rare Great Britain 10d. of 1865-7, watermarked "emblems." The specimen in question is lettered "JL—LJ" and, as usual, was used in Constantinople. The stamp is a rarity of the first water, but what it is worth is purely a matter of speculation, for it is a

variety so rarely on sale that it has no "market value." The Earl of Crawford has a copy in his magnificent collection, Mr. H. J. Duveen is the happy possessor of another, and still another was on sale a little time ago, but whether it was sold or not I cannot say as the vendor was asking something like £100 for it.

Another Rarity.

Another rare British stamp is the £1 brown lilac, watermarked Crowns, surcharged "IR—OFFICIAL." A matchless mint specimen of this rarity was recently sold by Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper for £60—the highest price it has yet realised.

Cape Woodblocks.

The triangular stamps of the Cape of Good Hope are as much in demand as ever and really fine specimens form an excellent investment. That they are hard to get goes without saying and tip-top copies will fetch over catalogue at auction as was proved some little time ago when an exceptionally nice specimen of the 4d. woodblock with retouched corner (catalogued £16) was sold for £17 by Messrs. Puttick & Simpson.

The "Lincoln" Stamp.

Contrary to expectation the special 2c. stamp issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Lincoln had a particular brief life. It was officially stated that it would "remain on sale a reasonable length of time," but it appears that only one supply was sent to each post office and in most cases these were all sold within a few days of issue. Already as much as 3d. each is being asked for the stamp in the States, but as, I believe, a few millions were printed it will not be a scarce variety just yet.

The Manchester Exhibition.

From all accounts those dealers who took stalls at the highly successful Exhibition in Manchester, have every reason to congratulate themselves on the amount of business done. Several aver that it is the only Exhibition at which the profits on sales have been more than sufficient to cover expenses—a state of affairs that is eminently satisfactory.

Our Advertisers' Offers this Week.

Mr. W. H. Peckitt refers to the benefits gained by joining his New Issue Service and thus obtaining all new issues as they come out, at the very modest charge of 10% over face value.

Mr. D. Field advertises his new publication, "The Stamps of the Falkland Islands," which forms No. 2 of the excellent "WEP" series of philatelic hand books.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. offer bargains in India and Sarawak in mint condition.

Mr. Oswald Marsh offers a limited number of the ½d. New Hebrides with single CA watermark at £1 each.

Messrs. Bright & Son offer a bargain packet for 2s. 6d. which contains, in addition to 120 different stamps, a set of seven unused Zanzibar of the face value of 1s. 6d.

Mr. Leonard Brand offers a number of Papuan stamps both mint and used. The provisional stamps should be scarce in the latter condition.

Messrs. W. & A. Houtzamer advertise some uncommon Zanzibar stamps.

Mr. E. Burnet-Giun intentions a number of bargains he has for sale, including a collection of 40 different British stamps for 4/-

From other Magazines

Belgium: The 1865 Issue.

The authorities had noticed that the plates used for printing the existing issue were wearing out rapidly, and consequently the cost of the *taille-douce* method of printing was dear, so they decided that for the future the stamps should be surface-printed from electrotyped plates.

The celebrated engraver J. Wiener was asked to submit designs for a new stamp, and although he prepared several, some of which seem to have been eminently suitable, none of them were accepted by the Administration.

On February 3rd, 1864, the Minister of Public Works decided to open a competition, with a view to obtaining a suitable die. The ministerial circular states that the object of the competition is to obtain a die which should be suitable for the production of electrotyped plates, from which stamps could be made by the surface-printing process. The die was to be as near perfection as possible, especially from an artistic point of view and in the degree of finish which should make it a really fine piece of work. A prize of 5000 francs (£200) was to be paid to the artist whose die was adjudged the best and most worthy of being actually used. The payment of the prize-money was also to vest all rights to the die in the Administration, to use in any way that might be thought desirable. In spite of this offer very few projects were submitted, and none were of the slightest use to the Administration.

The Minister of Public Works then negotiated with that world-renowned London firm of stamp manufacturers, Messrs. De La Rue and Co., who not only supplied the Belgian Government with a stock of 45,000 1 franc stamps on satin-surfaced paper, but also sent over to Belgium a complete printing outfit, together with a number of workmen specially skilled in the manufacture of stamps.

As De La Rue and Co. supplied 45,000 of the above-mentioned stamps, for many years it has been thought that this issue was printed entirely in London, which was not the case. Afterwards Belgian workmen continued to print similar stamps, but the Belgian impression can easily be distinguished from the London by the poorer appearance of the former.

—*Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*, 16.1.09.

The Candid Critic.

An officer of the government at Washington who gives close scrutiny to stamp designs becomes satirical at the expense of that new creation, the special delivery stamp, and he suggests that stamp collectors begin an organised movement of protest against the continuance of the stamp and also individually do everything in their power to bring about the early retirement of the new stamp. We take it as a good sign in any man when his feelings are so delicately attuned that he can become deeply disturbed by an esthetic question of this kind; this is an abstract point of view but when it comes to a specified case, the trouble begins. The questions that are raised every time a new issue appears are never settled to the satisfaction of all those who engage in the discussions; and in the present instance, we say that while the design of the new special delivery is not so striking or so full of human character as a "mail messenger running" it conforms to what broadly may be said to be the canons of art as they are popularly understood. We shall await with some interest the criticisms, favourable or the reverse, that will be made of the new special delivery stamp.

—*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, 9.1.09.

Mexico: The "Eagle" Issue.

With this issue, the well-known Eagle issue of Maximilian, we come to a new departure in controlling the supplies of stamps from the Chief Post Office in Mexico to all the Sub Offices in the entire country. Not only did the Postmasters receive instructions to surcharge the stamps sent them with the name of their district, but every supply sent from Mexico was provided with a control number and the date of the current year. This system was adopted as soon as the new Government was in working order, consequently the earliest supplies were sent out without any surcharges, and some with names only.

The stamps are finely engraved, showing a crowned eagle with spread wings holding a serpent in its beak to the right, printed in colours on various kinds of white paper, imperforated and representing the following values:—

3. Tres Centavos, brown of various shades.
- ½. Medio Real, brown, lilac, red lilac, grey, etc.
1. Un Real, blue, ultramarine, pale blue, Prussian blue, deep blue.
2. Dos Reales, yellow, orange, red orange and brown orange.
4. Cuatro Reales, pale green, dark green, yellow green, blue green.
8. Ocho Reales, red, pale red, brick red, etc.

These stamps were issued as follows:—

1. In May, 1864. Without any surcharge.
2. From May to July, 1864. Surcharged with names of districts only.
3. From July to September. Surcharged with names of districts.
Consignment numbers and date, in large Egyptian type, numbers being 118/179.
4. Surcharge with names of districts, consignment numbers and dates
From October to end of 1864, the consignment number being 180/244.
From January to December, 1865, the consignment number being 1/225.
From January to August, 1866, the consignment number being 1/181.

—*Herts Monthly Report*, March, 1909.

Turning over a New Leaf.

La Revue Postale states that the Republics of Nicaragua and Salvador have really definitely decided that no more surcharged stamps of any description shall be issued! The reason for this momentous decision is also given, but it is hardly to be credited; the Philatelic Congress which took place recently at Saragossa, and those attending the meetings, passed a certain resolution with acclamation, in which it was stated that "their great hope and desire was to see the number of issues in some countries very much limited, and surcharges entirely done away with." Copies of this resolution were forwarded to those countries chiefly concerned, but I hardly think that the alleged desire of Nicaragua and Salvador to suppress surcharges can seriously be taken to have resulted from the motion passed by the Philatelic Congress at Saragossa. Let us hope that the report is well founded. Our happiness would be complete were Paraguay to join forces with the two republics.

—*Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*, 13.3.09.

Editor's Letter Box

Publishing Offices.—1, AMEN CORNER, LONDON, E.C.

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Articles, Contributions and Correspondence. should be addressed to the Editor, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the correspondent. *Articles, etc., not accepted, will be returned when postage is prepaid.*

Business Communications should be addressed to the Manager, and **Advertisements to the Advertisement Manager, 1, Amen Corner, London, E.C.**

THE POSTAGE STAMP may be obtained through Newsagents or will be forwarded from the publishing office to any address at the following rates of prepayment: Yearly, 6s. 6d.; Half-Yearly, 3s. 3d.; Quarterly, 1s. 8d.; Single Copy, 1½d.

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Answers to Correspondents.

A. P. K. (Minneapolis, U.S.A.).—From your description I cannot say whether the 4d. Cape triangular is the woodblock or not. Compare it with the illustration on page 101 of our last volume. (2) This is one of the Porte de Mar, or "Sea Postage" stamps of Mexico, the philatelic interest of which is open to question. (3) The only reliable guide I can recommend for your purpose is a good catalogue, say Gibbons', Scott's, Bright's, or Whitfield King's.

L. T. (Newport, Mon.).—Yes, the fact that a stamp is perforated with a firm's initials detracts considerably from its value. (2) *Tête-bêche* is a well-known philatelic term applied to stamps printed upside down in relation to one another. Usually such varieties are due to accident, and are caused by one of the impressions or *cliches* being placed wrong way up in making the plate. In the case of some of the stamps of Grenada, however, the stamps in each alternate row were reversed, so that every row is *tête-bêche* in reference to its neighbours. The variety must of course be collected in pairs as, when separated, the stamps have no distinguishing features whatever. (3) I believe the current 5c. surcharged stamp of Belgian Congo can be purchased for 6d. or thereabouts. (4) Yes, if you are fond of surcharges, you will find Siam an excellent country for specialism. (5) For some years Mr. N. F. Seebeck had a contract with certain Central American Republics under which he agreed to provide them with all their stamps free provided he

was allowed to supply a new issue when he wished (usually every year), and on condition that all remainders were to become his property, and that he could print as many further lots from the plates as he liked. Hence the connection of the word "Seebeck" with some of the stamps of these States.

Our Publishing Day and Advertisers.

In order to meet the requirements of the publishing trade our publishers now distribute copies to the Newsagents on Wednesdays instead of Thursdays as before. This compels us to go to press on Saturday morning. Hence it is absolutely necessary for our printers to have all advertisements at latest on Friday morning; consequently, copy must be in the Advertisement Manager's hands not later than Wednesday 5 o'clock p.m.

Advertisers' Proofs.

We are anxious to consult our Advertisers' convenience to the greatest possible extent, but where proofs have to be supplied and returned our printers must have the "copy" by Thursday morning at the latest, as we now have to print off a portion of our issue on Saturday morning.

Examination of Stamps.

So many of our readers have asked us to undertake the examination and identification of their stamps that we have made arrangements to accede to their wishes.

We shall be pleased to express an opinion as to the genuineness or otherwise of any stamps submitted to us, or identify them according to any catalogue at a charge of 6d. per stamp. All fees must be paid in advance with sufficient added to pay for return postage and registration.

Stamps upon which an opinion is desired should be mounted on a separate sheet from the letter accompanying them and addressed to "The Expert, c/o The Editor of *The Postage Stamp*, Grosvenor Printing Works, Tunbridge Wells.

Our Handbills.

We are still sending out hundreds of our handbills with specimen page to kind friends who are doing their best to help us to a big circulation. *We want every reader to see to it that all his stamp friends take in THE POSTAGE STAMP.* Shall we send you post free a dozen or two, or fifty, or a hundred, handbills to hand to friends and enclose in letters to collector friends? If so, write Baldwins, Printers of *The Postage Stamp*, Tunbridge Wells.

"The Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The Postage Stamp is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:—

Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C.
F. C. Ginn, 143, Strand, London, W.C.
Lewis May & Co., 15, King William Street, Strand, W.C.
W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.
James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.
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No. 2. Vol. 4.
(Whole Number 80.)

10 APRIL, 1909.

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Gossip of the Week

BY "THE SUB."

Editor's Address.

All correspondence intended for the Editor of *The Postage Stamp* should from this date be addressed to Mr. FRED J. MELVILLE, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

Another Journalistic Fiction.

A CORRESPONDENT sends me a cutting from the *Exchange and Mart* relating to obsolete Victorian stamps which I cannot do better than reproduce *in extenso* :—

"Victoria, one of the States of the Australian Commonwealth, still retains the late Queen's head on some of its stamps. Letters thus stamped are, according to the *Daily Chronicle*, now regarded on their arrival here as not stamped at all, and charged double on delivery. One of the persons thus penalised asked the reason why at St. Martin's-le-Grand, and was told that the time of grace—six years—after a change of sovereignty had now expired. So the sooner the King's head is stamped all over his dominions, the better for the peace of mind—and pockets—of all his subjects."

Its Absurdity.

The absurdity of such a remarkable fable should be apparent to any stamp collector at any rate. It will be news to all my readers to learn there is a "time of grace after a change of sovereignty" after which the portrait gracing a country's stamps must be altered. And what about those countries whose stamps are innocent of portraits? Possibly the enterprising journalist responsible for so rash a statement has yet to learn that the stamps of our own country bearing Queen's Victoria's portrait are still quite valid for postage. Fleet Street is, indeed, a wonderful place!

Turkish Postal Affairs.

The new *regime* in Turkey would like to make a clean sweep of all the post offices maintained by foreign governments. But until the management of the postal system in the land of Abdul is on a much more businesslike basis than it is at present the wish is likely to remain nothing more than "father to the thought." A letter posted at one of the Consular Post Offices is as safe as if posted in the countries maintaining that office, but a letter entrusted to a Turkish Post Office has an excellent chance of languishing there for an indefinite period and

then of being destroyed—this being considered by our Turkish friends as the simplest way of disposing of correspondence. Failing the willingness of the powers to quit, it has been suggested that all the rival offices now existing should become amalgamated so as to form one central international bureau. This may, possibly, come in time, and when it does postal autonomy will be much nearer an accomplished fact than it is to-day. But for the present, in the words of the rude and unregenerate youths of our day "I don't think."

The New Indians.

The new high value 10 and 15 rupee Indian stamps have arrived in London, and, I understand, have been distributed through the various new issue services. The necessity for such high values is not at first apparent considering that 5 rupees has been considered sufficient for all needs until recently, and that postal charges have a tendency to decrease rather than increase. It appears that they are intended chiefly for use on telegrams, but they may, of course, also be used in the payment of postal charges.

Another "Secret" Mark.

Dr. Emilio Diena points out an interesting fact he has noted regarding the 1d. and 3d. stamps of the 1871 issue of Fiji, and one Mr. C. J. Phillips has not mentioned in his *magnum opus* on the stamps of this colony. Dr. Diena tells us that on the foliated ornaments, in the lower portions of these stamps, there are small coloured letters "W" on each side. They are particularly distinct and well-defined on the 1d. stamp, and the opinion is expressed that they are probably the initials of the engraver. But if this inference is correct, what was the name of the engraver? Mr. Phillips distinctly states that "Mr. A. Jackson, a wood engraver and electrotyper, was temporary engaged, and designed, engraved on wood, and made the electrotypes from which the stamps were printed," but in the light of this new discovery this statement will probably require revision. The meaning of these letters is an interesting problem, the solution of which should furnish food for research to specialists in the stamps of Fiji.

The Stalwarts again.

The stalwart supporters of the rival factions—old issues only on the one side, and new issues on the other—are at it again. In fact they seem untiring in their efforts to

belittle those who have the temerity to hold opinions contrary to their own. The Editor of the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* again acts as the doughty champion of the old issues brigade, and says:—"The plea of the rabid new issue collector generally is that the stamps are issued by the postal authorities, and, as some of them have done postal duty, they are collectible. O gullible collector, no wonder your friend, who has hobbies other than stamps, regards you as being beyond the pale of sanity! Imagine the china enthusiast's disgust were he told that he had to add some recent tawdry example because there was a big demand and a big sale for such an article! Fortunately, specialism and accumulation are not synonymous, although a great many collectors think both words have the same meaning. One of the worst features of modern day collecting is that 'collector' speculators hoard whole sheets of King's heads and cloak their defence with the plea that they are specialists."

Mr. Ewen's Rejoinder.

Mr. Ewen, in a somewhat laudatory article on the subject of commemorative stamps, tells a somewhat different tale, viz.:—"If dealers and collectors dislike commemorative and provisional issues so much, why do they fall over one another in impetuous desire to obtain them? The truth is of course that the average stamp collector is so tired trying to split hairs in identifying his old issues according to every minute detail, that the very first time a handsome commemorative issue comes along, without a troublesome past, he flies to it with relief. Naturally, dealers who have large elaborately classified stocks of the older issues object to their clients going off in this way."

The Truth of the Matter.

Again, it is a case of "six of one and half a dozen of the other," for, but for the interested parties who have stamps to sell, we should hear very little of the differences that are supposed to exist between the collectors of old and new issues. Philately has room, and ample room, for collectors of all sorts: and the wise collector is he who collects according to the dictates of his own fancy. Naturally, the dealer who pins his faith to old issues cries "stinking fish" regarding his rival's stock of only the newest of the new, and vice-versa. If there is any room for controversy on the subject it had much better be left for collectors to do the talking. The collector's opinions should certainly be more disinterested, and would therefore be more worthy of serious attention.

Social Stamp Collectors.

The "Social" Philatelic Society to which reference was made a few weeks ago gives every sign of being a success. Mr. Pearson, the secretary, tells me that at the second meeting a paper was read on the 1d. black, a fine specialised collection of English—I should say British in deference to the feelings of some of my MacTavish friends—was shown, and seven new members were enrolled. I understand that the membership is to be strictly limited and confined to amateurs only. Mr. Pearson extends a cordial invitation to any readers of *The Postage Stamp* who may care to attend the next meeting, which will be held at the residence of the President, Mr. Cyril J. Phillips, 37, Flanders Road, Chiswick, at 7 p.m., on Saturday next.

The Value of Small Societies.

Small societies on the basis of this "social" club are probably likely to be much more helpful to the average collector than the larger societies who make proud boast of their membership list running into hundreds. Our large societies do excellent work, but at the same time I should like to see small, select, social societies, formed all over the country. A man living in Bradford and belonging to a London society can surely gain little from his

membership. He would be far better off as a member of his local society, or, if there is no society in his town, he should make it his business to hunt up kindred spirits and arrange for meetings at one another's houses at convenient intervals.

The New Post Office Guide.

The new quarterly edition of that wonderful tome, the *Post Office Guide*, has just made its appearance. The principal alterations deal with an insured box post for the conveyance of gold, precious stones and articles of jewellery between this country and France, Belgium and Holland. Other new details relate to the cash-on-delivery system now in operation between the United Kingdom and Egypt and certain British Colonies, and, most interesting of all, full particulars are given as to the Radio-telegraphic Service, by means of which wireless messages can be sent to and from persons on board ship.

Radio-telegrams.

Evidently, for the present at any rate, these radio-telegrams are somewhat of a luxury for their usual cost seems to be about 10½d. per word. As the adoption of this sort of service becomes more general I have no doubt certain countries will be issuing special stamps for the prepayment of wireless messages. I believe most stamps are "wireless," and gumless, perfless, and useless varieties are all known, but the manufacture of suitable radio-stamps for use on radio-telegrams will somewhat test the ingenuity of the postal service!

Shackleton's Farthest South.

Lieutenant Shackleton's wonderful dash to the South Pole will hardly have any direct bearing on philately for, from all accounts, the inhabitants of that desolate spot are hardly likely to hanker after the establishment of a postal system. The intrepid explorer was certainly prepared for any eventuality of the sort for the party went provided with a stock of stamps suitably surcharged "King Edward VII. Land."

The Newcastle Exhibition.

Hearty congratulations to the North of England Philatelic Society! The exhibition, held under its auspices on March 26th and 27th, was an unqualified success and reflects the greatest credit on all concerned in its organisation. I have to thank Mr. Mark Easton, the enthusiastic Honorary Secretary of the Society, for the report published on another page in this number.

The Exhibition Catalogue.

The exhibition catalogue is quite an interesting souvenir of the event. It consists of no fewer than 62 pages and gives a short descriptive account of each of the exhibits. The complete list of exhibitors was as follows: Mr. J. H. Abbott, Mr. A. Leon Adutt, Mr. J. R. M. Albrecht, Mr. S. Andus, Mr. C. L. Bagnall, Mr. A. Bailes, Mr. G. B. Bainbridge, Mr. W. Dorning Beckton, Mr. I. J. Bernstein, Mr. M. F. Castle, Mr. W. J. Cochrane, Mr. J. Collman, Mr. W. H. Earl, Mr. R. Easton, Major E. B. Evans, Mrs. D. Field, Mr. J. C. Graham, Mr. E. Heginbottom, Mr. J. S. Higgins, jun., Mr. T. H. Hinton, Mr. M. H. Horsley, Mr. T. D. Hume, Mr. W. V. Morten, Mr. C. Nissen, Mr. D. A. Oubridge, Mr. L. A. B. Paine, Dr. T. S. P. Parkinson, Mr. B. W. H. Poole, Mr. A. Ridley, Mr. E. Robson, Mr. W. W. Sanderson, Mr. J. H. M. Savage, Mr. J. H. Taylor, Mr. J. H. Thachrah, Mr. J. Tocher, Mr. O. K. Trechmann, Mr. H. Wade, Mr. T. N. Wallace, Mr. R. P. Wanless, Mr. T. Wanless, Mr. T. B. Widdowson, Mr. W. A. Witson, junr., and Mr. R. W. Wilkinson.

I have no doubt any reader of *The Postage Stamp* desiring a copy of the catalogue can obtain one on remitting 3d. to Mr. Mark Easton, 43, Sydney Grove, Newcastle.

Falkland Islands

A Review—By P. L. Pemberton.

THE second of the series of "W.E.P." Philatelic Handbooks treats of the stamps of Falkland Islands, and is from the pen of Mr. B. W. H. Poole.

The casual collector, on glancing at the modest list of varieties given in any catalogue, might be excused for wondering how it would be possible to fill out even the most unpretentious booklet with information relating to these issues. Even the studious collector with a knowledge of all the information hitherto available concerning Falkland Islands might have the same reflections, and I myself, who have recently studied the stamps, with especial regard to the dots and other marks found on different values of the Queen's head series, am astonished at the lengths to which Mr. Poole's investigations into the puzzling and hitherto unsuspected problems of these issues have been taken.

As a general history of the stamps of the Islands the Handbook is interesting enough. With the chapters devoted to the postal arrangements and the history and geography of the Islands it is not my purpose to deal, useful though they are; I should like to draw attention to the important facts (and theories resulting from those facts), which Mr. Poole has embodied in his work. To take these in order I must first refer to the differences found in some of the stamps of the first issue, viz., the 1d., 4d., 6d. and 1s. with the Queen's head.

The references apply equally to all printings of these stamps, from the issue without watermark to the last before the stamps became obsolete.

The plates, which were line-engraved, were manufactured by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., but they were evidently made in a totally different way to that employed by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. for the stamps of other Colonies, as Mr. Poole plainly shows by several curious discoveries he has made from careful examination of entire sheets. The most curious of these is most certainly the fact that the plates of the 4d. and 1s. were identical in every respect with the exception of the value tablets, even to the reproduction of numerous small flaws or minor defects in exactly the same positions on the sheets of both values. These flaws are of the most trivial character but they are most important as a basis for study and they cannot be accounted for, as Mr. Poole says, "in any other way than that one plate was produced from the other, and I find" he adds, "from investigations made at Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co.'s that such was undoubtedly the case. First of all a steel plate was made for the 1s. and from this an electrotype of the whole plate was taken, with the tablets blank. The value was then added to this, and the whole was probably 'coppered' before being used for printing." Here is indeed an interesting discovery which points to a method of reproduction which will come as a revelation to the most advanced student of stamp printing and production. It is a pity that Mr. Poole could not give a more detailed description of the process, with a definition of the word "coppered." Are we to understand that the designs were re-transferred to a copper plate from the electro, or is the 4d. an electrotyped stamp pure and simple?

Another interesting and inexplicable point is that the 4d. and 1s., and also the 1d., shew two dots in the lower left hand spandrel. One of these, which Mr. Poole calls A is situated just above the topmost point of the foliate ornament, looking like a detached continuation of the

leaf. The other, termed B, is just to the right of the central curl of the same ornament, a trifle lower than the ball with which the curl terminates. With the exception that B is not found on the stamps in the bottom row the dots can be found in the same positions on all the stamps on the sheet. Why the stamps in the bottom row were made to differ from those in the other rows is a fact that Mr. Poole cannot explain, nor can Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., to whom he applied, account for it. In the 1d. value there is a dot on the "x" of "PENNY," again found on all stamps on the sheet except those in the bottom row.

The 6d. stamps do not exhibit any of these peculiarities, and in other respects, notably in the absence of a minute dot in the background behind the head, which is found on the other three values, is quite dissimilar from the 1d., 4d. and 1s. Mr. Poole, by the way, does not mention this small dot (which I referred to in my recent article in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*) but it is useful as affording further evidence to dissociate the plate of this value from the others. It seems to me feasible that if the 4d. was produced from the 1s., the latter might have been produced from the 1d., the flaws and minor defects found in the 4d. and 1s. alone might have developed on the electro of the 1s., in which case the 4d. would have been taken from that electro instead of from the original steel plate.

Besides the dots which I have already referred to there are "guide dots" which may be seen on several values, and for particulars of these I must refer readers of *The Postage Stamp* to the book itself.

The following is another little eye-opener for specialists. After referring to the fact that every writer on the subject has hitherto stated that the CA issues were printed by Messrs. De la Rue, Mr. Poole says, "As a matter of fact all the stamps of the Falkland Islands bearing the portrait of Queen Victoria were printed by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., and I have received official confirmation on this point though, as I pointed out in the *West End Philatelist*, a study of the perforation alone should have, at any rate, raised serious doubts as to the probability of De la Rue having printed the stamps. The catalogues are unanimous in giving the gauge of this perforation as "14," but a little careful measurement will prove that these and all the other Queen's head stamps of the Falkland Islands are perforated 14, 14½ by single line machines, exactly as was the case with the first issue."

Having referred to the most important points made by Mr. Poole I can only say, in conclusion, that the book embodies some of the most original work that has been put before the philatelic public for a very long time and should be in the hands of everyone interested in the subject.

*The Postage Stamps of the Falkland Islands, by Bertram W. H. Poole (published by D. Field, 4 and 5, The Royal Arcade, Old Bond Street, London, W.) Price 6d.

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Single Issue Specialism

BY BERTRAM W. H. POOLE

Seychelles: the 1893 Provisionals

AMONG the smaller stamp issuing Colonies, Seychelles is a warm favourite with a very large number of philatelists. This popularity seems to be more due to the fact that the stamps form a compact little group that can be completed (on catalogue lines) without undue trouble and expense, rather than to any possibilities of philatelic research they may offer. True, the colours in which they are printed are attractive and the two designs are neat, but they have no pretensions to beauty or claims to quaintness to recommend them. It is essentially a country for the "surcharge fiend," for with the exception of a few problems regarding the settings of some of the surcharges, the stamps offer very little opening for study with its consequent discovery of new varieties.

The 1893 Issue.

The stamps of the Seychelles have been very fully written up from time to time, and the only issue regarding which our present knowledge is incomplete is the one comprising the provisional stamps issued in 1893. On January 1st of that year new regulations came into force making stamps of the values of 3c., 12c., 15c., 45c., and 90c. necessary. To meet temporary demands quantities of the then current 4c., 16c., 48c., and 96c. stamps were surcharged in type as shown in our illustration, the varieties issued being as follows:—



- 3 cents on 4c. carmine and green.
- 12 " 16c. chestnut and blue.
- 15 " 16c. " "
- 45 " 48c. ochre and green.
- 90 " 96c. mauve and carmine.

The collector in search of fresh fields to conquer will find this small issue offer plenty of scope for his energies and philatelic acumen. Many have essayed the task of finding out exactly how many settings there were of each value, but our knowledge on these points is still far from complete.

Method of Printing.

The overprinting was done locally, the surcharge consisting of figures about 5mm. high, with "cents" in heavy type underneath. It is stated that the actual work of composing the type and printing was done by natives and this, combined with the fact that the type itself was by no means new or in perfect condition, probably very satisfactorily accounts for the existence of the many minor varieties. Indeed, under the circumstances, it is rather surprising that errors are not more numerous.

Owing to the fact that the supply of the sort of type used for these surcharges was limited, or that the capacity of the printing press was somewhat meagre, or a combi-

nation of both, it was only found possible to surcharge 30 stamps at a time as follows:—

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30

The stamps were issued in sheets of 120 arranged in two panes of 60 (10 horizontal rows of 6) side by side, so that in surcharging them each sheet had to go under the printing press four times. In some cases the margin was torn off the sheets to facilitate the work of overprinting, the panes being then folded in two. In other cases, too, the panes were divided before being surcharged to obviate the trouble of folding and expedite the drying of the ink.

Different Printings.

The stamps were not all surcharged at once but, on the contrary, supplies were printed in a regular "hand to mouth" fashion just as required. This necessitated a constant rearrangement of the type for, while the word "cents" was evidently unaltered, the figures had to be changed according to the denomination required. How many printings there were of each value, their chronological order, and the quantities of each are nice problems for the specialist to tackle and, though their elucidation will doubtless be a matter of difficulty, they should not be beyond the power of a real enthusiast.

Characteristic Varieties.

The varieties by which the various settings of the type or printings can be distinguished fall into two main divisions:—

- (1) Broken letters or figures.
- (2) Varying position of letters and figures.

At the outset care must be taken only to note those varieties which are *constant* throughout the particular printing or printings in which they occur. The position of the figures of value in relation to the letters underneath will be found a useful factor in distinguishing some of the printings in which broken letters and varieties of alignment are almost identical. Some defects seem to have developed as the work of printing progressed owing to inequalities in the machine damaging the type. Thus, in what I take to be the later printings, it will be found that on stamp No. 1 (see diagram above) the letters "ce" are badly battered, on No. "5" the "t" has no foot, and on No. 30 the whole of the overprint is mutilated. These defects I have seen on all values except the 90c. on 96c., and it would be interesting to know in which particular printing they first made their appearance.

The "3 cents" on 4c.

The Royal Philatelic Society's work, "Africa, Part III." states that there are two settings of the type

for the So., but in my little book, "The Postage Stamps of the Seychelles," published in 1906, the distinguishing features of six distinct settings will be found detailed, and I think it highly probable that there are others. Although there is at present no means of arranging these settings in strict chronological order, my previous tabulation can probably be much improved. For instance, it is only logical to suppose that those printings in which the type was least battered were the early ones. The 3 cents is wonderfully prolific in the matter of raised letters, specimens with the "c," "ce," "ces," "nts," "ts," and "s" raised all being known. In one setting only one stamp shows any of the letters raised, while at the other extreme there is a setting in which only five stamps out of the thirty are normal!

The "12 cents" on 16c.

In this value I know of four settings, distinguished chiefly by the positions of the figures in relation to "cents" and various damaged letters and numerals. Raised letters are not at all common, the only ones I have seen having either "c" or "s" raised.

The "13 cents" on 16c.

Two settings have been found in this value, but it is quite probable others exist. This is the only value on which I have found no varieties with raised letters.

The "45 cents" on 48c.

I note evidence of at least two settings for this value,

but as blocks of thirty are by no means common, the specialist will find it necessary to attempt to "reconstruct" the settings, to say how many there are with certainty. I have seen varieties with raised "c" and others with raised "s," but what their positions are on the half-pane I cannot say.

The "90 cents" on 96c.

Information regarding this value is particularly meagre. Varieties with raised "c," raised "s," and wide space between "ts" may be found, but their positions in the setting or settings are at present an unknown quantity.

Other Varieties.

The 12 cents and 15 cents may be found surcharged on both dies of the 16c., and it will, I think, be found that certain settings in these values are found only on the stamps from one particular die. So far the 4c. in die I. has never been found surcharged, but it is by no means an improbable variety, and the fact that it is "unknown" should not deter the specialist from looking for it.

The 3c. on 4c., 12c. on 16c. (die II.) and 15c. on 16c. (die I.) are known with inverted surcharges. The 15c. on 16c. (die II.) catalogued in Gibbons' with inverted surcharge I have never seen, and it is possible the compilers of the catalogue have listed this in error for die II. The 3c. on 4c., 12c. on 16c. (die II.) and 15c. on 16c. (die I.) I have seen with double surcharge. The second of these is not catalogued, but instead Gibbons' lists die I., but this again may be a mistake on the part of the compilers.

The Newcastle Exhibition

THE North of England Philatelic Society is to be congratulated both on the excellence and the success of its first Postage Stamp Exhibition, which was held in the Academy of Arts, Blakett Street, Newcastle, on March 26th and 27th. The opening was performed by Alderman J. J. Forster, the Lord Mayor of the City, who is himself an enthusiastic collector, and there was a large attendance of the leading philatelists of the North of England.

In the opinion of competent judges the Exhibition ranks high, and, in variety of stamps shown, as well as in quality, is considered to surpass the recent Exhibition of the Manchester Junior Philatelic Society, although, of course, that was on a larger scale. This was probably due, in some measure, to the competitive nature of the Exhibition, and the silver and bronze medals awarded drew representative exhibitors from all over the country.

Amongst the more notable exhibits to be mentioned were the fine collection of the President, Alderman G. B. Bainbridge, his magnificent and almost complete collection of triangular Capes attracting universal admiration.

Mr. W. Waite Sanderson, of Newcastle, exhibited a complete set of Nevis stamps, and also took a bronze medal for a fine exhibit of Western Australia.

Other notable collections on view were Mr. Cochrane's caricatures of Mulready Envelopes, the well-known English collection of Mr. J. S. Higgins, Jun., of Manchester, Mr. J. H. Taylor's Sicily exhibit, Canada and New South Wales, shown by Mr. M. H. Horaley, of West Hartlepool, and Mr. Wade's early U.S.A.

There was also an unusually fine exhibit in the section for rare stamps, for, while there were only three entries, the exhibitors had a remarkably valuable 75 stamps among them, Mr. Bainbridge, the President, again carrying off a medal.

The Judge was Mr. Leicester A. B. Paine, and his awards were as follows:—

Class 1. (Open).—Great Britain—J. S. Higgins, Manchester, Silver Medal for a specialised Collection of Stamps up to 1900, unused, with practically all official stamps.

Class 2. (Members).—Best Exhibit of any Country.—Silver Medal to G. B. Bainbridge, Newcastle, for a splendid exhibit of triangular "Capes," all in fine condition with many unused copies, and a large number of pairs, strips, and blocks. Silver Medal also awarded to O. K. Trechmann, of West Hartlepool for magnificent display of "pence," Ceylon, and a Bronze Medal to R. W. Wilkinson, of Gateshead, for Greece specialised.

Class 3. (Open).—Best Colony in Asia or Africa, limited to 150 stamps.—Bronze Medal to T. D. Hume, Newcastle, for Ceylon, 1855 to 1868 entirely pence values.

Class 4. (Open).—Best Colony in Australasia, limited to 250 stamps.—Bronze Medal to W. Waite Sanderson, for Western Australia, and Bronze Medal to Dr. T. S. Parkinson, Benton, for South Australia.

Class 5. (Open).—United States of America, over 200 and less than 500 stamps.—Bronze Medal to H. Wade, Leeds, for practically complete collection of all stamps up to 1869, including very rare.

Class 6. (Open).—Any European Country, excepting Great Britain, limited to 300 stamps.—Bronze Medal to John H. Taylor, Manchester, for a specialised collection of Sicily.

Class 7. (Open).—Any Colony in West Indies, limited to 150 stamps.—Bronze Medal to W. Waite Sanderson, Newcastle, for a complete set of the stamps of Nevis, including six unbroken sheets.

Class 8. (Open).—Any British North American Colony.—No competitive displays.

Class 9. (Open).—Any country, the rest of the world, limited to 800.—Bronze Medal to E. Heginbottom, Rochdale, for British Honduras.

Class 10.—King's Head stamps, any five Colonies, limited to 500 stamps.—Charles L. Bagnall, Winlaton-on-Tyne, for Gibraltar, British Somaliland, Cayman Islands, Ceylon, and Natal. Mint collection.

Class 11. (Members).—Twenty-five rare stamps—Bronze Medal to G. B. Bainbridge, Newcastle, also Bronze Medal to W. J. Cochrane, Sunderland.

Class 12. (Juniors).—Bronze Medal to Master R. P. Wanless. Special Albums given by Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich, Master T. Wanless, and 1,000 Varieties given by F. W. Brandon & Co., York, Master D. A. Oubridge.

At the opening ceremony Alderman G. B. Bainbridge, President of the Society, was in the chair, and, in calling on the Lord Mayor (Alderman J. J. Forster), said it was the Lord Mayor's brother who had induced him to resume stamp collecting, twenty-five years ago, after he had given it up for some time. He had known the Lord Mayor since he was five years of age, and almost ever since they had been associated in various ways.

The Lord Mayor said that it gave him great pleasure, not only as Lord Mayor, but also as a Philatelist, to open the Exhibition. He did not know what had induced him to commence collecting, but he knew it was the day after the Battle of Solferino that he started, and they knew that was many years ago. He urged every young man and young woman to have a hobby of some kind and collect something. It kept them from doing other things, and getting into mischief. He had not much time himself, but when he had leisure he liked to get his stamps out and go over them. There was a controversy now as to what stamps should be collected, and he would not say what they should collect, but he urged them not to col-

lect only for appearance. When he was a boy they utterly disregarded the backs, the perforations, and the colour of the paper. They also insisted that every boy should "collect," and looked down on the one who bought. He remembered once doing violence to his conscience by buying three Ionian Island stamps for 2d.

In conclusion, he suggested that emergency and commemorative stamps ought to be excluded from good collections.

Mr. M. H. Horsley, West Hartlepool, proposed a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor, and told a story of the influence of stamp collecting. "The other day," he said, "a boy of his acquaintance asked his father who wrote the 'Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire?' Stanley Gibbons was the reply." (Laughter).

Mr. Easton, the Secretary, in seconding, apologised for the absence of Mr. Wilkinson, the Exhibition Secretary, who had overworked himself and was confined to the house.

The President proposed, and Mr. Trechmann (of West Hartlepool) seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. Paine, the Judge, and, in acknowledging this. Mr. Paine said he had had a good deal of experience of Exhibitions, both at home and abroad, and was surprised to find in Newcastle such a fine collection of stamps, with such great rarities in many of the classes. In Newcastle, philately did not appear to be taken up in the ordinary way, as it was in many centres where they had large societies, but it was treated as a science. (Applause).

There were a large number of visitors to the Exhibition during the two days it was open and it will doubtless give a stimulus to the hobby in the neighbourhood. The success of the heavy undertaking of this young society was largely due to the energy of the Exhibition Secretaries, Messrs. C. L. Bagnall and R. W. Wilkinson.

Philatelic Dictionary

BY B. W. H. POOLE

(Continued from page 7).

New Caledonia.—A large island in the Western Pacific belonging to France, and largely used as a penal settlement. It is situated about 700 miles east of Queensland, is 250 miles long and about 30 miles broad, and has a total area of 4,618 square miles. It has a white population of about 23,000 (of whom nearly half are of convict origin) and more than 25,000 Kanakas. The island was discovered in 1774, and in 1853, it was annexed by France, which, after 1871, dispatched large batches of political prisoners. Postage stamps were first issued on January 1st, 1860.

Newfoundland.—An island in the mouth of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, belonging to Great Britain. It has an area of 42,200 square miles, of which one-third is lake and river. It has a population of about 226,000. It is the oldest British Colony, for it was discovered by John Cabot in 1497. The first land seen was hailed as Prima Vista, and forms the present Cape Bona Vista. Fisheries were established as early as the beginning of the sixteenth century, and in 1578 there were 400 vessels, chiefly French and Spanish, engaged. In 1583 Sir Humphrey Gilbert took possession of the island, but no permanent settlements were made until 1621. In 1855 full responsible government was granted, and the island is now a self-governing Colony, administered by a

Governor appointed by the Crown. Postage stamps were first issued on January 1st, 1857.

New Granada.—The name by which the Republic of Colombia was known prior to 1862. (See "COLOMBIA.")

New Haven.—A city in the State of Connecticut, U.S.A., having a population of about 110,000. It is a beautiful place, and is the seat of Yale University, founded in 1701. Special 5c. envelopes were issued by the Postmaster in 1845 to facilitate the prepayment of postage. These were superseded in 1847 by the general issue for the whole of the United States.

New Hebrides.—An archipelago of 20 islands in the Pacific Ocean, extending about 500 miles from north to south. The total area of the group is 5,000 square miles, and the population numbers over 100,000, of whom only about 400 are Europeans. The natives are mostly Melanesians, with a few Polynesian groups. The islands were discovered by Quiros in 1606, and at the present time they are under a mixed commission of English and French naval officers on the Pacific stations. There is regular steamer communication with Sydney and with New Caledonia. Postage stamps were first issued in 1908, under French authority, and in 1909 a set was issued by the British members of the joint commission.

New Hebrides-Condominium.—A surcharge found upon some of the King's head stamps of Fiji issued by the British authorities in New Hebrides.

New Orleans.—A city and seaport in the State of Louisiana, U.S.A., situated on the left bank of the Mississippi, about 106 miles from its mouth. It has a population of about 300,000. The site of the city is so low as to be below the river when the latter is in flood, and levees have been constructed to protect the city from inundation. Canal Street, which runs at right angles to the river bank, separates the city into two distinct parts—the modern American portion and the ancient French city. Laid out in 1718, it became the capital of French territory in 1722. During the civil war it was an important Confederate centre until captured in 1862. In 1861 special 5c. and 10c. stamps were issued by the Postmaster then in office—Mr. H. Riddell.

New Republic.—The territory of this ephemeral State was part of Zululand, and was proclaimed an independent republic in 1885 by a number of dissatisfied Boers. Postage stamps were issued in 1886-7, but were suppressed on the annexation of the territory by the South African Republic. It formed the district of Vryheid until after the last South African War, when it was annexed to the Colony of Natal.

New Smyrna.—A small town in the State of Florida, U.S.A., known to philatelic fame from the fact that in 1861—prior to the issue of stamps for the whole of the Confederate States—the Postmaster issued special 5c. and 10c. stamps.

New South Wales.—The oldest State of the Commonwealth of Australia, having a population of over 1½ millions and an area of 310,867 square miles. Botany Bay was discovered by Captain Cook in 1770; in 1788 the first convict fleet arrived in New South Wales, and in the early fifties of the nineteenth century this transportation ceased. Responsible government began in 1856, and is vested in a Governor appointed by the Crown, and a Legislative Council consisting of not less than 21 members. The Legislative Assembly consists of 90 members, representing 90 electoral districts. Each member receives £300 per annum, travels free over the Government railways and tramways in the State, and is provided with official stamped envelopes for the free transmission of correspondence through the post. The first postage stamps—the famous "Sydney Views"—were issued in 1860.

Newspaper Stamps.—Properly speaking, these are stamps issued for the special purpose of prepaying the postal charges on newspapers and available for no other purpose. As instances we may quote the special stamps of Austria. Other stamps, such as the current low value stamps of Belgium, France, &c., are intended primarily for newspaper postage, but are, of course, available for the payment of other postal charges as well.

Newspapers and Periodicals.—The inscription shown upon the large stamps issued in the United States in 1865 for the payment of postage on newspapers.

Newspapers—Periodicals. All the United States newspaper stamps issued in 1875 and later were inscribed in this manner. These stamps were used for the prepayment of the postal charges on newspapers and other specified printing matter in bulk, and were not affixed to individual newspapers.

New York.—The chief city in the United States, capital of the State of the same name, and, having a population of nearly four millions, it is the second largest

city in the world. Settlement was commenced here by the Dutch West India Company in 1624, and in 1650 the town, known as New Amsterdam, had about one thousand inhabitants. In 1664 it was seized by the British, and granted by Charles II. to his brother, the Duke of York, in honour of whom it received its present name. It was retaken by the Dutch in 1673, and in the following year was transferred to the British, who held it until the revolution. During the revolutionary war it was the scene of the battles of Long Island and Harlem Heights, in which the Americans were defeated. From 1785 to 1790 it was the seat of the Federal Government. In Federal Hall, the building now used as the United States Sub-Treasury, Washington was inaugurated as President, and the meetings of the first Congress were held. The city remained the national capital for five years, and was the capital of the State until 1797. Up to 1897 New York comprised only Manhattan Island and a tract of land north of the Harlem River, but in that year the present territory was consolidated in Greater New York, and covers an area of 327 square miles. On 12th July, 1845, special 5c. postage stamps were issued by the Postmaster of the city, and these remained in use until the issue of the regular set for the whole of the United States in 1847.

New Zealand.—A British Colony in the South Pacific Ocean, consisting of three main islands, known as North, Middle, and Stewart Islands. It is 1,100 miles in length, has an average breadth of 120 miles, and a total area of 101,751 square miles. It has a population of nearly a million, of whom some 50,000 are Maoris. Portions of New Zealand were explored by Tasman in 1642, under the direction of the Dutch East India Company, and visited at various times during the eighteenth century, and in 1777 by Captain Cook. The first settlement of Europeans was made in 1814, but no colonization took place until 1839. In 1840 Captain Hobson concluded a treaty with the native chiefs at Waitangi, whereby they ceded the sovereignty of the islands to Queen Victoria, and had their lands guaranteed them, and formally annexed the territory to the British Crown. In 1841 New Zealand was, by letters patent, erected into a separate colony, distinct from New South Wales, and in 1852 responsible government was granted. From 1860 to 1870 Maori wars raged in North Island. Postage stamps were first issued on July 13th, 1855.

N. O. R.—These letters are punched in some of the King's head Natal stamps which were used on the correspondence of the department dealing with the Natal Government Railways.

Nicaragua.—A republic in Central America, having an area of 49,000 square miles, and a population of about 500,000. Most of the people are Indians, some still living in a savage state, *ladinos* or half-breeds, negroes, and *sambos* the offspring of Indians and negroes. Nicaragua proclaimed its independence in 1821, and after forming part of the Mexican Empire, joined the Republic of Central America until 1838, when it became a separate state. Postage stamps were first issued in 1862.

Niet Bestellen op Zondag.—The Flemish inscription shown at the base of the "Sunday labels" on all the stamps of Belgium issued since 1893, meaning, "Not to deliver on the Sunday."

Nieuwe Republiek—Zuid Africa.—The inscription shown upon all the stamps of the New Republic, meaning, "New Republic—South Africa."

To be continued.

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London. S.W.

After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

Abyssinia.—(Vol. III. p. 311).—In addition to the values previously reported, we understand from *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* that the 8 pia. on 8g. may be found with the overprint inverted, so the complete list of errors is as follows:—



Surcharge, in type illustrated, inverted

½ pia. on ½g. green
 ½ pia. „ ½g. rose
 1 pia. „ 1g. blue
 8 pia. „ 8g. mauve

Argentine Republic.—(Vol. III. p. 311).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have shown us the 12c. of the new type, in dull blue instead of pale orange brown as previously recorded. It appears that 12c. is the equivalent of the Postal Union rate of 25c. or 2½d., hence the necessity for the change of colour. The complete list of values issued to date is as follows:—

New design.		Wmk.	Sun.	Perf.	13, 13½.
					s. d.
2c.	chocolate	...	...	...	0 1
3c.	green	...	...	...	—
4c.	violet-brown	...	...	...	—
5c.	dull carmine	...	...	...	0 2
10c.	slate-green	...	...	...	—
12c.	pale orange brown	...	...	...	—
12c.	dull blue	...	...	...	0 4
15c.	yellow-green	...	...	...	0 5
30c.	dull claret	...	...	...	—

Bosnia.—*Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* records the discovery of a copy of the 1 kr. grey of 1890, perf. 9, 9½. Hitherto only the 5 kr. and 10 kr. have been known with this perforation and both are rare.

Ecuador.—(Vol. III. p. 69).—The whole stock of remainders of the 1898 postal fiscals has been sold by the Government of this republic. There were 100,000 stamps in all and among these the following errors were found:—“UN CENTAVO” on 5c. pale blue, one stamp on each sheet had surcharge omitted, and four stamps were discovered with double surcharge; “CUATRO CENTAVOS” on 20c. deep blue, nine stamps had double surcharge, and in 85 cases the overprint was struck vertically instead of horizontally; “DIEZ CENTAVOS” on 50c. dull purple, eight stamps had double surcharge and one showed the overprint in green instead of black.

Great Britain.—(Vol. III. p. 56).—A correspondent informs *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* that he has discovered an undoubtedly imperforate copy of the 1d. red of 1864, plate 81.

Java.—(Vol. III. p. 178).—We have on several occasions recorded various Dutch Indies stamps with the “JAVA” surcharge inverted, and we now learn from *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* that most values from ½c. to 50c. exist in this state. The following is a complete list of the errors:—



Numeral type. Error: inverted surcharge.

No wmk. Perf. 12½.

½c. lilac
 1c. olive-green
 2c. brown
 2½c. green
 5c. rose



Portrait type. Error: inverted surcharge.

No wmk. Perf. 12½.

10c. dull blue
 12½c. deep blue
 20c. olive
 25c. deep violet
 30c. chestnut
 50c. lake brown

New Zealand.—(Vol. III. p. 299).—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* is assured by a correspondent that the 4d. and 5d. have now been issued with the compound perf. gauging 14 × 15. The values now known with this perforation are as follows:—

Wmk. Single-lined “N Z” and Star.
 Perf. 14 × 15.

				s. d.
½d.	green	...	...	—
1d.	carmine	...	...	—
3d.	brown	...	...	0 5
4d.	brown and blue	...	...	—
5d.	brown	...	...	—
6d.	rose...	...	...	0 8
1s.	red	...	...	1 3

North Borneo.—(Vol. III. p. 178).—A copy of the ½ of 1894 has been found perf. 14 on three sides and 11 at the bottom according to *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*. We are also told that the 6c. and 8c. surcharged “BARRISH—

PROTECTORATE are known in full sheets without the stop so that evidently more than one setting of the type was employed in surcharging some of the values.

Papua.—(Vol. III. p. 287).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have shown us the 1s. in the permanent type, perf. 12½, making the full list of varieties now known as follows:—



Wmk. Crown over double-lined "A."

Perf. 11.

	s.	d.
¼d. green and black ...	0	1
1d. carmine and black ...	0	2
2d. violet	0	4
2½d. blue and black ...	0	4
4d. brown	0	6
6d. myrtle-green and black ...	0	8
1s. orange	—	—
2s. 6d. brown	—	—

Perf. 12½.

2d. violet and black ...	0	3
2½d. blue	—	—
4d. brown	0	8
6d. myrtle-green and black ...	—	—
1s. orange	1	4

Rio de Oro.—(Vol. IV. p. 9).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have shown us the complete set of stamps described on page 9, and as we find the colours differ considerably from those given on the authority of our Spanish contemporary, we revise our chronicle as follows:—

New design. No wmk. Perf. 14.

1c. dull red	}	Set of 10 1c. to 50c. 4/-
2c. orange		
5c. green		
10c. dull red		
15c. blue-green		
20c. deep purple		
25c. blue		
30c. lake		
40c. brown		
50c. mauve		
1p. sepia	}	Set of 3 high values 16/-
4p. carmine		
10p. lake		

NOTE.

The Prices affixed are those at which Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. will supply any of the stamps chronicled that may be in stock.

The stamps are supplied at lower rates to subscribers to their New Issue Service, particulars of which can be had on application to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich.

The Prices quoted are for unused.

In the Stamp Market

Germany: 1900 Large "Reichspost."

At Messrs. Glendining & Co.'s sale on March 23rd and 24th a mint set of the very rare varieties with "REICHSPOST" in larger lettering was sold. The catalogue value is £36 and the five stamps realized £14 8s. as follows:—

25pf. black and orange on yellow (cat. £6)	£2	6	0
30pf. " " buff (cat. £6)	2	10	0
40pf. black and carmine (cat. £10)	3	10	0
50pf. black and purple on buff (cat. £6)	3	10	0
80pf. " " carmine on rose (cat. £6)	2	12	0

But, although these prices represent a considerable discount off catalogue quotations, they are pretty tall when one takes into consideration that the difference between these and the normal stamps is comparatively trivial. The ordinary set, priced at 3/6, will content all but the keenest specialists I expect.

Rare 1d. Blacks.

At the same sale a mint pair of the 1d. black with the large crown watermark realised no less than £4. As these are nothing better than Government imitations, even when due allowance is made for their rarity, the price is a very satisfactory one—for the vendor at any rate

The Delhi-Durbar Stamps.

Four complete sets of these interesting souvenirs of the great Durbar of 1903 went begging at 10s. Someone had

a bargain for, apart from the fact that as much as £1 a set was asked and obtained for these stamps not so very long ago, fine used copies of the three high values are cheap at 5s. the set.

A Bargain in Grenada.

Someone else had a bargain in Grenadas, for a mint unsevered pair of the ¼d. on half 1d. orange of 1883 (S. G. No. 30 cat. £16) found a lucky purchaser at £5 5s. I expect there are a good many West Indian specialists kicking themselves to-day for letting such a bargain slip by.

The Mirabaud Collection.

I have received from Messrs. Gilbert & Kohler the catalogue of the first part of the famous Mirabaud collection which is being sold in Paris this week. The sale occupies six days and consists solely of fine Europeans. The illustrations of the many superb rarities are enough to make any one envious. Among the many fine things in France are used strips of three of the 10c. and 1fr. of 1849-50, showing the centre stamp *tête-bêche*; a mint block of four of the 1fr. of 1853-60 showing the *tête-bêche* stamp; two mint copies of the 15c bistre on rose error of 1872-75 *se-tenant* with the normal variety, etc. As Europeans are booming just now I have no doubt these fine things will fetch fine prices quite on a par with their rarity.

Early Reunions.

Of the rare and much sought after type-set stamps which formed the first issue for the French Colony of Reunion there are no less than five mint copies of the 15c. and seven used copies of the 30c.—all on pieces of original!

Other Rarities.

Other rarities to be sold include the 81 and 108 paras circular Moldavias, some grand Spanish, a fine lot of Wurtembergs, and an alluring array of rare Italians. Paris will evidently be the Mecca of all wealthy philatelists this week.

Imperforate U.S.A.

I should not be surprised at some of the imperforate United States stamps turning out to be quite good varieties before long, and readers will be well advised to purchase those that are still obtainable at moderate prices. Apart from the 1c. and 2c. values there seems to be but little call for these imperfs. for automatic machines and the other values are by no means easy to get. The imperf. 5c. of 1902 is already growing into quite a scarce stamp for it has now transpired that only a very few were issued. As much as 12s. a pair is being asked for this stamp in the States just now.

Paraguays as an Investment!

A writer in the current number of the *Philatelic World* expresses the opinion that the terribly long list of varieties Paraguay has inflicted on a long-suffering philatelic public during the last twelve months or so are more due to the present rotten state of affairs in the republic than for speculative purposes. Be that as it may one would have to be a very optimistic collector to invest in this rubbish on the chance of it turning out a future gold mine!

A nice state of affairs.

The following extract gives one an idea of the illumin-

ating state of the post in Paraguay at present:—"Since our last bit of a revolution the state of the Post Offices, and of the G.P.O. in particular, beats all description. From many parts of the country all letters come stampless, and the postal authorities refuse to sell stamps, taking the cash instead. Indeed, nowadays, it is perhaps safer not to stamp one's letters, as they reach their destination free of extra charge, while otherwise they would probably be destroyed for the sake of the new stamps upon them. It took me several hours waiting at the Post Office to get the high values I send, whilst some of the others not being in constant use, I had to get through a friend. The 20 centavos, yellow, overprinted 1908, should be very scarce. I have bought for you all they had at the Post Office—38 copies."

Our Advertisers' Offers this week.

Messrs. Bridger & Kay offer as a bargain unused Colonials having a facial value of 3s. 6d. (cat. 11s. 4d.) for 3s. 6d.

Mr. W. H. Peckitt announces having received a further supply of the New Hebrides on Fiji and offers them at 17s. per set. Those readers who obtained these stamps at nominal rates through a new issue service will now have reason to congratulate themselves.

Mr. James Rhodes offers a number of useful and hard to get stamps in fine used condition at reasonable rates.

Mr. George C. Ginn offers a number of bargains in Colonials ranging in value from 1½d. to 5s. 6d.

Messrs. P. L. Pemberton & Co. offer a complete used set of the handsome pictorial issue of Tasmania for 1s.

Messrs. Hamilton & Co. state that they will give a set of Virgin Islands on certain conditions to purchasers of their special 6d. packet.

The Victoria Stamp Co. are anxious to send stamps on approval to any reader furnishing good references.

From other Magazines

Choosing a Stamp Album.

Every collector who takes pride in his collection will agree that the proper housing of his treasures is a matter to which the most careful and serious consideration should be devoted.

Unfortunately so many collectors grudge spending the necessary amount to procure a good album. They seem to imagine that any sort of a book will do to mount their stamps in, and that the less money expended in that direction the better, for it will leave a larger amount to be spent in the acquisition of new specimens. Surely this is a most mistaken policy, for if one takes any pride whatever in one's collection, the stamps should be mounted in a suitable album, and so arranged that their charms may be displayed to the best possible advantage. Half the pleasure and interest attaching to a collection is lost if the stamps are placed in a common-place cheap-looking book—even the most beautiful stamps lose some of their charms if mounted in an unsuitable receptacle—so that the choosing of a well-made and well-compiled album is a matter of very real importance.

The problem, therefore, that is bound to confront every collector at some time or other is, "Which is the best album for my individual requirements?"

The matter offers little difficulty to the specialist, for he either thinks it worth while to have special albums made to meet his particular tastes, or he utilises one or other of the admirable makes of interchangeable albums now on the market.

An Important Matter.

To the general collector, however, the problem is one that calls for a good deal of consideration, and where there are so many excellent albums to choose from, it is a by no means easy task to select the one most suitable for his personal requirements. Take the case of the average collector. When he is first bitten with the desire to become a philatelist, he probably sticks his stamps in the first blank book that comes to hand, or invests a shilling or two in the purchase of a cheap album. Being yet but a very inexperienced beginner, he sticks his stamps in anyhow, as he has no knowledge of any sort of philatelic arrangement. In the course of time our collecting friend becomes more expert, and the day arrives when he becomes dissatisfied with his primitive style of album, and it occurs to him that he must invest in a larger and more suitable one. This is really an important and critical stage in his collecting career, for on his choice his future methods of collecting will largely depend. It is thus highly important that he should use great care and deliberation in choosing the best album he can obtain, after having first decided on what lines he proposes to collect in future.

—*West End Philatelist*, March, 1909.

The Spanish Error of 1851. 2 reales, blue.

This is one of the most famous stamps and also one of the greatest rarities. It was caused by a *cliché* of the 2 reales having got mixed up with the 6 reales of the 1851 issue. The error was quickly discovered and remedied,

and I only know of *three* specimens of the genuine stamp, now in collections.

Of these one is in a vertical pair, one stamp being 6r., the other the error, 2r., and the other two are single specimens; all these are used.

Some years ago one used to meet with some 2 reales in blue, in unused state; these were on thin paper, and in the wrong shade of blue, and I have no doubt that they were only trials of colour.

In the collection of Mr. Robert Reid, now being dispersed at auction, a copy of this stamp was catalogued. The auctioneers were good enough to let me have the stamp for examination, and on reference to the enlarged photographs of the genuine and forged stamps of 2 reales in our "Reprint and Forgery" collection, I found at once that this was a specimen of the dangerous forgery, either printed in blue, or more probably changed in colour from dull red to blue. The design of the stamp is wrong in several important details. I also submitted this important stamp to Monsieur Pierre Mahé and Mr. E. D. Bacon, both of whom agree with me.

It seems best to put these facts on record as a warning to collectors that such a dangerous fake of one of the greatest rarities is in existence.

The fakers no doubt made more than one copy, which probably are considered to be gems in other collections. —Charles J. Phillips in *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*, 20.3.09.

The Cayman Islands Scandal.

A whole series of stamps, ½d., 1d., 2½, 6d. and 1s., were withdrawn from circulation in the course of 1907; they were perfectly fit for use, and were declared twelve months later to "remain available for prepayment of postal charges." If they were not deliberately withdrawn from circulation in order that provisionals might be issued, and that somebody might make a large profit out of them, collectors would like to know what was the reason of such a manoeuvre. If the excuse be made that the stamps withdrawn from sale were lettered "POSTAGE" only, instead of "POSTAGE & REVENUE," it will be sufficient to point out that neither the 1d., the 5s., nor the 4d. surcharged 2½d. in 1908, bore the word "REVENUE," though it would have been a singularly suitable inscription.

These are the real points that require strict investigation. It matters nothing to the Secretary of State whether speculation in stamps puts money into the pockets of local speculators or of European dealers; the important point is that colonial officials, high or low, should not be permitted to manipulate their postal issues in such a way as to give an opening for scandalous speculation in any quarter. If the Secretary of State for the Colonies requires any information on the subject of these most objectionable proceedings, and the way to deal with them, I believe the present Postmaster-General could give him some useful hints. Special issues of stamps for little, insignificant places like the Cayman Islands should be withdrawn altogether, so that both officials and private residents may be delivered from temptation. The group is a tiny dependency of Jamaica, and the stamps of Jamaica should be used there; if any values run short it would cause no inconvenience to have postage paid in cash for a week or two, and if a rule to that effect were made, and strictly enforced in all small colonies, stamps never would run short! A postmaster or postmistress is under no obligation to sell stamps to outsiders in other parts of the world, but when there is an ample supply custom should not be refused, as there is a profit of a few thousands per cent even in selling farthing stamps.

—Major E. B. Evans in *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*, 27 3 09.

High Value Malta.

The 2s. 6d. stamp bears the full figure of a woman (the shading is awful throughout) representing Malta. The

subject is a good one, but there is room for artistic composition and execution, every detail of the stamp being excessively symmetrical if not geometrical, thereby affording no pleasing effect to the eye.

The 10s. stamp, illustrating the shipwreck of St. Paul, is the best executed of the set. Two women are seen in the sea struggling for life. The Book of the Acts of the Apostles does not mention any women among the 276 souls on board with St. Paul, at the time when the ship struck and went down. The wind and the sea of the raging tempest could not possibly admit of such tidiness as shown by the artistic curling of the women's hair. The writer of the article, of which I have given a summary, ends up by heartily approving the action of the Post Office Authorities in adding these four necessary values to the current set.

Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal for February, 1899, says:—

"The pictorial mania has spread to this Island which, instead of joining the Penny Postal Union, has issued four new values—two of them plainly for the 2½d. tariff. The designs are engraved in *taille douce*. . . . On the 2s. 6d. is the figure of a lady, in a helmet with plumes, probably Miss Melita Britannia, with a sword, which she incautiously holds by the blade in her left hand, and a shield bearing the Arms of Malta in her right; whilst on the 10s. there is a kind of mixed representation of the escape of St Paul from shipwreck and from the serpent, events which probably did not take place in the island which we know as Malta. St. Paul stands on the sea-shore with the ship sinking in the background on one side, and the serpent falling into the fire at some distance behind the Saint on the other; at his feet are two ladies in the water, and it seems doubtful whether they are swimming from the ship or have fled into the sea from the snake. It is a curious picture."

—*Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*, 27.3.09.

Back Nos. of "The Postage Stamp."

Those of our friends who are lacking any back numbers of the present vol. will do well to write direct to our Publishers, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, 1 Amen Corner, London, E.C., for what they require. Many newagents do not care to bother about back numbers. Any number still on sale may be had for the published price and postage, i.e., 1½d.

Handbills for Circulation.

We have prepared and shall now be glad to send any number of neat handbills of *The Postage Stamp* to any of our friends post free, on application. These little handbills include a specimen page, and being only leaflets are very suitable for enclosing in letters to philatelic friends.

Applications for supplies should be addressed only to Mr. Baldwin, Printer of *The Postage Stamp*, Tunbridge Wells, and friends should say how many they can use. They can be had in dozens, or hundreds, and even thousands, if desired.

Bargains in Stamps.

If you want real bargains in Postage Stamps read the advertisement pages of *The Postage Stamp* every week. Every week there is something new, and many special bargains. If you miss a week you may miss the very stamp you want to complete a series.

Editor's Letter Box

Publishing Offices.—I. AMEN CORNER.
LONDON, E.C.

Editorial Address.—FRED J. MELVILLE,
14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

Articles, Contributions and Correspondence,
should be addressed to the Editor, and must
be accompanied by the name and address of
the correspondent. Articles, etc., not accepted,
will be returned when postage is prepaid.

Business Communications should be addressed
to the Manager, and Advertisements to the
Advertisement Manager, 1, Amen Corner,
London, E.C.

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from the publishing office to any address at
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6s. 6d.; Half-Yearly, 3s. 3d.; Quarterly,
1s. 8d.; Single Copy, 1½d.

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Answers to Correspondents.

E. P. C. (Cardiff).—All the values of the new Russian set issued to date have had varnish lines in diamond pattern on the face as was explained on page 228 of our last volume.

J. S. (Cork).—Many thanks for the cutting. You will see we referred to this matter in our "Gossip" for last week.

D. D. L. (Ipwich).—The stamp you describe is one of the unpaid letter stamps of Chili. (2) You will find a good explanation of both "Line-engraving" and "Lithography" in our Philatelic Dictionary on page 226 of Volume III. We regret we have not space to repeat the information here.

T. B. H. (Southsea).—Many thanks for your offer of assistance. Yes, our printers will be delighted to send you as many handbills as you like, and the more new subscribers you get the more we shall be pleased.

C. B. (Nottingham).—We do not think it has yet been decided definitely whether the 1d. on 4d. Cayman Islands was intended for fiscal purposes only or was also for postal use. The 2½d. on 4d. was undoubtedly a postage stamp. (2) We do not know the firm and therefore regret we cannot supply the required information.

G. J. L. (Brecon).—We will look into the matter and see what can be done. In the meantime many thanks for your suggestion.

C. R. P. (Streatham).—We chronicled the stamp some weeks ago. (2) The B.S.A. stamps surcharged "Rhodesia" have not yet

appeared, but we think there is no reason to doubt the statement that they are to be issued (3) You are right and your friend is wrong for the Dutch cent is worth twice as much as the French centime. Five of the former equal a penny in our currency, while it takes 10 centimes to make the same amount.

Our Publishing Day and Advertisers.

In order to meet the requirements of the publishing trade our publishers now distribute copies to the Newsagents on Wednesdays instead of Thursdays as before. This compels us to go to press on Saturday morning. Hence it is absolutely necessary for our printers to have all advertisements at latest on Friday morning; consequently, copy must be in the Advertisement Manager's hands not later than Wednesday, 5 o'clock p.m.

Advertisers' Proofs.

We are anxious to consult our Advertisers' convenience to the greatest possible extent, but where proofs have to be supplied and returned our printers must have the "copy" by Thursday morning at the latest, as we now have to print off a portion of our issue on Saturday morning.

Examination of Stamps.

So many of our readers have asked us to undertake the examination and identification of their stamps that we have made arrangements to accede to their wishes.

We shall be pleased to express an opinion as to the genuineness or otherwise of any stamps submitted to us, or identify them according to any catalogue at a charge of 6d. per stamp. All fees must be paid in advance with sufficient added to pay for return postage and registration.

Stamps upon which an opinion is desired should be mounted on a separate sheet from the letter accompanying them and addressed to "The Expert." c/o The Editor of *The Postage Stamp*.

Our Handbills.

We are still sending out hundreds of our handbills with specimen page to kind friends who are doing their best to help us to a big circulation. *We want every reader to see to it that all his stamp friends take in THE POSTAGE STAMP.* Shall we send you post free a dozen or two, or fifty, or a hundred, handbills to hand to friends and enclose in letters to collector friends? If so, write Baldwin's, Printers of *The Postage Stamp*, Tunbridge Wells.

"The Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The Postage Stamp is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:—

- Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C.
F. C. Ginn, 143, Strand, London, W.C.
Lewis May & Co., 15, King William Street, Strand, W.C.
W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.
James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.
Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.
The Court Stamp Co.,
10, Marriott's Court, Manchester.

NEW HEBRIDES on Fiji now in stock. singles, blocks, panes and sheets. For prices see Ewen's Weekly Stamp News, Norwood, S.E.

BARGAINS! For real bargains, all kinds of stamps, send for specimen, "Appleton's Weekly."—T. C. Appleton, Ben-Rhydding, England.

PICTURE Postcards of the late Mr. E. J. Nankivell; four for 6d., 12 for 10d., post free.—J. H. Simmons, 2, Rokeby Road, Brockley, S.E.

GOOD MEMBERS WANTED. Primrose Stamp Exchange. Rules free from Yeadon, Frogghall, Warrington.

SELLING OFF Stock of Stamps. 20 superb varieties, including mint British Colonials, 7d.; 50, 1/- (returnable). Collectors, now is your opportunity.—Corlett, Richmond Grove, Douglas, I.O.M.

WANTED to purchase, collection of about 5,000 varieties. Lowest terms for cash to Herrn Gray, Duesseldorf, Binterimstr 27.

WANTS.

CAYMAN ISLANDS. Wanted used copies Gibbons' 11 to 15. Will buy, or exchange with used copies Postage Revenue Series. Anderson, 41, Cairnfield Place, Aberdeen.

WORLD International Exchange for medium collectors. British and Colonial members wanted.—Hall, Oaks, Kegworth Derby.

FREE—1000 Stamps guaranteed unpicked, presented gratis to applicants for our Cheap Approval Selections intending to purchase. Please enclose 1½d. postage.
Western Stamp Co., Notting Hill, W.

Have You Tried Us?

Approval sheets, containing large amounts to select from, sent to reliable collectors. References required. Prices low and condition a speciality. Write for selection of your pet country to H. E. HAWORTH & CO., LTD., 4/5 Aldgate High Street, London, E.C. Telephone No. 10361 Central.

PERHAPS YOU HAVE NEVER TRIED an advertisement in our columns. Perhaps it has not occurred to you to send your "Offers" along to THE POSTAGE STAMPS. The next time you want anything why not use our columns? For particulars and price see above.

120 DIFFERENT STAMPS
(Usually sold at 24/-) **2/6**

Packet No. 808 contains 120 stamps including the following fine stamps:—4 Venezuela, 5, 10, 25, 50c. (cat. 1/6), Transvaal 1/- King, Orange River Colony 1/- King, rare Spain 1857, imperf., unused (cat. 2/6), Chunking 24 candarins, Hong Kong \$1 on 80c., obsolete Ecuador high value (face 12/6), and many others. FREE to every applicant for the above a grand set of

7 UNUSED ZANZIBAR, 1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 4 and 4 annas, Sultan's Head Issue. Only 1 packet sent to each applicant. Don't delay writing for this wonderful offer.

BRIGHT & SON, 164, STRAND, W.C.

The POSTAGE STAMP

*An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors*

Founded by
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

Edited by
FRED. J. MELVILLE.

No. 3. Vol. 4.
(Whole Number 81)

17 APRIL, 1909.

Price 1d.

Gossip of the Week

BY CORNELIUS WRINKLE

The New Broom.



SO I am with you once again. The Editor—the new one—sought me out the other day, gave me a cigar, and looked as if he had something on his mind. He puffed away at his own Corona for a few moments in silence. I waited tremulously.

"Cornelius," said he at last, "you may be surprised to hear it, but your Gossip was one of the features people used to

read—when they were tired."

The new broom was not going to make a 'clean sweep.'

Love me, Love my Features.

A little genial flattery is relished by the best of us, even the best of the genus Cornelius, who have had to bear the burden of the elevated standard of morality set up by our centurion ancestor. So I thanked my new chief and enunciated my terms. If I were going to gossip with the readers of *The Postage Stamp* I was going to say what I liked, and say it in my own way. Of course, there were other terms, but they are confidential—quite. He didn't seem to mind, so you must bear with Cornelius and his gossip through Volume IV. And when the boss asks you to say which features you like best in the old *Postage Stamp*, mind you give it him straight from the shoulder. Tell him you like the wrinkled features of the gent on the first page.

On 1—To Amsterdam.

Newcastle-on-Tyne has had its Exhibition, and now all eyes are turned to Amsterdam. There is a strong philatelic interest in Holland, and with the numerous collectors of high standing in the country of de Ruyter, we may look forward to a fine Exhibition. A number of English collectors are shewing, and at least one English specialist in Holland and Colonies will be there to try

and wrest one of the golden baubles from the native specialists.

How to get there.

A fine little trip can be fitted in by those who can snatch a week of their summer holiday for the Amsterdam Exhibition. It is a comparatively inexpensive fare from London to the Dutch Capital. The cheapest route from London is by the Batavier Line of steamers to Rotterdam, thence by rail via Delft, the Hague, and Haarlem. Fares, £2 0s. 9d., 1st return. £1 6s. 7., 2nd return.

Via Harwich and the Hook the fares are £2 15s. 11d. and £1 18s. 7d. return; the Queensboro' and Flushing route costs the same. Northern collectors may find the direct steamer of the Hull and Netherlands SS Co. the most convenient and least costly. The fare from Hull to Amsterdam is 15s. single.

Picturesque Inexactitudes.

I am hoping to go and meet several old friends among the Dutch collectors. I shall never forget the pang of disappointment when those Dutch visitors arrived at the International Exhibition at the Horticultural Hall. One could only conclude that there were picturesque inexactitudes in those fascinating coloured posters, and that Mr. Tom Browne had added patches of colour where they were not to be found by the casual observer. The long frock coats made it impossible to compare notes without serious inconvenience.

The Puzzle of the Perfs.

There is one thing I mean to find out when I get to Amsterdam. I shall form a little private commission of inquiry as to the number and nature of the perforation gauges sold annually in the realms of Her Majesty Queen Wilhelmina. The output must be enormous. Practically all the interest in Dutch stamps after the earliest two issues centres on the vagaries of the perforating machine. And what vagaries they are. I don't mind the straightforward perfs. and the simplex compounds, but when you come to the complex compounds they're Dutch to most of us. Anyway, I recommend the winner of the championship medal for Holland and Colonies to give his pet dealer a testimonial on the lines of the bicycling advertisements "I won the championship with Van Bogle's Perforation Gauge."

The Golden West.

Things are not at their best philatelically in the summer, but if we can get a good place to carry on our swapping and stamp gossip during the summer, I believe it would be well patronised. This year the experiment is to be tried amid the glare and gaiety of Earls Court, and the Junior Philatelics are determined to kill the old notion of a close season for stamps. The Exhibition at Earls Court this year is called "The Golden West and American Industries Exhibition," and one of the great wings of the Duca Hall has been commandeered by the Juniors for a great display of United States postage stamps. It is no small venture, for the wall space is about 140ft. in length, and there will be numerous exhibits in upright cases as well.

Follow the Business.

I wonder how many dealers will have the foresight to take advantage of the low rates for space for selling purposes. The presence of a few brisk dealers would help to make the thing go wonderfully. Some of those enterprising young provincial dealers who find things too slack for them at home in the summer, should come up for the five months and carry on a roaring trade in moderate priced stamps at Earls Court.

Those Slot-machine Varieties.

The *Metropolitan Philatelist* contains an interesting note on the recent imperforate varieties of United States stamps:—

The issues of our own country (U.S.) are at present the most interesting, as it is apparently the intention of the Post Office Department to supply the entire set imperforated. Some time ago we made an application for ten thousand each of all values up to 10c., as we understood that a ruling of the P.M. provided for supplying any value imperf. if purchased in lots of ten thousand. However, we were told that they could only supply values intended for slot machines. Later we found that 5c. 1902 had been on sale. We again renewed our demand for 3c., 4c., and 5c. values, but was informed that only the 5c. value would be supplied. This value was duly furnished, and shortly after another dealer was favoured with the 3c. and 4c. Now that the rule has been broken, we presume the entire set will be supplied, provided anyone wants to put up fifteen thousand dollars for the fifty and dollar values.

The "Imperfs" Up-to-Date.

At present the list stands at

1902-3.	1 cent. green
	2 cents. red
	5 " blue
1909.	1 cent. green
	2 cents. red (Washington)
	2 " red (Lincoln)
	3 " purple
	4 " brown
	6 " blue

Our Policy

BY THE EDITOR

IN the republic of mankind there are red letter days which go by the vague designation of Independence Days. Our friends on the other side throw up their hats and generally "Maffick" on such occasions. Other republics have been known to "Seebeck" on these great anniversaries. So beneath the vague uncertainty of that word "independence" there must be something inspiring.

The proprietors of *The Postage Stamp* came to us because (as they said) they wanted to maintain the absolute independence of *The Postage Stamp*, and an independent editor was what they wanted.

In one sense no Editor of *The Postage Stamp* could be independent. We are dependent upon the good will of our readers, and upon the cordial co-operation of our contributors. Indirectly too we are dependent on the continued and extended support of our advertisers.

But in all else INDEPENDENCE! There can be few readers of this journal who did not realise the full meaning of the word as our late Editor, Mr. Nankivell, exhibited it. He had strong views and expressed them with vigour. His pen was a powerful promoter of the true interests of the hobby, and an effective weapon against those detrimental elements which occasionally rise to the surface in a pastime which presents so great commercial possibilities. Nankivell's was a pen which knew no other control than that of his own convictions—that was his independence.

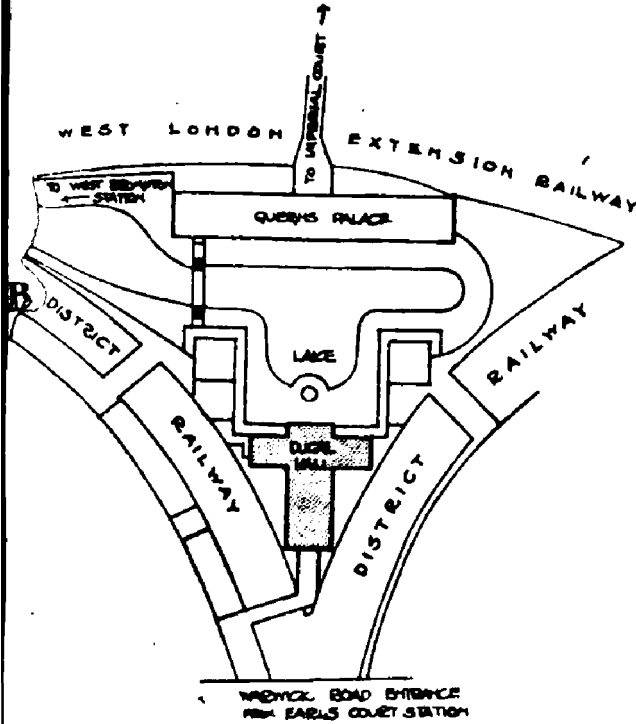
In taking up the mantle of the founder of *The Postage Stamp* we are not going to claim any of these attributes for ourselves. Our policy will be to maintain the work of our late colleague to the best of our ability, and on very much the same lines. We shall not appeal to any one class of collector, but to all classes. We conceive the highest value in a weekly stamp journal lies in its news features, so we shall endeavour to build up a reliable and

comprehensive service of information from all centres of philatelic activity. Special articles on particular issues or countries will be continued as heretofore, and it is scarcely necessary to state that in our hands the young collector and the beginner will have his best interests fully considered. We shall dip from time to time into the monumental literature of early collecting days, and shall keep our readers *au courant* with the most important and interesting features of the world's philatelic press. We shall not hesitate to reprint articles, where arrangements can be made, on the score of their having appeared in print before. It is our business to provide a review of the knowledge and activities of the time, and it is often more satisfactory to our readers, as well as to ourselves, to give the original work instead of a *rechauffé*. At the same time we shall throw open our columns to original research and welcome the contributions of specialists. The Secretaries of Philatelic Societies are specially requested to forward any interesting papers read at their meetings for publication in *The Postage Stamp*.

We have no wish to further labour our policy. We have simply indicated the general lines along which we hope to conduct the journal to increased prosperity and to the fullest satisfaction of our readers. We should esteem it a favour to hear from readers their opinions of which features are most appreciated in the journal. Such letters will be of great assistance in guiding our efforts. Then too we would ask that writers on philatelic subjects—specialistic and general—will continue their courtesy in giving *The Postage Stamp* the first offer of important and special articles. Readers abroad can assist us by sending us news items promptly, and we shall give every attention to reports from Secretaries of Societies provided they are sent in within a few days after the meetings to which the reports refer.

Golden West Stamp Exhibition

United States Stamps and a Philatelists' Rendezvous at Earls Court Exhibition



Plan showing the position of Ducal Hall and Stamp Exhibition.

A J.P.S. Surprise.

WITH the number of exhibitions which have been and still are on the tapis for the present year, it will no doubt come as a big surprise that the Junior Philatelic Society has an exhibition "up its sleeve" for London.

The show will be a fairly large one in point of area to be covered, but it will be limited in subject to the issues of the United States and its Colonies.

The locale of the Exhibition is Earls Court, where from May to October this year will be held the great "Golden West and American Industries Exhibition," in connection with which the Juniors have arranged the forthcoming philatelic event.

The Ducal Hall.

Every visitor to Earls Court knows the magnificent Ducal Hall, and will at once recognise it on the small plan from its proximity to the ornamental lake. It is in the left wing of this hall that the Stamp Exhibition will be held from May to October.

The Exhibits.

As already stated the display will deal with U.S. postage stamps, U.S. Colonials, and probably U.S. fiscals, which are of very handsome designs and will assist in

providing a very popular show. But no doubt the greatest interest in the experiment will be aroused by the bands of collectors who will assemble in the enclosed wing of the Ducal Hall to "swap" stamps and to gossip on matters philatelic. The presence of a number of dealers' exhibits and some brisk dealing at a few trade stalls will go far towards making Earls Court the stamp bourse of the summer.

The Position of the Stamp Exhibits.

I am fortunate in being able to shew the readers of *The Postage Stamp* the locality by advance plans. The plan in the centre of the page shows the exact situation of the Ducal Hall which opens on to the Court in which is the lake and is passed through by thousands of visitors on their way from or to the District Railway station at Earls Court. A more prominent position could not have been chosen.

The Large Area to be Covered.

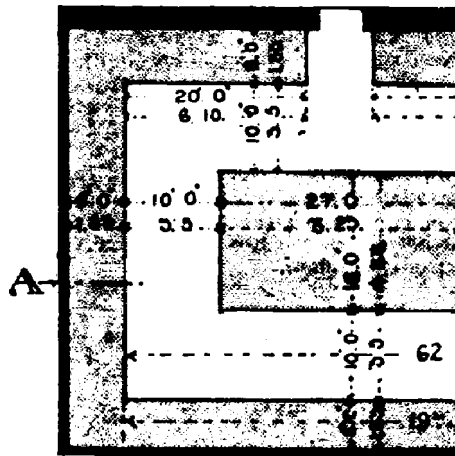
The second plan shows the section which is almost the entire wing of the hall.

Some idea of the size of the space allotted to the Exhibition of Stamps may be gathered from the fact that the longest wall is about 50ft. in length. There is over 140ft. run of wall space which can be covered with three of the J.P.S. Exhibition frames deep without inconvenience to the visitor in making his examination of the exhibits.

Within this outer wall space there is ample accommodation for numerous exhibits in show cases which will be utilised to the utmost advantage with the material which is placed at the disposal of the J.P.S. Authorities.

The Top Light.

The third diagram shows the lighting arrangements which are of the utmost importance to a stamp exhibition which is to be open for a long period. It is entirely a top



This wing of the Ducal Hall will be the Philatelic Summer rendezvous.

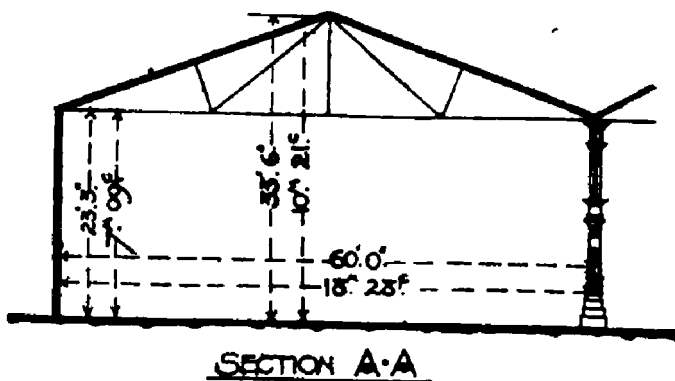


Diagram showing the top light arrangement by which the lighting can be limited or shut off as required.

light which can be screened off or modified exactly to fit the requirements.

The exhibits will be insured by the Exhibition authorities at Earls Court, and it is hoped that every collector who has items of interest in connection with the postage and revenue stamps, envelopes, &c. of the United States and U.S. Colonies, will at once communicate to the Hon. Secretary of the Stamp Exhibition, Mr. Herbert F. Johnson, 44, Fleet Street, London, E.C.

A Regular Rendezvous.

I hope shortly to announce some special arrangements that are being made for the convenience and comfort of stamp collectors visiting the Exhibition, and it is to be hoped that American collectors visiting England, and all collectors visiting or resident in London will make the Golden West Stamp Exhibition a regular rendezvous throughout the summer.

Where Stamps Meet Coins

There is much akin between Philately and Numismatics, but in the Encased Postage Stamps of the United States, the two studies overlap. We reproduce an interesting article by EDGAR H. ADAMS, from MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY giving a very full description of these "Numisphilatelic" curiosities.

THE discovery recently of a new variety of the curious encased postage stamp money, which for a limited time circulated freely in New York City in particular, and in several other sections of the United States during 1862, brings the number of varieties of these pieces of currency known to be in existence up to about 180. The latest addition to this interesting series is of the denomination of 10 cents, and was issued by John W. Norris, of Chicago. Hitherto but the 1 cent stamp had been credited to this source, and at the Green sale, held some time ago in Chicago, a local collector thought so well of this insignificant substitute for a 10 cent. piece that he paid over \$30 for its possession.

New York City was the birthplace of this peculiar sort of money, which was formed by placing regular United States postage stamps in flat circular brass cases, with the faces protected by a thin sheet of mica. The encased stamps consisted of the denominations of 1, 3, 5, 10, 12, 24, 30, and 90 cents, and this method of protecting the stamps so that they could withstand the wear of circulation was the invention of John Gault, who did business at Park Place, in New York City. He manufactured many varieties to be used by business houses in lieu of small change, and the badly mutilated and worn postage stamps that answered the purpose of practical money for a while at the beginning of the war. Many of the encased stamps bore the name of the issuing firm on the back, and not only served the purpose of a fractional currency but advertised the firm of issue in a thorough and yet inexpensive fashion.

The patent dated from July and August, 1862, and the stamps used in the metallic cases were the regular postage stamps of the period—the 1 cent blue, and the 3 cent orange, showing the portrait of Franklin; the 5 cent brown, bearing Jefferson's portrait; and the 10 cent green, 12 cent black, 24 cent violet, and 90 cent blue, all with the portrait of Washington.

Collectors of both stamps and coins regard this series of necessity currency as being one of the most interesting of the numerous issues of United States, which has been especially conspicuous for its various freakish

circulating mediums, and some of the premiums now paid for these homely substitutes for real money actually exceed those commanded by any of the far more pretentious and handsome coins struck at the United States mints during and since the war.

Some firms issued the encased stamp pieces of nearly every one of the denominations mentioned above, while others are credited with but a single one. Often the latter specimens are the rarest and command the highest premiums, as not infrequently they were but little more than samples and were issued in quite limited number. In nearly every instance it is found that the denominations of 12, 24, 30, and 90 cents are the rarest, and in the case of the highest denominations it is thought their rarity is due to the fact that some of the firms ordered but a single specimen each of the denominations above 10 cents, and before deciding upon their issue the law was passed forbidding the use of anything of the semblance of money by private persons.

The medicine house of Ayer issued the greatest variety of the encased stamp, there being no less than fourteen varieties, of the denominations of 1, 3, 5, 10 and 12, 24 and 30 cents, which bore on the back the inscription, "Ayer's Sarsaparilla."

One of the rarest of this series is that of the denomination of 30 cents, of which only one specimen is known, this bringing \$25.25 at the Green sale in Chicago in 1907.

Next to this, and also supposed to be unique, is the 24 cent. stamp, with the same inscription, which brought \$25.

There are at least nine varieties of the stamps bearing the inscription "Ayer's Cathartic Pills" on the back, the rarest of this lot being that of the denomination of 5 cents, with short arrows in the design, which is worth \$5.

Still another series issued by the same house is represented by denominations of 1, 3, 5, 10 and 12 cents, inscribed "Take Ayer's Pills," a fine specimen of the last-named having brought \$8.

John Gault of New York City issued at least nineteen varieties bearing his name, which included denominations of 1, 3, 5, 10, 12, 24, 30, and 90 cents. The rarest

of these, and probably the highest priced of all the encased stamps, is that of 90 cents, which has a record price of \$121. The 30 cent stamp of the same issue also is rare, and has sold for \$20, while the 24 cent stamp has brought \$15.

The New York firm of Kirkpatrick & Gault issued as many as nine varieties, which consisted of the denominations of 1, 3, 5, 10, 12, 24, 30, and 90 cents. The rarest of these is the last-named stamp, a very fine specimen of which was bid in at \$75 at the Green sale in 1906. At the same sale a 30 cent stamp brought \$20, and a 20 cent specimen \$18.

There were eight varieties of encased stamps showing the words, "Burnett's Standard Cooking Extracts," of the denominations of 1, 3, 5, 10, 12, 24, and 30 cents. The last variety is extremely scarce and has brought \$36 at a sale. A perfect specimen of the 24 cent stamp of this house has sold for over \$30.

This firm also issued five varieties with the wording on the back, "Burnett's Cocaine Kalliston," which were of the denomination of 3, 5, 10, and 12 cents, a very rare and perfect specimen of the latter having sold for \$20.

Six varieties were issued by the North American Life Insurance Company, each bearing the name of the company on the reverse. The denominations were 3, 5, and 10 cents. These stamps are quite common, as compared with some of the other issues, yet one variety of the 3 cent stamp is valued at \$6.

Lord & Taylor of New York City issued seven varieties of the denomination of 1, 3, 5, 10, 12, 24, and 30 cents. Nearly every one of these stamps is now scarce. The 12 cent stamp is held at the highest figure, it having a record premium of \$25. Both the 24 and 30 cent varieties have sold for \$20.50, the 3 cent at \$9.25, and the lowest valued of the whole series, the 10 cent stamp, at \$5.75.

Hunt & Nash of New York, whose stamps are inscribed on the reverse "Hunt & Nash, Irving House, N. Y. City," are credited with at least nine varieties, the denominations being 1, 3, 5, 10, 12, and 24 cents. The rarest is the 24 cent stamp. There is only one specimen known of this denomination, which sold for \$30.50. The 12 cent stamp has brought over \$11.

The eight varieties of stamps bearing the inscription of "Drake's Plantation Bitters," of the denominations of 1, 3, 5, 10, 12, 24, 30, and 90 cents, are rather low-priced and common for all the denominations up to and including the 12 cent stamp, which has sold for \$5, but the three highest denominations—24, 30, and 90 cents—are each believed to be unique, and command extremely high premiums. The 24 and 30 cent stamps have each sold for \$60, and the 90 cent stamp has brought \$73.

Gage Brothers and Drake, Tremont House, Chicago, issued 5 varieties of stamps—1, 3, 5, and 10 cents—all of which are common, the scarcest being the 3 cent variety, which has sold for \$5.

Six stamps bear the name of "Mendum's Family Wine Emporium, Broadway, Cor. Cedar St., New York." These are of the denominations of 1, 3, 5, 10, and 12 cents. Fine specimens of the two latter have brought \$10 each.

The inscription "Jos. L. Bates, Fancy Goods, Boston," is shown on six varieties of stamps of the denomination of 1, 5, 10, and 12 cents. The 5 cent stamp, the 12, and one variety of the 10 cent, have each brought \$10 and more.

"Brown's Bronchial Troches" is the title borne by encased stamps of the denominations of 1, 3, 5, 10, and 12 cents. The last named is regarded as the rarest of the series, and has sold for \$10.

Stamps of the denomination of 1, 3, 5, 10, and 12 cents show the name of "F. Buhl & Co. of Detroit." The 5 cent stamp has sold for \$10.75, and the 10 cent variety for over \$8.

Four varieties are placed to the credit of Schapker &

Bussing, Evansville, Ind., of the denominations of 1, 3, 5, and 10 cents. The first named is supposed to be the only one in existence, and \$25.50 was paid for it when offered for sale.

The Cincinnati firm of John Shillito & Co. has its name on four known varieties of encased stamps, 1 and 3 cents, two varieties of 5 cents, and one of 10 cents. The latter may be regarded as the scarcest of this series, although the varieties have all brought \$5 or more each.

"White, the Hatter of New York" is responsible for the issuance of four varieties of stamps. These are of the denominations of 1, 3, 5, and 10 cents. The two latter have each brought \$25.

Three varieties were issued by Pearce, Tolle & Holtou, of Cincinnati—3, 5, and 12 cents. The latter stamp is very rare, and has brought a record premium of \$30.

"N. & G. Taylor & Co." of Philadelphia issued 1, 3, 5, and 10 cent stamps, the last named of which having sold for \$20.

The stamps of "Dougan the Hatter" of New York City showing the design of a hat, were of at least three denominations—1, 3, and 5 cents. Perfect specimens of the latter two denominations have brought \$16 each.

There are three varieties of encased stamps, of the denominations of 1, 3, and 5 cents, which were manufactured by G. G. Evans, "California Wines," of Philadelphia. These pieces were said to infringe on the patent of Gault, but the work was inferior to that of the New York manufacturer. A fine specimen of the 1 cent stamp by the Philadelphia maker, bearing his name on the reverse, sold for \$9, while a fine 3 cent specimen of the same kind has brought \$5.

Bailey & Co., jewellers, of Philadelphia, had stamps of 1, 3, 5, and 10 cents. The 5 cent variety is the scarcest, having recently sold for \$11.50.

The 3, 5, 10, and 24 cent stamps of Ellis, McAlpin & Co. of Cincinnati, have each sold for \$20; the 1, 3, and 5 cent stamps of L. C. Hopkins & Co. of Cincinnati, have brought, respectively, \$11 and \$20, while the 3 and 10 cent issues of Weir & Larminie of Montreal, Canada, have fetched \$30 and \$20, respectively. This firm also issued stamps of the denomination of 1 and 5 cents.

There were several firms which issued only one or two varieties each, such as the 5 and 10 cent stamps of "Sands Ale," which have brought over \$3; the 1 cent stamp of "S. Steinfeld," of New York City, which has sold for \$6; the 1 cent stamp of "Arthur M. Chaffin," Hopkinton, R.I., and "Aerated Bread Co." of New York City, which respectively have brought \$16 and \$6.75, and the 5 and 10 cent stamps of H. A. Cook, of Evansville, Ind., which have sold for \$11, and the 1 cent stamp of B. F. Miles of Peoria, Ill.

An interesting specimen of the encased stamp money is one of the odd denomination of 9 cents. There being no postage stamp of this value, the denomination was produced by placing three 3 cent stamps in an oblong copper case, with the usual covering of mica. The back bore no name, but the piece evidently was intended for circulation in New York City, for the reverse bore an embossed representation of an eagle and snake, the same as that shown by the New York cents struck in German silver by Dr. Lewis Feuchtwanger of New York City, which were issued in 1837. Around the central device was scroll work. Nothing is known of the piece's history, but it is thought to have been a product of Gault, on account of the New York device. This curious bit sold for \$9.

Another equally interesting piece associated with the encased postage stamp money is an essay for a 5 cent piece. In a frame of silver had been placed a stamp cut from a 5 cent note of the first issue of the postage currency. This was protected by mica both back and front. This specimen, which is believed to be unique, recently sold for \$15.50.

King's Heads to Date

BY BERTRAM W. H. POOLE

Transvaal

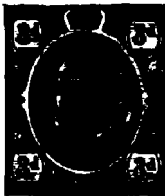
WITH a Federated South Africa almost an accomplished fact the possibilities of a single issue for the whole of our South African Colonies comes well within the range of practical politics.

At present the Transvaal, Cape of Good Hope, Natal, and Orange River Colony all have their own special issues of King's head stamps, and it is worthy of note that each has its own distinctive design. Although all are produced by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., Ltd., the designs are a vast improvement upon that of the "general" type used by that firm in printing the stamps of so many other colonies, and this fact alone should be sufficient to recommend them as a more than usually attractive group.

With specialists the stamps of the Transvaal have long been prime favourites and, though many fine and almost historic collections have been formed and scores of valuable articles have been written about them, the stamps still provide many baffling problems of the kind that are a source of perpetual delight to the genuine philatelic student.

But, with the old and classic issues we are not concerned at present for our purpose is to indite a brief review of the issues bearing the portrait of His Majesty King Edward VII. The budding specialist will do well to devote his energies to these at first, while they may still be obtained at moderate prices, and then, having completed his King's heads, if he is inclined to become a whole-hogger, he can work backwards into the mysterious realms of fine and wide roulettes, brown and streaky gum, pelure and opaque paper and all the other little idiosyncracies of the early issues.

The Transvaal King's head stamps are all of one design and a very attractive series they make in their various and well-chosen colours. At first they were printed on the paper with single CA watermark, then, with the advent of the new paper, the change to multiple gradually took place as fresh supplies were needed, and finally we have the postal union values in the regulation colours. The next step will probably be an all-round change to conform with the Crown Agents new colour scheme and then, who knows, the entire series may be superseded by a uniform issue for the whole of United South Africa.



1902-03. On the 1st April, 1902, ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 6d., 1s., 2s., 2s. 6d., 5s. and 10s. stamps were issued, and in the following year 3d. and 4d. values appeared. All were printed in two colours, the central medallion showing a portrait of the King being printed from the same head plate for the whole series. The border shows oval value tablets in each corner, a crown at the top and "TRANSSVAAL" at the base. At the sides is "POSTAGE"

on the left and "REVENUE" on the right, for all values up to and including the 2s., while the three remaining denominations have "POSTAGE" on both sides. A separate duty-plate was, of course, prepared for each value. The stamps were designed and engraved by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., Ltd., and printed on paper watermarked with a crown over the letters "CA," once for each stamp, and perforated 14. They were printed in sheets of 240 arranged in four panes of 60 stamps each (ten horizontal rows of six) placed two and two. The stamps were all printed in two colours, the central medallion—except in the case of the 2s. 6d. value—being in black.

Wmk Crown C.A. Perf. 14.

	Unused		Used.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
½d. bluish green and black	-	0 2	0	1
1d. scarlet	-	0 3	0	1
2d. purple	-	0 5	0	4
2½d. ultramarine	-	1 0	0	8
3d. sage-green	-	1 0	0	4
4d. chocolate	-	1 6	0	4
6d. orange	-	1 0	0	4
1s. olive green	-	3 6	2	6
2s. brown	-	7 6	7	6
2s. 6d. black and mauve	-	3 3	3	3
5s. mauve and black on yellow	-	6 6	5	0
10s. purple and black on red	-	12 6	10	0

Range of Catalogue Prices: Unused.

Prices increased steadily until 1906 since when they have been stationary. Owing to the fact that the 1s. and 2s. were changed in colour in 1903 these two values have shown the greatest advance, the 2s. having jumped from 4s. to 6s. and then to 7s. 6d. The 2½d. appreciated in value with some rapidity in 1906 having been put at treble its price in 1904 when current. As far as future rise is concerned this is probably the most promising of the low values.

	1904	1905	1906	1906
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
½d.	0 1	0 2	0 2	0 2
1d.	0 2	0 3	0 3	0 3
2d.	0 3	0 3	0 5	0 5
2½d.	0 4	0 4	1 0	1 0
3d.	0 5	0 5	1 0	1 0
4d.	0 6	0 6	0 8	1 6
6d.	0 8	0 8	1 0	1 0
1s.	2 6	2 6	3 6	3 6
2s.	4 0	5 0	7 6	7 6
2s. 6d.	3 3	3 3	3 3	3 3
5s.	6 6	6 6	6 6	6 6
10s.	12 6	12 6	12 6	12 6

1903. In 1903 the 1s. and 2s. were issued in the type with "POSTAGE" at both sides and their colours were changed. At the same time the set was enriched by the addition of £1 and £5 values. All were printed in two colours and in the same design as before. There was also no alteration in the size of the sheets, the watermark or perforation.

Wmk. Crown CA. Perf. 14.

	Unused.		Used.	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1s. red-brown and black	-	3 0	0	9
2s. yellow and black	-	15 0	12	0
£1 violet and green	-	24 0	-	-
£5 violet and orange brown	-	£6	-	-

Range of Catalogue Prices: Unused.

The 1s. was jumped to 3s. in 1906 but the surprise of the set is the 2s. which is now quoted at 15s.! The £5 is still current on the old single "CA" paper.

	1904		1905		1906		1908	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1s.	-	1 4	1 4	3 0	3 0	-	-	-
2s.	-	2 8	2 8	-	15 0	-	-	-
£1	-	24 0	24 0	24 0	24 0	-	-	-
£5	-	-	£6	£6	£6	-	-	-

1904-8. Since 1904 the change to the new paper with multiple watermark has been gradual and at the present time only the 2s. 6d. and £5 of the bi-coloured series are current with the old watermark.

Wmk. Multiple Cr. CA. Perf. 14.

	Unused.		Used.	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
½d green and black	-	0 2	0	1
1d. scarlet and black	-	0 3	0	1
2d. purple and black	-	0 3	0	2
2½d. ultramarine and black	-	0 4	0	2
3d. sage green and black	-	0 5	0	4
4d. chocolate and black	-	0 6	0	4
6d orange and black	-	0 8	0	4
1s. red brown and black	-	1 4	0	6
2s. yellow and black	-	2 8	-	-
5s mauve and black on yellow	-	6 6	-	-
10s. purple and black on red	-	12 6	-	-
£1 violet and green	-	24 0	-	-

Of the above, the ½d., 1d. and values of 1s. and upwards are found on ordinary paper only, the 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d. are printed on the surfaced paper, while the 2½d may be found on both varieties.

1907-9. The three Postal Union values, ½d., 1d. and 2½d. have appeared in the regulation colours of green, red, and blue respectively. These are evidently printed from new plates so constructed that the whole of the design can be printed at once instead of at two operations as before.

Wmk. Multiple Cr CA. Perf. 14.

	Unused.		Used.	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
½d green	-	0 1	0	1
1d carmine	-	0 2	0	1
2½d ultramarine	-	0 4	-	-

1908 (?) The interest of the King's head stamps of the Transvaal is enhanced by the fact that a curious error occurs in the 1d. printed in carmine—a few of the stamps having been printed on paper watermarked with a cabled anchor which was intended for the stamps of the Cape of Good Hope. It is only possible to account for this by supposing that one or more sheets of the anchor watermarked paper got mixed with the multiple Crown CA. paper at Messrs. De La Rue & Co.'s printing works. As the greatest care is usually taken and each sheet of watermarked paper has to be strictly accounted for it is difficult to understand how such an error could have occurred. The discovery was first made about September, 1908, and, though several copies have turned up since, an unused specimen still remains to be found.

Wmk. Cabled Anchor. Perf. 14.

1d. carmine.

From other Magazines

New Zealand Perforating Machines.

Within the past 2½ years we have had to reckon with four different gauges, viz., 14 rough perf., 14 × 14½, 14 × 13½, and 14 × 15, all clean cut, and our difficulty is to know which are obsolete and which current. It would appear that the two latter have to some extent superseded those formerly in use, that the 14 × 13½ and 14 × 15 machines are being used concurrently and promiscuously, that the 14 rough perf. is still used for the large-sized stamps, and that the 14 × 14½ machine was only in use for perforating postage stamps for a short time.

Having asked Mr. A. T. Bate to help us to unravel the mystery, that gentleman has written us as follows:—

"I purchased blocks of our penny stamps, perf. 14 × 14½, in October, 1906, it being issued either in September or October of that year. It was perforated by the first of the new perforating machines ordered from England. For some reason which I have not heard, the Government Printer ceased using this machine for perforating the 1d after the first batch of sheets, and, so far as I am aware, it has never been used since, at any rate on the penny stamps. Possibly it has been put into use for some other purpose, as the old rotary machine has been in evidence on the penny since that time."

Mr Bate writes also that as soon as he can make it

convenient he will go into the whole matter, and send us any information obtainable; and adds: "Of one thing, however, your readers may be absolutely certain, the Government Printer of New Zealand has not the faintest idea of creating varieties for the philatelist. He is a matter-of-fact Scotchman, who, I fancy, looks upon us all as a mild sort of lunatic, and, probably, a considerable nuisance."

We accept Mr. Bate's disclaimer. Most likely if we were in the Government Printer's shoes we would think likewise.—*Australian Philatelist.*

That 2c. Lincoln again.

A clerk in the Post Office told me of the following occurrence:—

An old gentleman asked him for a 2c. Lincoln stamp, and on being told that he had no more, looked very much disappointed. He mentioned the fact that he hadn't been able to get one, and also that he wanted to send it to a friend in Germany.

The clerk then said to him, "We have a 5c. Lincoln stamp." The old man said, "Why didn't you say so before?" The clerk then passed him out a 5c. 1902. The old man took it, looked very much pleased, and went away apparently satisfied.

—*Wm. Brien in Redfield's Stamp Weekly.*

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London. S.W.

After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

British South Africa.—(Vol. III. p. 311).—The stamps of the British South Africa Company surcharged "RHODESIA," to which we referred on page 311, do not appear to have materialised yet, though, apparently, supplies of all values have been despatched to Rhodesia. We understand that as present postal rates make 5d., 7½d., and 10d. stamps necessary, supplies of these denominations—formed by surcharging other values—have also been despatched. The ordinary unsurcharged stamps at present in stock at the various post offices in Rhodesia will remain on sale until they are used up.

Cayman Islands.—(Vol. III. p. 129).—Mr. A. Leon Adutt announces that he has a strip of three of the provisional ¼d. on 5s. stamps, the centre one of which is quite innocent of surcharge, while the other two have the overprint. As this surcharge was hand stamped the error can easily be accounted for but, for the present at any rate, Mr. Adutt's strip is unique.

China.—(Vol. III. p. 154).—We gather from *Le Journal des Philatélistes* that China has decided to become quite civilised, and as evidence of this fact it will shortly issue a Commemorative stamp in honour of the accession of the new Emperor. The design, we are told, will be a representation of the Temple of the Heavens.

Crete.—(Vol. IV. p. 8).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a number of interesting novelties. First of all we have the 20c. orange of the ordinary type surcharged "ΕΑΛΛΑΣ" at the top in fancy capitals, "prosorinon" (provisional) across the centre in small Greek capitals, and a large figure "5" in each of the lower corners cancelling the old value. We referred to this stamp on page 311, but were then unable to describe the type of surcharge.

Another of the new varieties consists of the handsome 5 drachma stamp surcharged "ΕΑΛΛΑΣ" at the top in large ornamental capitals very different from the type of surcharge previously in use.

Our Ipswich friends also send us the 1 lepton and 2 lepta stamps with the "ΕΑΛΛΑΣ" surcharge in red and in a new type. In both cases the surcharge is applied in the centre of the stamp, and is in large black capitals, the last letter being an "M" turned sideways instead of the correct Greek character. Possibly this surcharge was applied in London.

The following is a list of the new varieties and of all the provisional postage stamps:—



Postage due stamp surcharged as above.

2 on 20 lepta red

s. d.

Postage due stamps surcharged "ΕΑΛΛΑΣ" in fancy capitals and "prosorinon" in Greek letters.

1 lepton red	0 1
2 on 20 lepta red (large "2")	2

Fiscal stamp similarly surcharged.

1 lepton, olive yellow	—
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Ordinary stamp similarly surcharged.

5 on 20 lepta orange	0 6
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Surcharged "ΕΑΛΛΑΣ" in large fancy capitals.

5 dr. olive green and black	6 0
------------------------------------	-----

Surcharged "ΕΑΛΛΑΣ" in block capitals in red.

1 l. chocolate	0 1
2 l. lilac	0 1

China (French) (Vol. III. p. 202).—We learn from divers of our contemporaries that the 4c. value of Indo-China in the "Grasset" type has been surcharged "CHINE," and with value in Chinese characters for use in these offices. The complete list of values is now as follows:—

Stamps of Indo-China ("Grasset" type) surcharged.

	s. d.
1c. olive green	0 1
2c. claret on yellow	0 1
4c. claret	—
5c. deep green	0 2
10c. rose	0 3
15c. brown on blue	0 3
20c. red on green	0 5
25c. blue	0 6
40c. black on azure	1 0
1 fr. sage green	40 0
2 fr. brown on yellow	5 0
10 fr. red on green	35 0

Martinique.—(Vol. IV. p. 8).—Of the new values referred to on page 8 we find only the 20c. is of the type illustrated below. The values from 25c. to 75c. inclusive show a view of Fort-de-France, the chief town in this French possession, while on the franc values a native woman carrier is depicted. The complete list of colours and values is as follows:—



Design as above. No wmk. Perf. 13½ × 14.

	s.	d.
1c. brown and purple ...	0	0½
2c. sage green and purple ...	0	1
4c. claret ..	0	1
5c. green ..	0	1
10c. carmine ..	0	2
20c. violet ..	0	3

View of Fort-de-France.

25c. blue and purple ...	0	4
30c. red ..	0	5
35c. violet ..	0	6
40c. olive ..	0	6
45c. brown ..	0	7
50c. rose ..	0	8
75c. grey black ..	1	0

Native woman carrier

1 fr. blue green and purple ...	1	3
2 fr. grey ..	2	6
5 fr. red ..	6	3

Russia.—(Vol. III. p. 312).—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* records the 50 and 70 kopeck stamps in the new type. They are printed on unwatermarked paper and, presumably, have the varnish lines as in the case of the values previously chronicled. The list of values issued to date is as follows:—



Philatelic Dictionary

BY B. W. H. POOLE

(Continued from page 19).

Niger Coast Protectorate.—A large tract of territory on the Lower Niger, West Africa, now divided into Northern and Southern Nigeria. The first definite territorial rights were acquired by the National African Company in 1884. The coast districts developed into the Niger Coast Protectorate, while the interior (with a portion of the coast region) was placed under the company, which acquired a charter in 1886 as the Royal Niger Company. In 1900 the rights of the company were transferred to the British-Crown, the whole British territory, with an area of 400,000 square miles and a population of 25 millions, being divided into two protectorates, as stated above. Postage stamps were first issued in July, 1892, and in 1900 Niger Coast stamps were superseded by the separate issues for Northern and Southern Nigeria.

Nissen & Parker.—A firm of engravers and printers, of London, who manufactured all the stamps for Nevis used during the period 1861-1879.

Niue.—A small island, often known as Savage Island, situated nearly midway between the Tongan and Samoan groups in the Pacific Ocean. It is about nine miles long

No wmk. Perf. 14 × 14½.

	s.	d.
1 kop. orange ...	0	1
2 kop. green ...	0	1
4 kop. carmine ...	0	2
7 kop. blue ...	0	3
50 kop. green and purple ...	1	8
70 kop. orange and brown ...	2	3

Tasmania.—(Vol. III. p. 263).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 9d. on the paper with Crown "A" watermark and perf. 11. The complete list of values with this perforation is now as follows:—

Wmk. Crown A. Perf. 11.

	s.	d.
½d. green ...	—	—
1d. rose red ...	0	2
2d. violet ...	0	3
3d. deep brown ...	—	—
4d. buff ...	—	—
6d. rose red ...	—	—
8d. purple brown ...	1	0
9d. blue ...	1	0
10s. mauve and brown ...	—	—

NOTE.

The Prices affixed are those at which Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. will supply any of the stamps chronicled that may be in stock.

The stamps are supplied at lower rates to subscribers to their New Issue Service, particulars of which can be had on application to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich.

The Prices quoted are for unused.

and is of coral formation. Its total area is only 39 square miles, and its inhabitants number about 5,000. The island was annexed to New Zealand in 1901, and is included in the Cook Islands Administration. The current stamps of New Zealand, suitably surcharged, are used in the island, the first issue having been made in 1902.

Nile. Caledonie.—A surcharge applied to several of the French stamps of the Peace and Commerce and Commerce type in 1892 for use in New Caledonia. The first word is a contraction for "Nouvelle."

No hay Estampillas.—The inscription shown on many of the temporary type-set stamps for the district of Barbacoas, Cali, Rio Hacha, &c., in the Republic of Colombia.

No lines.—A philatelic term frequently used in connection with the first 2d. blue British stamp to distinguish it from the 2d. blue of 1841, which had white lines below "Postage" and above the value.

To be continued.

New Publications

Books and Magazines intended for review should be sent to the Editor of THE POSTAGE STAMP, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.
N.B.—Publishers are requested to send advance copies where possible.

Les Timbres Cantonaux de la Suisse d'après A. de Reuterskiöld. Published at Paris by Ch. Mendel, 118 bis Rue d'Assas. Price 2 francs

M. George Brunel, the Editor of the French "Postage Stamp" and of the *Bibliothèque Illustrée du Collectionneur de Timbres Poste*, has done considerable service to French philately by the publication of a number of useful handbooks on France, Bremen, Uruguay, Greece. In the present work, which we gather has been prepared by M. Brunel from the researches of Baron A. de Reuterskiöld, he has conferred distinction on that eminent philatelist and provided French philatelists with a handy and valuable work on the Swiss cantons. The Editor in his preface pays a high tribute to the scholar whose studies he has been collating, describing him very properly as "l'homme le plus savant en philatélie suisse." To English readers who have only the opportunity of borrowing from their Society libraries the expensive work of Mm. Mirabaud and Reuterskiöld, of which an English edition was published at six guineas, M. Brunel's inexpensive précis will be found to contain the gist of the larger work. In the same connection it may be recalled that there is a booklet in the Philatelic Record Handbooks (No. 5) dealing with "The Forgeries of the Cantonal Stamps of Switzerland," by A. de Reuterskiöld. (Price 2s.)

Bibliographie der Wichtigsten Spezialwerke über die Postwertzeichen einzelner Länder. By Rudolf Krasemann. Hannover "Der Deutsche Philatelist." Reprinted for private circulation.

The late Rudolf Krasemann had completed shortly before his death a very serviceable bibliography (in German) of specialised books on stamp collecting. It was only a year since he had published his first bibliography in Swedish (Stockholm: Sveriges Filatelist, H. Förening, Price, Mark 1.25). He was happily able to add considerably to his earlier work in the German publication. M. Krasemann's work is a pioneer effort, and he lamented when I had the pleasure of meeting him that so few philatelists in other countries had extended the courtesy of their assistance to him. I remember he sent out a printed form to every philatelic writer or publisher who was at all accessible, setting out the particulars required of each book written or published by the recipient. Many of the Continental and some of the

American writers seem to have responded to the call, but I fear our own countrymen must have been sadly lacking. Our authors may be a bit stand-offish with new writers who are unknown to them, but it is unfortunate that more of us did not earlier realise the serious earnestness of Krasemann's work. On the publication of the first work it was accorded a warm reception here, but it was a case of had it been early it had been kind. I have some recollection of a complaint being made by American bibliographers that they found some English literaturists stone walls so far as imparting information was concerned. Krasemann's German work is unfortunately not available for general use as it is only printed for private circulation. Copies however, have got into some of the chief society libraries, and should be of considerable service to all who wish to know what has been written about their favourite countries.

Jamaica and Cayman Islands. By Edward J. Nankivell. No. 1. of the Nankivell Philatelic Handbooks.

This, the last published work of the late editor of *The Postage Stamp*, is a useful little précis of the author's knowledge on the stamps of these colonies. The subject matter is largely familiar to readers of this journal as it is virtually a reprint of articles which appeared in these pages. In his preface Mr. Nankivell stated:—

"For many years I have advocated the publication of hand books for the assistance of stamp collectors in the collection and arrangement of particular countries.

"The Gibbons' Handbooks, started in 1893, were suggested in this way, but those very excellent works were developed too exclusively in the direction of advanced specialism.

"What is wanted is a series of Handbooks that shall serve the needs of the general collector and moderate specialist."

It is this want that Mr. Nankivell had hoped to fill in the new series of booklets. The first of the series will be much appreciated by the collector, as it is a handy little pocket guide to have with one when making one's purchases at the dealers, and the pricing of all the stamps by the catalogue will save the student of these issues from carrying about with him the ordinary bulky catalogue.

As to the future of the series it is hoped that arrangements may be made to issue subsequent volumes in due course.

Edward J. Nankivell

(Died March 18th, 1909)

To ward or "counter" quick was he
In controversy's fray,
But yet no foe he leaves behind
Who lies at rest to-day.
E'er ready at the call of "time!"
To end a friendly bout—
Alas! no warning "time" is called
When comes Time's dead "knock-out."

He of the scythe no quarter gives—
For ever thins our ranks,
Nor spared the worker who hath long
Earn'd Philatelia's thanks.
A vet'ran tried, whose able pen
Our Goddess served right well—
The Stamp-World pays a tribute just
To Edward Nankivell.

W. E. IMBSON.

In the Stamp Market

BY O. REGINALD GUM

New Hebrides Condominium.

Ewen's Weekly acknowledges a letter from the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, dated 20.2.09, confirming the fact that the overprinting of these stamps was done in the Government Printing Office at Suva. The quantity surcharged was as follows:—

12,000 stamps value	jd.
30,000	1d.
20,136	2d.
30,000	2½d.
12,000	5d.
6,000	6d.
2,880	1s.

At the time of sending the above information it was not known whether any further supplies would be similarly overprinted. The number of the 2d. is therefore nearly 10,000 less than previously reported, and of the 1s. there are 120 fewer.

"Pandemoniums."

Mr. Peckitt seems to have been in luck over the Condominiums. Every one of his new issue clients has been supplied at the usual ten per cent. over face. Other collectors have been falling over each other in their efforts to get the stamps, and on hearing of the arrival of a second supply at the Peckitt house, not a few modest speculators spent many bawbees in telegrams to secure a few shillings worth of the stamps. Condominium is not the word for the struggle which has been going on for these stamps. The other day when purchasing a modest and unspeculative 6d. packet of mounts at No. 47, a lady customer asked the price of the New Hebrides *Pandemoniums*. She wanted them she added for a nephew.

Changes in the New Catalogue.

The New Catalogue (Gibbons' Part 1) is not yet out at the time of writing, this number of *The Postage Stamp* going to press early on account of the Easter Holidays. The volume will however have been on sale by Easter in all likelihood. We are told that British New Guinea is to be looked for under Papua, and that the list has been re-written and includes the different papers and watermarks. The prices of some of these varieties will be an interesting revelation. Fiji has also been re-written on information based on Mr. Phillips' masterpiece. The bulk of the catalogue has only been increased by twelve pages since last year.

A Stamp Worth Looking for.

I note that Mr. Bernstein is down for a paper on "Stamps Worth Looking For" at Manchester this week. I suppose he won't forget the 10d. Emblems! As our readers are already aware, he found a copy in a collection brought to him during the Manchester Exhibition. In the *London Philatelist* Lord Crawford includes a brief record of this error in his article on Abnormal Plate Varieties of the Surface Printed Stamps of Great Britain. His lordship's record is:—

10d. *Error of Paper.*

Issue I. Die I. Plate 1. Imprimatur copy.

Watermark, Emblems.

Registered 22.3.67.

Note.—The imprimatur sheets were on the right paper, *Spray of Rose*.

The general change of the watermark *Emblems* was made just at this time to *Spray of Rose*. By accident one or two sheets of the Emblem paper were used. It was discovered at once, and the error rectified. I have not seen an *unused* copy.

Used Copy. Posted at Constantinople.

Four copies are known, all used in that city. They are lettered:—

My copy	J.....R.	Third copy	K.....S.
	R.....J.		S.....K.
Second copy	L.....L.	Fourth copy	J.....L.
	L.. L.		L.. J.

The Confidential Cataloguer.

Compiling the Bright catalogue is not quite so simple a matter as saying (or writing) the "A B C." Mr. Oliver writing in the *Advertiser*, says, "We will take our readers into our confidence and tell them on what basis we are pricing the new catalogue. There is no doubt that we make mistakes and shall continue to do so, but we use every endeavour to guard against them."

New Prices go up.

"Before each country is written up in the catalogue our stock of stamps of that country is gathered together. Where we have a fair quantity the price is unaltered; if we find that a stamp is selling very well we increase the price. If we find we are running short of a stamp, or do not possess it, the price is increased, the larger proportion of increase being in the latter case. In this connexion we get together all the dealers' trade lists, not only from this country but from all over the world, and before raising the price of a stamp of which we are out of stock, we first ascertain whether we can obtain it at such a rate as to enable us to keep it at the old figure. On the other hand, if we find we can purchase a stamp at such a figure that our price for single specimens is too high, we promptly reduce our price, whether we have stock of the stamps or not."

New Prices go down.

"If we have a good stock of a stamp that is selling very slowly, we reduce the price in order to encourage the sale, because it does not pay us to hold large stocks of unsaleable goods."

"Finally, we may say that we have not altered prices unnecessarily, and that the alterations have been made as moderate as possible. It is our firm opinion that it is more advisable to make both advances and reductions gradually and consistently than to make such great jumps in prices that not only collectors but dealers feel unsettled as to what is the real price of the stamps they possess. This is our policy, and in such a manner shall we continue to revise our catalogue as further editions are published."

Back Nos. of "The Postage Stamp."

Those of our friends who are lacking any back numbers of the present vol. will do well to write direct to our Publishers, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, 1 Amen Corner, London, E.C., for what they require. Many newsagents do not care to bother about back numbers. Any number still on sale may be had for the published price and postage, *i.e.*, 1½d.

Items in Brief

Argentine philatelists have decided upon an exhibition of postage stamps next year.

It will be under the auspices of the Sociedad Filatelica Argentina, which has held several successful displays.

The exhibition will be held in connection with the centenary of the independence of Argentina.

Mr. W. S. Lincoln is celebrating his golden Jubilee as a stamp dealer this year.

A luncheon to the philatelic press would be appropriate.

There are two philatelic dinners on the list for May.

The J.P.S. dinner on May 22nd is to commemorate the completion of its tenth season.

The Herts Dinner, on May 4th, is to be attended by the Chinese Minister.

Will chop-sticks be provided?

Filatelista is the title of a new stamp journal from Poland.

Mr. Ewen will probably be the only English speaking editor who has sufficient Polish to read it.

The Vest Pocket Philatelist has reached its third number.

Ladies are not expected to subscribe.

The publisher asks "Don't you think it's (*The V.P.P.*) better than candy, chewing gum, cigarettes, beer, or the many things four quarters (25 cents) go for?"

GREAT EXPECTATIONS. "The number of subscriptions we took (at the Manchester Exhibition) was *SOME ten times* in excess of of what we had anticipated. *Philatelic World.*

"**SOME.** A word denoting an indeterminate quantity or number; more or less; one or other." *Nuttall's Dictionary.*

Mr. Sefi waxes picturesque in the *P.W.* over that same exhibition. He says:

"On Wednesday you might have seen Mr. C. J. Phillips, Mr. D. Field, Mr. Gwyer and myself, ALL IN SHIRTSLEEVES, busy with hammer and pins."

(Pins have their uses).

"I was on every side most hospitably received." Inside?

"Mr. Myers had an idea in his head." *Extract from the St. Louis Stamp Collectors' Society Minutes.*

"Everyone is asked to bring a story about some stamp . . . the Entertainment Committee wants to find out the best story teller in the Society." *From the same minutes.*

A specialist announces that St. Helena was the daughter of "old King Cole."

Motto for the said specialist: "A merry old soul was he."

The remaining portion of the Reid collection will be sold by Messrs. Ventom on April 29th and 30th.

The *Hartford Philatelist* perpetrates a goak. Here it is:

Why is the perforation on some United States stamps like a lion?

Because they are both fierce.

We'll ask another.

Why are the readers of the *H.P.* not like lions?

Because they don't roar.

Now that we are in the mood there is no stopping us.

Why are Society Secretaries so late with their reports?

Because they are unnewsed to nose.

We had better stop.

Editor's Letter Box

Publishing Offices:—1, AMEN CORNER, LONDON, E.C.

Editorial Address:—FRED J. MELVILLE, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

Articles, Contributions and Correspondence, should be addressed to the Editor, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the correspondent. *Articles, etc., not accepted, will be returned when postage is prepaid.*

Business Communications should be addressed to the Manager, and *Advertisements* to the Advertisement Manager, 1, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

THE POSTAGE STAMP may be obtained through *Newsagents* or will be forwarded from the publishing office to any address at the following rates of *prepayment*: Yearly, 6s. 6d.; Half-Yearly, 3s. 3d.; Quarterly, 1s. 8d.; *Single Copy*, 1d.

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Nankivell's Philatelic Handbooks.

It has frequently been suggested to us that we should reprint in cheap and convenient handbook form some at least of the more important special articles from *The Postage Stamp* which deal with popular countries.

These articles cover the general history of each country and its various postal issues. They also include catalogue fluctuation of prices over a period of ten years, thus enabling the collector to see at a glance the relative rarity, and the investment value, of every stamp.

The articles are designed to be useful alike to the specialist and the general collector.

We have, therefore, decided to issue a handbook from time to time as opportunity offers.

Now Ready.

No. 1. Jamaica & Cayman Islands.

Foolscap 8vo., price 4d., post free 4½d., from our Printer, Mr. Baldwin, Grosvenor Printing Works, Tunbridge Wells.

Our Publishing Day and Advertisers.

In order to meet the requirements of the publishing trade our publishers now distribute copies to the Newsagents on Wednesdays instead of Thursdays as before. This compels us to go to press on Saturday morning. Hence it is absolutely necessary for our printers to have all advertisements at latest on Friday morning; consequently, copy must be in the Advertisement Manager's hands not later than Wednesday, 5 o'clock p.m.

Advertisers' Proofs.

We are anxious to consult our Advertisers' convenience to the greatest possible extent,

but where proofs have to be supplied and returned our printers must have the "copy" by *Thursday morning at the latest*, as we now have to print off a portion of our issue on Saturday morning.

Our Binding Covers.

In navy blue buckram, gilt lettered side and back, for binding any volume of *The Postage Stamp*, price 1s. 6d., from Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

Examination of Stamps.

So many of our readers have asked us to undertake the examination and identification of their stamps that we have made arrangements to accede to their wishes.

We shall be pleased to express an opinion as to the genuineness or otherwise of any stamps submitted to us, or identify them according to any catalogue at a charge of 6d. per stamp (minimum 1/-). All fees must be paid in advance with sufficient added to pay for return postage and registration.

Stamps upon which an opinion is desired should be mounted on a separate sheet from the letter accompanying them and addressed to "The Expert." c/o The Editor of *The Postage Stamp*, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

"The Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The Postage Stamp is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:—

Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C.

F. C. Ginn, 143, Strand, London, W.C.

Lewis May & Co., 15, King William Street, Strand, W.C.

W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.

James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.

Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kiburn, N.W.

The Court Stamp Co., 10, Marriott's Court, Manchester.

Our Handbills.

We are still sending out hundreds of our handbills with specimen page to kind friends who are doing their best to help us to a big circulation. *We want every reader to see to it that all his stamp friends take in THE POSTAGE STAMP.* Shall we send you post free a dozen or two, or fifty, or a hundred, handbills to hand to friends and enclose in letters to collector friends? If so, write Baldwins, Printers of *The Postage Stamp*, Tunbridge Wells.

Collectors' Wants and Exchanges.

Our friends will note that we have opened a column for collectors to advertise their wants, at the nominal charge of ½d. per word. Many collectors even in London have not time to hunt about for stamps, whilst others resident in the country, have not the opportunity.

By using this column Collectors' Wants will catch the eye of all who are likely to be able to supply the stamps needed, for dealers watch such advertisements very closely, and collectors who want to dispose of duplicates will not fail to note the opportunity for exchange or sale.

Advertisements of stamps for sale are not admitted to this column.

The POSTAGE STAMP

Founded by
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

Edited by
FRED. J. MELVILLE.

*An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors*

No. 4. Vol. 4.
(Whole Number 82)

24 APRIL, 1909.

Price 1d.

Gossip of the Week

BY CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Post-Office-Red Hair.



MR. H. G. PELISSIER the stately and rotund chieftain of the Follies race really requires a colour chart. He has been discussing in *Answers* the all important question "Is Red Hair Beautiful?"

"Now," he says, "red is an admirable colour for Post Office vans, pillar-boxes, and danger signals, but it is absolutely out of place upon a girl's head. A red-haired girl seldom

has many males in her train. Hers is not a male-train, in fact."

It might appeal to Mr. Buxton as a suitable subject for an extension of the Post Office monopoly. If there be really girls with hair of a Post Office red colour let Mr. Buxton have the first right to them for Post Office counter work. But the colour must be the right Post Office shade.

Infringing the P.O. Monopoly.

Mention of the Post Office monopoly of carrying letters raises an interesting point in connection with the recent remarkable strike in the Paris Post Office. How many people infringed and infringed openly the P.O. monopoly during the period of the strike by sending letters and postal packets by private individuals travelling between London and Paris? A correspondent writes to *The Observer*: "I am trusting to Providence that this packet of news will reach you from this delightful country, where life is dislocated at the bidding of a few Anarchists. I am sending it by a passenger in the train to be posted on arrival at Dover."

Speculation in the Imperfs.

Without wishing to hurt our good friends feelings we may express the hope that the list of the U.S. imperforates may rest where it is. Already the 5c. blue of the 1904-8 series has been the subject of a good deal of speculation, and the price has made some jumps. But if it

were simply a matter of placing an order for 10,000 of these stamps to get them, how many dealers did quietly lay in a 10,000 parcel?

The Fate of the Greek Specialist.

It would seem preposterous to charge a great country like the United States with providing a comparatively insignificant revenue out of stamp collectors by such means. And yet we must confess that the statements in the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, quoted last week, have largely denuded these varieties of their interest to us. They might have been interesting as indicating a novel method of stamp distribution, but very few of the denominations likely to be found in most albums will ever have made the acquaintance of the slot machine. For pity's sake Mr. P.M.G. save us from the fate of the collector of Greece who has to bear the burden of several entire issues perforated and imperforate.

An Unknown Art in the States.

In one sense I have no doubt the collector of U.S. postal issues would much prefer to have all the stamps of that country imperforate. The reason is that the perforated stamps are so wretchedly perforated. At the Bureau of Printing and Engraving in Washington where I have seen the process they have quite a different type of perforating machine from those we use. It is a rotary arrangement, and although it would seem a better one theoretically, it does not do nearly such effective work as the clumsier up-and-down movement machines in use in England.

Uninteresting Irregular Perforating.

There is such a stately beauty about a well-centred copy of a U.S. postage stamp of almost any issue that it seems a pity that perhaps 60 to 80 per cent. have been wrecked by the perforator. The perforation varieties which are legitimate enough in other countries become uninteresting irregularities in the U.S. stamps. The dealer knocks off quite a little for a copy imperforate on one side and one cannot be certain of imperforate or partially imperforate copies except in pairs.

The Philatelic Index.

It seems to be left to foreign philatelists to do much active public work in connection with philatelic bibliography and indexing. True, we have given one initial

effort to the English-speaking world in Mr. Jex-Long's index, but that was—with all admiration for the compiler's labour and the publisher's enterprise—but a tentative work. It is unfortunate in that it has evidence of inexperienced or hurried proof-reading. A work of the kind should not be hurried through the press. There is a little excuse for haste in periodical publications, where oftentimes the printers will hold the poor journalist with his nose to the grindstone and make him do a week's work in a few hours in order to put the paper to bed.

Pioneers Warned Off.

There is of course a good deal to be said for Mr. Jex-Long in giving this tentative index to a philatelic public which has waited long and patiently in the hope that someone would do something. Much more might have been done in other quarters by workers in the same direction as Mr. Long but for the more-than-rumours of a really important *index philatelic* from a philatelist in one of the great University cities. For how many years this threatened work has frightened other pioneers out of the field I am not prepared to say offhand. But if we ever get the real thing—the thing we have been led to expect of the index in question—of course we shall all be duly thankful and confer the degree of D Phil., or something equally distinguished, upon the indexer.

Bibliography Abroad.

Abroad a great deal more has been done. Krasemann's little works are of considerable use; Judge Suppantchitsch has rendered incalculable service to general philatelic bibliography; Dr. Diena and the veteran Dr. Legrand have worked in similar directions with great usefulness. But Krasemann and Jex-Long are the only two who come near assisting the student who is not a philatelic literaturist but wants to get at the subject matter nearest his own interests in the vast storehouse of printed books and periodicals. Krasemann had an advantage which few others could have in his work. He was the University bookseller at Upsala, and spent his life among books.

Mr. Nils Strandell's Work.

I have been drawn on to this subject by finding that another Scandinavian author has taken up the late Mr. Krasemann's work with no uncertain hand. Mr. Nils Strandell, the editor (for Sweden) of the *Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidskrift*, commences in the issue for March what promises to be a compendious index to the articles which appeared in the world's philatelic press during 1908. The index is printed on pages numbered independently of the journal, and is doubtless intended for extracting and binding up separately when completed.

The Literature Society.

The Philatelic Literature Society is making a slight change in its arrangements for the advertisement section of its fine Journal. The Journal itself has been a great success, reflecting high credit upon its controllers. It will continue to be published quarterly, as before. The advertisement section, which is printed separately on coloured paper, will henceforth only be published twice a year. I suppose most of the eminent philatelists who have entered the fold of this recently formed society are very busy men, and have not really had the time to compile the want lists which should have kept the advertisement section going.

The Guinea "Sub."

The success of the Philatelic Literature Society has been an eye-opener to some of the wet blankets. At the first few informal meetings, when the guinea subscription was mooted, there were plenty who declared that

not a handful of literaturists would pay any such sum. Half a guinea was an alternative suggestion, and some even wanted it to be five shillings. But to perform any really useful service to the study of philatelic literature would have been well-nigh hopeless on the smaller subscriptions. It is argued—as it always is argued—that two subscribers at half a guinea are as good if not better than one at a guinea. But I doubt very much in this case if the Philatelic Literature Society would have had even its present total of 60 members at the lower fee. Literaturists—as distinct from philatelists—must necessarily be a limited class.

The Journal a Real Delight.

It is hard at any time to get subscriptions without giving a *quid pro quo*. For 60 half-guineas the Council could not have given its members the faultlessly produced and carefully edited Journal which has been the delight of every member. I believe in letting everyone have a chance, and am aware that a guinea subscription is prohibitive. Your poor old Cornelius had to take it out of the housekeeping money by instalments. But in this instance the multitude would not want it anyway. While there are thousands of collectors who take in the periodicals regularly and casually purchase handbooks which have a particular appeal to them, there must be comparatively few who collect the literature of the hobby as literature.

Society Subscribers.

In case some of my friends would like a peep at the fine Journal of the Philatelic Literature Society, I give a list of the Societies which receive the Journal, and in the libraries of which it can doubtless be inspected:—

- The Royal Philatelic Society, London.
- The Junior Philatelic Society, London.
- The Junior Philatelic Society (Brighton Branch).
- The International Philatelic Union, London.
- The Manchester Philatelic Society.
- The Herts Philatelic Society, London.
- The Boston (U.S.A.) Philatelic Society.
- The Philatelic Society of India.
- The British Guiana Philatelic Society.
- Sveriges Filatelist-Förening, Stockholm.
- Internationales Philatelisten-Verein, Dresden.
- Berliner Philatelisten-Klub.
- Verein für Briefmarkenkunde, Frankfurt.

Old King Cole's Daughter.

There is a very strong school of collectors nowadays which goes very deep into the historical associations of the countries in whose stamps they are interested. I heard Mr. Harland lecturing the other night at the Junior on St. Helena. He declared, and gave unimpeachable authorities in support of the declaration, that the lady after whom the island was named was the daughter of Coel, King of Britain. This same Coel was the merry old soul known to all of us in our perambulator days as "Old King Cole." I don't think philatelic study could go much further back, but should recommend Mr. Harte-Lovelace and Mr. C. A. Howes to see if they cannot beat Mr. Harland on his own ground by tracing the history of the dollar values of China to another nursery rhyme celebrity, to wit, old Mother Goose.

Another Dreadnought Scare.

Speaking of that same island of St. Helena, the lecturer went on to explain its old-time importance by reason of its being a sort of half-way house to India and the East. It is still, he told us, of great importance for coaling, and as a station for the all-British cable between Great Britain and her South African, Eastern, and

Australasian possessions. On October 23rd, 1906, the British garrison was removed and St. Helena was left abandoned, and its £3,500,000 cable is now at the mercy of any foreign power that likes to send a few Drednoughts along the South Atlantic Ocean. A vote of censure upon you, Mr. Harland, for introducing these sly political pin-pricks at a neutral meeting. If the promoters of that meeting had wanted politics, they would have gone the whole hog, and had the eight, the whole eight, and nothing but the eight. It was some little comfort, however, to learn that there are still 200 whites and 4,000 natives on the island to give the proper postal colour to future philatelic emissions from Napoleon's ex-isle!

Philately in the Courts.

Our columns this week contain a report of the initiation at Bow Street of a prosecution interesting to stamp dealers and to collectors. For some months past there have been rumours of an action pending in the courts for alleged libel.

Penny Postage to Hawaii.

My good friend Mr. Benedict Prieth, of Newark, N.J., sends me a cutting from the New York Sun (26.9.09) relating to the arrangement concluded between Postmaster General Hitchcock (President Taft's new P.M.G.) and our British P.M.G. whereby from April 1st of the present year postage between Great Britain and Ireland and Hawaii is reduced to 1d per ounce. I am glad at all times to receive news clippings from my readers at home and abroad, and shall welcome all such courtesies on the part of my friends.

An Important Discovery.

Congratulations to my good friend Mr. W. Hadlow on one of those discoveries which rarely fall to the lot of even

those keen students among whom we should certainly number Mr. Hadlow. To Mr. O. Firth, I believe, was due the discovery of the now well known two dies in the general POSTAGE—POSTAGE type of De La Rue Colonial stamps. The present discovery is of a somewhat similar order but is more marked. Mr. Hadlow has found two dies of the well known type of Siam stamps with the profile of King Chulalongkorn facing to the left.

The Chief Points of Difference.

The main points by which collectors can distinguish between the two dies are well illustrated in the two enlarged reproductions on this page. They are—

Die I.

The hair is distinctly curly.

Die II.

The hair is much straighter and shows far more light shading.

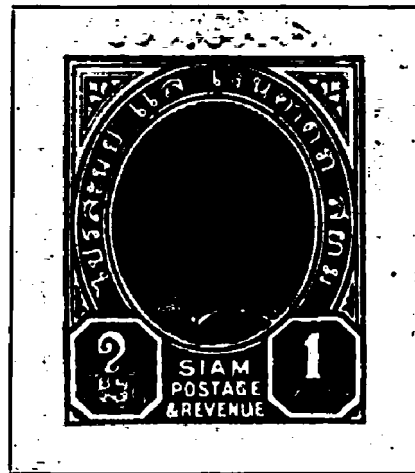
The native character in the left hand tablet is broad.

The native character is narrower.

The spandrels in the top corners are quite different in the two stamps.

Much Studied Stamps.

In one sense the stamps of Siam have been the subject of much study by well known specialists. Mr. Alexander Holland wrote a valuable little brochure for the Boston (U.S.A.) Society some years back, and our esteemed contributor, Mr. B. W. H. Poole, has long been making a close study of the stamps of this country. Even our own Editor has had his fling at a Siam handbook, and altogether the stamps, perplexing as the multitudinous surcharges are, have been given a very fair share of attention. But Mr. Hadlow's discovery is a reminder of the fact that even the stamps we are apt sometimes to fondly imagine we have studied to their deepest depths may still yield some scope for new research.



Notes on U.S. Stamps

The Lincoln anniversary 2c. stamp was not and is not to be had at the smaller offices, though every postmaster might have ordered them, or may do so still, until the supply is exhausted. Comparatively few are seen used, and it appears that the 100 million reported to have been printed will last a long time, unless our postmasters become more patriotic about Lincoln and yet make up for their slowness in ordering a supply of this patriotic stamp. The 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 cents, imperforate, issued for use in

the Schermack and other stamp vending machines are rarely seen used, as the machines are not frequent, being set up for trial only at a few of the larger offices, and unless one is happy enough to have a correspondent residing near one of these offices it is a pretty difficult thing to get a hold of one of these stamps. Dealers have them unused and offer them at a handsome premium, and, of course, they can be used by anyone and anywhere but they are not in the regular run and may at any time disappear altogether.

DORRAT.

The New Catalogue—First Notice

REVIEWED BY THE EDITOR

THE coming of the annual catalogue is awaited by collector and dealer with eager anticipation. The dealers—from the arch-ones (as our late Editor would have said) of the Strand, to the dealers who only boast a shop window and a second-hand stock book, begin to feel a certain anxiety about their goods at such a time. Perhaps at no other season of the year are they less eager to part with their stamps to collectors, particularly those stamps for which there is some prospect of a rise in the new catalogue. The collectors—most of us—are not less anxious for the financial advancement of our own little stocks, and even the least speculative of us are of course interested to see what changes the cataloguer has thought fit to make in our specialistic countries.

It is late in the season for Messrs. Gibbons to launch their new catalogue Part I. Part II. was published a month or two back. But it is Part I. around which the chief interest to the British collector centres—we are all either insular or imperial, and few can get beyond the interest of our own Country and the Colonies. The lateness of publication may have a good effect upon the trade in providing an impetus to business at this late juncture in the season which will carry the season on long beyond its normal limit. That is if there really be a season in these brisk days.

The Catalogue and the Congress.

There is an added interest in the arrival of the catalogue at this juncture—a month or six weeks after the debate on the collectors' catalogue at the Congress. The time was too short for the discussion to have had any influence on the present edition. Who shall say but that the debate which appeared so futile as to immediate results may have a great influence on our 1910 Gibbons?

The Matters that Count.

There are two phases of any new catalogue or new edition of an old catalogue which are of paramount interest. The first is in the actual listing of the stamps, a matter in which we are gradually coming to expect a full and exhaustive specialised check list with supplementary notes whenever they can be judiciously dropped in. The second is in the matter of pricing, and here we, in spite of all the publishers' protests to the contrary, are becoming more and more welded to the idea that the prices given by Gibbons are standard prices, and that anything we buy or sell must be sold in relation to such standard.

New Lists and Colour Names.

With regard to the lists in the new Gibbons, Part I., we shall have something to say later. For the present we may point out that the chief re-writings occur in British New Guinea, Cape of Good Hope, Fiji, Morocco Agencies, and Trinidad. The colour names have been revised to some extent to render them more consistent, and Mr. Warhurst's colour chart (second edition) has been used as a basis for the change.

An Odd Note.

The annotations of the catalogue are generally sound, but it is somewhat of a shock to find that the cataloguer at times can, in the first place write, and in his present

edition repeat the inane libel on the engraved varieties of Sarawak where it is said

"Specimens are known used, printed from an engraved die or plate, in orange-brown on deep yellow surface-coloured paper, and perf. 12. These are probably die proofs, which may have been given away to collectors after having been obliterated."

One cannot pretend to fathom the workings of the cataloguer's mind, but the repetition of suggestions which are as puerile as they are groundless, can only serve to lessen one's faith in the notes appended to even a standard dealer's price list.

A Dealer's Price List.

But there's the rub—we are told to expect only a dealer's price list. So the prices must be our chief concern. From an early examination of the new Part I. we note some interesting movements in the matter of prices, and shall give a review of some of the most interesting fluctuations. While the prices of rare stamps are of a high degree of interest, there is a more personal concern which most of our readers will feel in the changes which have been made in the prices of stamps, which we may well expect to find within the covers of our own albums. We shall therefore refer to many of the minor changes in the prices of stamps which are to be found in most good and medium collections.

Great Britain.

The trend of prices is slightly upwards. There has been a rumour that the 1d. black was to be increased, the only change however is in the price of the ordinary 1d. black, used, which now stands at 9d. an increase of a penny.

The 2d. blue, no lines, shows a general rise:—

1840 2d. violet blue 5s. to 6s.

2d. blue 4s. to 5s.

2d. pale blue 7s. 6d. to 8s.

Other rises in the line engraved issues are:—

1854-7 1d. small crown 14, orange brown, 2s. to 3s.

2d. large crown 16, plate 6, 12s. to 15s.

1858 1d. large crown 14, red brown unused, 15s. to 20s.

The plate numbers, used, show an interesting tendency to move, most of them upwards, but plates 83, 108, 121, 151, 162, 163, 219 and 222 have decreased.

1d. red plate 82, used,	2d. to 6d.
83	4d. to 2d. (drop)
92	1d. to 3d.
97	1d. to 2d.
98	2d. to 6d.
99	1d. to 3d.
100	1d. to 2d.
108	6d. to 2d. (drop)
121	4d. to 2d. "
131	1d. to 6d. "
133	2d. to 6d.
151	4d. to 2d. (drop)
152	2d. to 4d.
161	2d. to 3d.
162	3d. to 2d. (drop)
163	3d. to 2d. "
219	1s. to 4d. "
222	6d. to 3d. "

The embossed adhesives show a change in the 6d. :—

- 6d. mauve 7s. 6d. to 10s.
6d. dull lilac 10s. to 6s. (drop)
6d. violet 8s. 6d. to 10s.

Surface printed :—

- 1855-57 4d. deep carmine, small garter, blue safety paper (unused) £20 to £25.
4d. deep carmine, medium garter, blue safety paper (used) 8s. 6d. to 10s.
1856 4d. small garter on white paper, used 17s. 6d. to 20s.
4d. rose carmine, large garter, used 6d. to 9d.
1s. deep green, no letters (not priced in 1908) now priced at 70s. unused and 7s. 6d. used.
1862 1s. deep green, small letters, unused 40s. to 30s. (drop). The price for used copies remains as before.
1865 4d. plate 14, unused 7s. 6d. to 10s.
9d. wmk. emblems, unused 40s. to 80s. (used remains as before).
1867-80 6d. deep violet, wmk. spray, now priced unused at 15s.
6d. lilac, plate 6, unused 25s. to 35s.

Great Britain Officials.

- "IR" 1880-81 6d. grey, unused now priced at 12s. 6d.
1884 2½d. lilac, used 15s. to 20s.
1884 1s. green now priced £6 unused (used 50s. as before).
1887 1s. green, unused 35s. to 20s. (drop).
1902 1s. bicoloured King, 20s. to 15s. (drop).
"Army" 6d. purple on red Queen, unused 2s. to 3s.
"Govt. Parcels" 4½d. Queen, now priced unused at 30s.
1s. King, used 6s. to 7s. 6d.

The Levant.

The King's head stamps show slight increases chiefly in the unused :—

- 1902 King 40 paras unused 6d. to 8d., used 2d. to 1d. (drop).
" 80 paras unused 1s. to 1s. 3d., used — to 9d.
" 4 piastres unused 1s. 6d. to 2s., used 1s. to 1s. 6d.
1905 " 1s. unused 1s. 4d. to 1s. 9d.
1906 " 2 piastres on 5d. unused 6d. to 1s. (rise), used 6d. to 4d. (drop).

Antigua.

The imperforate varieties of the small star, none of which were priced in 1906-7, are now all priced used. The 1d. vermilion was the only one priced in 1908. This price remains stationary :—

- 1d. lilac-rose, used £6.
1d. vermilion, " £6.
6d. yellow-green, " £5.

Bahamas.

The 1d., perf. 14 to 16, of 1861, unused, has risen from 40s. to 60s. The 4d. De la Rue, perf. 11½, 12, priced unused at £8 in 1906 is now left unpriced. Other changes are :—

- De la Rue perf. 13. 1d. brown lake, unused 60s. to 70s., used 20s. to 30s.
1d. carmine lake, unused 80s. to 50s. (drop).
4d. rose, unused — to £10.
6d. lilac, " — to £12.
1863 1s., perf. 12½, unused £10 to £8 (drop).
1875 1d. carmine lake, perf. 14, now priced at 40s.
1884 2½d. CA., used 6d. to —
" " 6d. to 1s.
" " 2d. to 3d.

Bangkok.

The prices for the CC. wmk 4 and 5 cents and 2 ou 32 cents wide E have now disappeared.

Barbados.

The 4d. brown-red of the 1856-7 issue on white paper is now recognised but no price is given either for used or unused. A new variety of the ½d., no watermark, in pale green, clean cut perf. 14½ to 15½, is introduced as No. 62a. A new shade of the 6d. 1875-8 is listed as "bright yellow (aniline)" but not priced.

Other changes include :—

- 1856-7 ½d. yellow-green on white unused, now priced at 40s.
1872 Small star 1s., clean cut perf. 14½ to 15½, unused 20s. to 30s.
1873 Large star 6d., clean cut perf. 14½ to 15½, used 6s. 6d. to 10s.
1875-78 Perf. 14, 4d. values now all priced at 5s. 6d. " " 3s.
1897 Jubilee. 8d. unused, 3s. 6d. to 4s.
1898 on blue paper, ½d., unused 20s. to 15s. (drop).
½d., " 20s. to 15s. "
2½d., " 20s. to 15s. "

Bechuanaland Protectorate.

- 1888 ½d. (type 2) used 30s. to 25s. (a return to the 1906-7 quotation).
½d. (type 2) double overprint, now priced at 45s.
½d. (type 3) " " " 80s.
Aug. 1888. Protectorate only, 2s. 6d. unused, £8 to £6 (drop).
" Protectorate only, 5s. unused, £10 to £8 (drop).

Bermuda.

Some not unexpected decreases occur in the CA. 1884 issue. The chief changes are :—

- 1865 CC. 1d. rose red, unused 5s. to 8s., used 3s. to 4s.
1d. pale red, unused 5s. to 8s., used 6d. to 1s. 6d.
1s. green, perf. 14, used 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d.
1s. green, perf. 14 × 12½, unused 3s. to 4s., used 3s. to 4s.
1884 CA. 1d. rose red, used 1s. to 1d. (drop).
1d. dull red, used 1s. to 2d. (drop).

British Central Africa.

- April, 1891. 6d. ultramarine, used 5s. to 2s. 6d. (drop).
Feb., 1896, CA. 1d. unused 9d. to 2s., used 9d. to 1s. 6d.
2d. unused 2s. to 3s.
Aug., 1897, CA. 2d. unused 9d. to 6d. (drop), used 5d. to 9d.
CC. 10s. used 15s. to 25s.
March, 1898. (Cheque provisional) unused £7 to £6 (drop).
(Cheque provisional) inverted centre £65 to £60 (drop).
1903-4, CC. 2s. 6d. unused 3s. 3d. to 6s.
4s. " 5s. " —
10s. " 12s. 6d. " 20s.
£1 " 25s. " 30s.
£10 " £12 " —
1907, CA. multiple 1d. unused 2d. to 6d.
6d. " 8d. " 4s. 6d.

To be continued.

Alleged Forged Stamps

London Dealers Charged with Conspiracy

AN important prosecution, interesting to stamp dealers and stamp collectors in all parts of the country, was initiated to-day at Bow Street.

The accused were two stamp dealers, John Stewart Lowden, twenty-nine, of Villiers Street, Strand, and Henry Harmer, thirty-nine, of Preston Road, Westcliff-on-Sea.

They were charged with conspiring to obtain money and securities by fraud from persons who should deal with them, or the West End Stamp Company, or with Herbert Mack and Co., Ltd., in buying stamps purporting to be used for postage purposes in British North Borneo.

Mr Wallace represented the Public Prosecutor.

In the offices of both prisoners it was stated that a large quantity of British North Borneo stamps were found.

These varied in denomination from $\frac{1}{2}$ cent to 10 cents.

Chief-Inspector Stockley said that Harmer, when arrested, asked who were the persons supposed to have been defrauded.

When told that one of the persons was a Mr. Brown of Salisbury, he replied: "Yes, I have done business with him. I think you are wrong, as there is an explanation to this."

He added, "I have severed my connection with Mr. Lowden, long since."

Lowden, said the inspector, asked who was the prosecutor, and on being told Mr. Ackland, of Brighton, was one, he replied: "I know him; this is a very bad business."

In reply to the magistrate, the inspector said proceedings were being taken against an individual in Paris, but those proceedings had no connection with this case. He believed the forged stamp had been dealt in to a very large extent.

The accused were remanded. Lowden being ordered to find two sureties of £1,000 each and Harmer two of £500.—*Evening News, April 14th.*

For the report of the resumed hearing see page 48.

The Late William Moser

The Man and his Collections

REGRET to learn of the death, in his fifty-fifth year, of one of America's leading philatelists, William Moser. The bare announcement comes by way of Holland, for Mr. Moser was to have acted as a judge at the Amsterdam Exhibition.

Moser was very popular with philatelists in his own country, and much travel gave him the opportunity of making philatelic friendships in many countries. He started as a collector at the early age of six. When he was sixteen he had about 1,600 varieties.

About 1865-6, (he told the *Philatelic Record* interviewer) a young friend gave him about twenty-five of the 3c. blue New York Carriers, which he had found on letters among his father's papers. There being no space for them in Moser's album, or description in his catalogue, he showed them to a well known dealer in New York, and asked what they were. "Some locals, I suppose" answered the dealer. So the sixteen year old collector was glad to get rid of them (and only retained one) as in those days United States locals were despised almost as much as those of Hamburg. Moser's collection lay neglected until 1884 when his interest was aroused afresh by the discovery that an intimate friend, the late E. Harrison Sanford was a philatelist, and had a very fine collection of United States.

Mr. Moser's later interest in philately was on specialist lines. Like several of the philatelic giants on the other side, Hawaiians had a great fascination for him. United States, the Philippines, Switzerland, Buenos Ayres and Japan were among his big collections, and he did not escape the interest in British Colonials, the plateable varieties always having the chief attraction for him.

At most of the International Exhibitions held for a number of years past, Mr. Moser displayed his collections, and his views on the value of such exhibitions were summed up by him to the interviewer already quoted.

"I believe that exhibitions are worth all the trouble and expense that they entail. They certainly afford great opportunities for the student, encourage the collector, and increase the public interest. They certainly tend to cement friendship between nations. A philatelist finds friends wherever he goes, and for him there is only one country—the whole world. I have personally learned the truth of this, and my collection has a new value and interest to me, viz: that it is the means of making me feel at home, and of enabling me to make good friends everywhere."

British Collectors had a fine opportunity of examining Mr. Moser's two collections at the International Exhibition at the Horticultural Hall in 1906. The Japan collection was a rare lesson in the art of making a specialised collection interesting. It was the best written up exhibit in the hall, and was arranged to show type and plate varieties, and a large number of errors which were effectively indicated by well-drawn diagrams and copious notes. In the first issue Mr. Moser showed a number of blocks of four including two differently engraved plates of the 48 mons. All the syllabic stamps except three or four were included. The entire collection contained no fewer than forty-seven complete plates.

Mr. Moser is understood to having made one big collection-purchase, that of Mr. Ehrenbach's Buenos Ayres. He very properly preferred to enjoy collecting his stamps himself. When shown by Mr. Moser in London, the unused collection contained twenty shades of the 2 pesos blue 1858, thirteen specimens of the 3 pesos green, and several shades of the 4 pesos green and 5 pesos orange.

The Japan collection was awarded a gold medal in Class III.

The early death of so distinguished a philatelist is a loss, not to one philatelic community, but to the philatelic world at large.—F.J.M.

The Correct Crown

From the Australian Philatelist

"The Commonwealth of Australia Gazette" (published by authority), No. 44, Thursday, 29th August, 1901, contains the following:—

Commonwealth of Australia,
Department of External Affairs,
26th August, 1901.

The following Circular Despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 14th June, 1901, covering copies of the designs which his Majesty the King has selected as his Royal and Imperial Cyphers, is published for general information by direction of His Excellency the Governor-General.

EDMUND BARTON.

(Circular.)

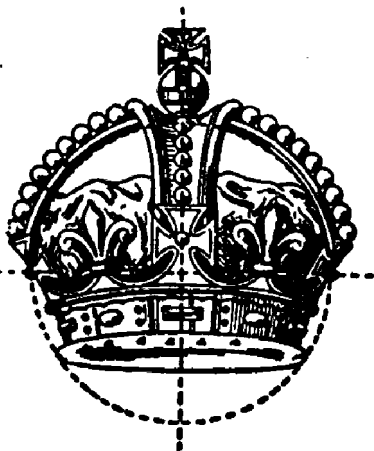
Downing Street, 14th June, 1901.

Sir,—I have the honour to transmit to you, for the information of your Government, copies (3) of the designs which his Majesty the King has selected as his Royal and Imperial Cyphers.

2. I have also to inform you that his Majesty has expressed his desire that the "Tudor" Crown may be substituted for any other pattern now in use as new articles become necessary; and I may add that the new design of the Royal Cypher, which was approved by his Majesty on the 4th ultimo, is to supersede any others which may be in use. I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Governor-General of the
Commonwealth of Australia.



Crown above referred to as illustrated in the "Gazette."

It could not be expected that all the details of the crown could be reproduced in a watermark on paper just

large enough to print an ordinary postage stamp; but as will be seen from the following illustrations, some of the crowns used in the Commonwealth are not anything like the correct crown, even in outline.

The stamps of Tasmania and West Australia, wmk. Crown and A, are printed in Melbourne on Victorian paper.

New South Wales and Queensland have made an attempt to acquiesce with his Majesty's desire, which is a command, that of New South Wales being nearest the illustration; but the crowns of South Australia and Victoria both vary very little from those previously in use for many years.

It cannot be urged that new articles had not become necessary, for the adoption of the letter "A" in the watermark of Australian stamps in 1905 has caused the preparation of new dandy rollers and supplies of new paper.



New South
Wales.

Queensland.

South
Australia.

Victoria.

We have on a previous occasion contended that the watermark "Crown and A" should be uniform throughout Australia. This could be accomplished easily by having the paper, used for stamp printing in the various States, supplied by one firm of paper-makers; the watermark to be approved by the Postmaster-General, and to be in conformity with the terms of the Circular Despatch as above.

Australian Commonwealth postage dues are printed in Sydney, and have the New South Wales type of Crown A watermark. Owing to a shortage of paper in the Sydney office in 1907, one printing was done on paper with the Victorian type of watermark.

Those New South Wales stamps printed on Crown A paper (with the exception of the 9d.) have the New South Wales type of watermark. (The £1 value has a circle round the watermark.) The 9d., being always printed in Melbourne, has the Victorian type. Owing to a shortage of paper in the Sydney office in 1907, one printing of New South Wales stamps was done on paper with the Victorian type of watermark.

Queensland stamps, with the exception of the 9d., bear the Queensland type of watermark. The 9d., being printed in Melbourne, bears the Victorian type of watermark.

South Australian stamps printed on Crown A paper all have the South Australian type of watermark.

Victorian stamps printed on Crown A paper all have the Victorian type of watermark.

It may be added that the dotted lines on the illustration of the "Correct Crown" are only for working purposes.

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

Angola.—According to *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* the 100 reis of the 1893-4 issue has been found with the 11½ perforation. Hitherto this value has only been known perf. 12½.

Charkari.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have shown us a set of stamps for this Indian state in an entirely new design. The design, which is the same for all values, consists of crossed swords in the centre with "CHARKHARI STATE C.I." curved above. At the top is "POSTAGE STAMP" and below the swords the value is shown in native characters, with four lines of inscription below, viz. :—"INDIA—BUNDELKHAND"—two words in Devanagri, and then the value, "1 RUPEE" etc. The lowest and highest values are exactly alike in colour. All have the inscriptions, etc., in white on a coloured ground, and they appear to have been produced by lithography. They are printed on thin wove paper and the perforation gauges 11.

Lithographed. Wove paper. Perf. 11.

	s.	d.
1 pice chestnut
½ anna scarlet	...	0 1
1 " sage green	...	0 2
2 annas blue	...	0 4
4 " deep green	...	0 6
8 " brick red	...	0 10
1 rupee chestnut	...	1 8

China.—(Vol. IV. p. 32).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that the 10c. in its new colour recorded last December, has only just been issued. The changes of colour to date are, therefore, as follows :—



New colours. No wmk. Perf. 14 to 16.

	s.	d.
2c. green	...	0 1
10c. blue	...	0 4

China Expeditionary Force.—(Vol. III. p. 298).—Mr. W. T. Wilson has shown us the 1a. "postage and revenue" stamp of India surcharged "C.E.F." referred to on page 298 of our last volume, and also the current 12a. King's head stamp similarly overprinted. There are now three "C.E.F." King Edward VII stamps, viz. :—

Indian stamps surcharged "C.E.F."
Inscribed "POSTAGE."

	s.	d.
1a. carmine	...	0 3
12a. purple on red	...	—

Inscribed "POSTAGE AND REVENUE."

1a. carmine	...	—
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Dominica.—(Vol. III. p. 8).—We learn from the *Colonial Office Journal* that this Colony has decided to adopt the new colour scheme, so that we shall doubtless have some new varieties to record ere long.

German Empire.—(Vol. III. p. 227).—A correspondent informs *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* that he has the current 30 pf. stamp on white paper instead of buff as heretofore. From this it would appear that the buff paper is being gradually dispensed with, for it is only three

months ago we recorded the 50 pf. on white paper. The complete list of varieties of the stamps of the Germania design on watermarked paper is now as follows :—

Wmk. Lozenges. Perf. 14.

	s.	d.
2 pf. grey	...	0 1
3 pf. brown	...	0 1
5 pf. green	...	0 1
10 pf. carmine	...	0 2
20 pf. ultramarine	...	0 4
25 pf. black and orange on yellow	...	0 4
30 pf. black and orange on buff	...	0 5
30 pf. black and orange	...	—
40 pf. black and carmine	...	0 6
50 pf. black and lilac on buff	...	0 8
50 pf. black and lilac	...	—
80 pf. black and carmine on rose	...	1 0

Gibraltar.—(Vol. II. p. 176).—The *Colonial Office Journal* informs us that this Colony has adopted the new colour scheme, and that supplies of 6d., 2s. and 4s. in the new colours have already been dispatched.

Gold Coast.—(Vol. III. p. 286).—We gather from the *Colonial Office Journal* that supplies of the 2d. and 3d. stamps in colours conforming to the new scheme have been despatched to this Colony.

Holland.—(Vol. III. p. 166).—Specialists in the stamps of Holland will be interested to learn that Mr. Stewart Wilson has informed *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* of the discovery of a hitherto uncatalogued variety, viz. :—the 20c. deep green of 1867-71, in die II, perf. 10½ × 10, and on bluish paper.

Honduras.—(Vol. III. p. 286).—*Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* reports the issue of the 1c. stamp of the current type, lithographed instead of engraved as before.

Lithographed. No wmk. Perf. 14.
1c. green.

Jamaica.—(Vol. III. p. 298).—This Colony has also adopted the new colour scheme, according to the *Colonial Office Journal*, so that new varieties should be events of the near future.

Macao.—Another variety of perforation has been found in the 1902 provisionals according to *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*, viz. :—the 18 avos on 50 reis of 1894, perf. 13½. This stamp has hitherto only been known with the 11½ perforation.

Mongtze.—Some more errors of the 1903-4 stamps have been found. *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* mentions the following :—the 10c. with surcharge inverted; the 4c. with Chinese value omitted, and the 1c. with Chinese value omitted and "MONGTZE" inverted.

Morocco Agencies.—(Vol. III. p. 262).—We gather from *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* that the 5c. on ½d. has appeared with the control letter "G7." The list of control letters is now as follows :—

	s.	d.
5c. on ½d.	F6, G7	0 1
10c. on ½d.	F6, G7, G8	0 2
½d.	F6	0 1
1d.	F6	0 2

Peru.—(Vol. III. p. 80).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a complete new set for this Republic, ranging in value from 1 centavo to 1 sol. They were issued on March 11th, and we understand the 22c. and 2 soles denominations included in the previous issue have now been

dispensed with altogether. The design for the frame is the same in all the values and is as shown in the accompanying illustration. The central portrait is different for each value and these are as follows:—1c., Manco Capac; 2c., Colon; 4c., Pizarro; 5c., San Martin; 10c., Bolivar; 12c., Jose de Lamar; 20c., Ramon Castilla; 50c., Grau; and 1 sol., Bolognesi. The stamps are printed on unwatermarked paper and are perf. 12.

New design. No wmk. Perf. 12.

	s.	d.
1c. grey ...	0	1
2c. green ...	0	1
4c. carmine ...	0	2
5c. violet ...	0	3
10c. blue ...	0	5
12c. pale blue ...	0	6
20c. red-brown ...	0	9
50c. orange ...	1	9
1 sol. carmine and black ...	3	0

Roumania.—(Vol. III. p. 312).—The 25 bani of the 1900 issue on unwatermarked paper has now turned up with the perforation gauging 13½, according to *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*, so that the values now known with this perf. are as follows:—

No wmk. Perf. 13½.

	s.	d.
3b. red-brown ...	—	—
5b. emerald ...	—	—
10b. rose-red ...	—	—
15b. drab ...	—	—
25b. blue ...	0	4
50b. orange ...	—	—
1 leu rose and grey brown ...	—	—

Russia.—(Vol. IV. p. 33).—A correspondent points out that the new 50 and 70 kopek stamps chronicled on page 33 are unaltered so far as the design is concerned, though they are printed on unwatermarked paper and have the crossed varnish lines as in the case of the lower values. We therefore revise our list of the stamps in the new type as follows:—



No wmk. Perf. 14 × 14.

	s.	d.
1 kop. orange ...	0	1
2 kop. green ...	0	1
4 kop. carmine ...	0	2
7 kop. blue ...	0	3

Siam.—(Vol. III. p. 215).—There are rumours that the currency of this country is to be changed shortly and in that event we may expect a good crop of provisionals. At present the tical (nominally worth 1s. 6d.) is divided into 64 atts, but in future it is to have the same value as the Straits dollar and it will be divided into 100 satangs or cents.

Somaliand Protectorate.—(Vol. II. p. 189).—A supply of 1 anna stamps printed entirely in red has been shipped according to the *Colonial Office Journal*.

Southern Nigeria.—(Vol. III. p. 57).—The new colour scheme has been adopted by this Colony according to the *Colonial Office Journal*, and in time to come this will mean a number of new varieties, for few of the colours of the stamps now in use correspond with the official list.

St. Helena.—(Vol. II. p. 273).—The *Colonial Office Journal* states that this Colony has agreed to adopt the new colour scheme for all its values, so new 2d., 8d., 1s. and 2s. stamps may be expected at some future date.

St. Vincent.—(Vol. III. p. 251).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. and Mr. Oswald Marsh send us the 1d. in the redrawn type similar to the 6d. and 1s. values chronicled on page 251. The list of values in this new type is as follows:—



Redrawn type. Multiple Crown CA wmk. Perf. 14.

	s.	d.
1d. carmine ...	0	2
6d. lilac ...	0	6
1s. black on green paper ...	1	3

The same correspondents also send us the 2s. and 5s. King's head stamps in colours conforming with the new official scheme, so that the complete list of King's head stamps on the paper with multiple watermark is as follows:—



Wmk. Multiple Crown CA. Perf. 14.

	s.	d.
1d. purple and green ...	0	1
1d. " carmine ...	0	2
2½d. " blue ...	0	5
6d. " brown ...	1	0
1s. green and carmine ...	2	0
2s. purple and blue on blue ...	2	6
5s. green and red on yellow ...	6	3

Straits Settlements.—(Vol. III. p. 312).—The *Colonial Office Journal* states that supplies of the 25c. stamps in purple and \$5 in red and green on green paper have been despatched to the Colony. Future supplies of the 30c. will be printed in purple and yellow, but apparently none have been ordered yet.

Trinidad.—(Vol. III. p. 215).—Although this Colony has agreed to adopt the new colour scheme for all its stamps of ordinary size (½d. to 1s. inclusive) we learn from the *Colonial Office Journal* that there is no intention of making any change so far as the large 5s. and £1 stamps are concerned.

NOTE.

The Prices affixed are those at which Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. will supply any of the stamps chronicled that may be in stock.

The stamps are supplied at lower rates to subscribers to their New Issue Service, particulars of which can be had on application to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. Ipswich.

The Prices quoted are for unused.

My Favourite Country—Belgium

BY F. E. WILSON

FOURTEEN years have passed since I first commenced to collect the stamps of Belgium, and during that comparatively long period I have been faithful to my philatelic first love up to the present without having any cause for regretting my choice of a favourite country, and with the reader's permission I will preface my notes on the Sunday Label Stamps with a few remarks as to the reason of my preference, for I hold the opinion that every serious philatelist should be able to justify his or her choice of a favourite country or at any rate be prepared to advance certain intelligent reasons for the selection. The nucleus of the collection was formed during a six months' residence as school boy in the old world town of Bruges in 1895. Needless to say that comparatively little of the original collection remains and that little has been extended and developed almost out of recognition. It has always seemed to me to be much more interesting to collect the stamps of a country one has visited and travelled in and where one has actually bought stamps of the various issues at the Post Offices, than to collect the issues of a distant and perhaps comparatively unknown country where one has never been and in all probability will never go. For this reason I think every British Collector should have some sort of a collection of the issues of his own country even if limited to King's heads or 3d. and 1d. Control Letters, and *en passant* it may be stated that the numerous shades and printings of our current series from January, 1902 to date make quite an interesting collection.

Of all the continental countries Belgium is perhaps the easiest to get at and one of the least expensive to travel in, so that the budding specialist has every opportunity of studying the postal system on the spot, and in addition the intelligent traveller will find the country crammed full of general interest, fully up to date, and containing delightful modern as well as charming mediæval cities.

The early issues of Belgium belong of course to the classics of philately, and the beautiful first type (known as the *epaulettes* issue) are quite equal to our own first issue 1d. and 2d. stamps and other similar fine old issues; on the other hand, in contradistinction to many other of the good old countries, the modern issues of Belgium have not degenerated, and are entirely free from speculative emissions, and practically so in the matter of unnecessary ones, as only the Antwerp issue of 1894 (consisting of 3 values with a total face value of 4d.), and the Brussels one of 1896 (2 values with a total face value of 2d., which includes a change of colour), belong to that class. In these days of suspiciously unnecessary high values it is refreshing to be able to point out that the face of Belgium's highest value postage stamp has fallen from 5 to 2 francs; in addition, Belgium has never issued a surcharged stamp, so that it is unnecessary to have one's collection padded with experts' certificates on the subject of the genuineness of same. Of dangerous forgeries there are none, the old issues were never imitated in the early philatelic days when so many European forgeries were circulated, probably because the genuine stamps were too plentiful for it to be worth while; some imitations have however been made of late years by the Italian forgers, who reproduce everything, but they are mostly very crude productions not likely to deceive anyone. The 5fr. stamp has several times been forged in modern times, and with varying degrees of success, none of the imitations however being really first-class.

Government reprints of certain values of the early issues have been made, but except in the case of the first issue they are rarer than the originals and practically never on the market. In any case they are quite easy to distinguish, the first issue being without the customary watermark, and all the reprints of the perforated issues are invariably unperforated.

Most collectors are entirely unfamiliar with them, and my set was only obtained by an influential friend direct from the Belgian Government.

Remainders have been known to cause much trepidation in the stamp collecting dove-cotes, but the philatelic status of the country under discussion has never been sullied by anything of the kind. The sale by auction on behalf of the Government of the remaining stock of the 5 fr. red brown stamps, after they had gone out of use, is however worthy of mention in this connection, and I well remember having my attention drawn—by a friendly priest who knew my weakness—to the advertisement of the public auction at Brussels of the celebrated 5 fr. stamps, which I inspected with considerable interest in the venerable *Grande Place* at Bruges. The 2400 stamps, all in the last printing and shade (red brown) realised the sum of 12s. each, a higher bid of the late M. Moens being refused because he tendered a cheque in payment. The purchaser was a German dealer who apparently did not attempt to deal with them in any way while he lived, they however come on the market at his death a few years ago and are now all absorbed.

I think most philatelists will agree that these facts are strong points in favour of Belgium.

Choice ranges of shades appeal to many of us, and in this respect Belgium makes a strong claim to our philatelic interests, notably in the issues of 1863, 1865, 1866 and above all 1869-80 with its wealth of colours and printings.

From a financial point of view Belgium is an excellent country for the collector of small means to tackle, as it contains no great rarities, and if one is content with used stamps there is nothing at all expensive in the ordinary range of its postage stamps, while there is undoubtedly much scope for philatelic research and investigation in the matter of the postmarks, and in distinguishing the various printings of the early issues by means of dated copies; rumour has it also that retouches are not entirely unknown; on the other hand the collector of unused stamps will find fair scope for his cheque book, and if he wishes to obtain blocks of 4 of all issues and shades it will be quite a herculean task.

Whilst on the financial aspect it has often struck me as curious that those collectors who are only able to spend moderate sums on the hobby so often select the most expensive countries to specialise in,—to my mind completion is a desirable thing to go for, and I should always endeavour to select a country of which it would be possible in time and with patience to build up as fine a collection of its kind as anyone else possesses rather than to dabble in one in which I could never but be hopelessly outclassed by some Great Mogul.

Fortunately for Philately and for us all there are plenty of both kinds of countries to select from.

Finally the early issues with portrait of King Leopold I. should appeal to all Englishmen on account of the intimate relationship of this King to our late Queen Victoria so clearly and delightfully revealed in the recently published "Letters of Queen Victoria."

To be continued.

In the Stamp Market

BY O. REGINALD GUM

New Hebrides Prices.

The rush for the New Hebrides Condominiums is as keen as ever. The prices ruling in the Strand district are:—

½d. multiple watermark	4d.
1d. "	3d.
2d. single	6d.
2½d. "	8d.
5d. "	1s. 6d.
6d. "	4s.
1s. "	10s.

The High Jump.

I shouldn't be surprised if Messrs. Gibbons see more of the 1s. green, no watermark, British Honduras than they bargained for this year. For a stamp to jump from 15s. to £150 is beyond the dreams of most of us, and any collectors who think they have suddenly found themselves possessed of an hitherto unsuspected gold mine may be advised that Mr. Printer is doubtless more responsible than the cataloguer.

Italian Levants.

Most people would imagine that the interest in Italian Levants would be stifled off by the emission of a different overprint for every individual Italian Post Office in the Levant. Not so however. Most dealers are experiencing quite a run on the issues of the Italian Consular Post Offices. For many years the stamps of Italy overprinted "estero," though by no means common, have had little interest displayed in them by collectors outside Italy. These seem to be quite in demand now both here and on the Continent. As they are at present, several values are worth much more than their catalogue quotations.

It is strange how, the more impudent a country is in victimising stamp collectors, the more popular are its issues among philatelists. Have we not the Cayman Islands, Gambia and Siam, as examples?

New Postal Issues.

There is little doubt that the new issues of several of the powers that issue stamps solely for postal purposes, will do much to revive the philatelic interest in the "commoner" countries among the greater body of

general collectors. There is no denying that the new issues of France, United States, Italy and Switzerland, though plain, are beautiful examples of stamps. Neither showy nor gaudy of colour, they are tasteful and stately. A chat with several dealers points towards the renewed popularity. As one says "I have never known such an interest displayed in the commoner stamps, as is displayed by collectors to-day."

Common Stamps

Seldom find a great sale in this country. On the other hand it is quite different on the Continent—especially towards those stamps that are a place moved from "Continental" or "Mission" mixtures. Where in England would a thousand 1d. Jamaicas, or a thousand 5c. Argentinians find a ready market? Yet Continental dealers jump at such.

No "Gulling" Britishers!

There is no shadow of doubt that stamp collectors in Great Britain are much better educated in philately than their European brethren. A visit to any European country shows at once the enormous amount of rubbish palmed off on to the innocents. Much of the stuff is so vile, that it would make a cancelled-to-order Borneo swell with pride at its honesty.

The British philatelic press is responsible for this in the first instance, and secondly, the standard of the trade is higher here than on the Continent. At most British dealers one can purchase a philatelic journal—but it is not so on the Continent.

New Quotations.

One would think from the flood of Indians lately on the market, that the new Gibbons, Part I, would show a decrease. Both the 2 and 3 rupees Queen's Head are advanced by sixpence. On the other hand the 2 rupees King is dropped threepence. Strangely several of the Chinese Expeditionary Force show a drop also. One might understand it as far as unused are concerned, but the used higher values are possessed by few dealers.

And why is the current 3d. Jamaica multiple watermark priced at 4d. used? And why is the ½d. multiple "SER-ER" error priced at only 2s., if the 1d. single error is catalogued at 3s. 6d.?

"The Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The Postage Stamp is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:

Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C.
 F. C. Ginn, 143, Strand, London, W.C.
 Lewis May & Co., 15, King William St., Strand, W.C.
 W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.
 James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.
 Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.
 The Court Stamp Co., 10, Marriott's Court,
 Manchester.

The Postage Stamp Binding Covers.

Handsome dark blue covers in buckram, gilt lettered side and back, may be had from our Publishers, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Amen Corner, London. Price 1s. 6d.

Our Advertisers' Offers.

Messrs. Bridger & Kay are offering fifteen sets of the 1904 Provisionals of Zanzibar for 19/- per set.

Messrs. Harmer Rooke & Co. advertise their popular auctions and intimate that they are not in any way connected with any stamp dealers of the same or similar names.

Mr. Rhodes, of Manchester, presents an interesting list of used and unused stamps which he has on sale at bargain prices.

Mr. O. Marsh announces some new approval books; The London Philatelic Co. offers some cheap sets; Mr. Leonard Brand advertises some interesting bargains; Messrs. Bright & Son also offer bargains in single stamps and in sets; and Mr. A. H. Harris offers to send selections of any country's stamps on approval.

Stop Press News.

CHARGE OF CONSPIRACY.

STAMP DEALERS BROUGHT UP AT
BOW STREET.

RESUMED HEARING.

John Stewart Lowden, a stamp dealer, of Villiers Street, Strand, and Henry Harmer, a stamp dealer, of Preston Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, were charged on remand at Bow Street on Friday, the 16th April, with conspiring to obtain money by fraud.

Mr. Bodkin prosecuted on behalf of the Director of Public Prosecutions; Mr. Walter Frampton appeared for Harmer, and Mr. Olley for Lowden. Mr. C. V. Young watched the case on behalf of the Stamp Trade Protection Association (Limited).

Mr. Bodkin said that the frauds alleged were of a very extensive character, involving the forgery of the postage and revenue stamps of British North Borneo. It was not suggested—at any rate at this stage—that there had been a fraud upon the revenue of that country, and it did not appear to be an offence to produce or imitate a stamp of any other country than Great Britain.

British North Borneo was one of the countries which was originally made over to the administration of a Chartered Company. The company was incorporated on November 15th, 1881, and was solely responsible for the administration of the country until 1888, when the whole of its territory was made into a British Protectorate. The company issued postage and revenue stamps of denominations varying from ½ cent to 10 cents, and these, which were known as the 1887 to 1890 issue, were circulated until 1894, when a new series was introduced.

The 1887-90 issue remained valid down to December last, when, in consequence of the discovery that extensive numbers of forgeries were extant, it was necessary to demonetise the whole of that issue. Consequently only the 1894 issue was now available for postage and revenue purposes. The earlier issues therefore had an enhanced value to foreign stamp dealers and collectors, and it was alleged that the prisoners had caused many thousands of these stamps to be forged for the purpose of selling them at remunerative prices.

In 1906, continued Mr. Bodkin, a company called the West End Stamp Company was registered. It had an office at 20, Villiers Street, Strand, and its original capital was £500. In May of the same year its capital was increased to £5000. The prisoners

were the managing directors of the company, and each received a salary of £150 a year.

Another company—Herbert Mack and Co.—was afterwards carried on at the same office, and the two companies seemed to have been very intimately connected. In the autumn of 1907 a dealer who had a large stock of North Borneo stamps arranged to let the West End Stamp Co. have £200 worth of them every month. They also purchased them from other dealers, and there was no doubt, said counsel, did a very extensive trade.

The foregoing report is from the *Evening Standard*. We may add that counsel hinted that the scope of the inquiry might be enlarged, and be made to relate to the stamps of other countries.

The accused were again remanded.

Editor's Letter Box

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Articles, Contributions and Correspondence, should be addressed to the Editor, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the correspondent. *Articles, etc., not accepted, will be returned when postage is prepaid.*

Business Communications should be addressed to the Manager, and *Advertisements to the Advertisement Manager*, 1, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

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"What's On" Next Week.

Monday, April 26.	Auction (Hadlow).
Tuesday, April 27.	Auction (Hadlow). Auction (Puttick & Simpson).
Wednesday, April 28.	Auction (Puttick & Simpson).
Thursday, April 29.	Birmingham Philatelic Society's Annual Dinner. Auction (Ventom, Bull & Cooper).
Friday, April 30.	Auction (Ventom, Bull & Cooper).
Saturday, May 1.	Junior Philatelic Society, London, Auction 6 p.m.; "Egypt," by P. L. Pemberton, 8 p.m.; "Turkish Locals," by H. Lee, 9 p.m. Scottish Philatelic Society (Junior Branch) Competition Night.

10/- PACKET FOR 4d.

The "Half-Severals" Packet contains 110 different stamps, including Germany 80pf. and 2 mks., Tasmania, 2 pictorial stamps, views of Hobart and Mount Wellington, unused Octagonal Thessaly, Roumania 10b. & 30b. unpaid, Austria 2kr. obsolete, & 35h. green, beautiful unused Zanzibar (old Sultan's Head, cat. 6d.) (this stamp alone is worth more than the price asked for the whole packet) and many other fine stamps. The catalogue value of this packet is 10/-, our price 4d., postage 1d. extra (abroad 3d.). Only one to each applicant. Mention Packet No. 85r.

This Week's Bargains.

New Zealand, officials, 1d.—1/-, used, 6/-; N. S. Wales, O.S., 6d. mauve, perf. 10 (S.G. 10/-), 1/-; do., do., 3d. grey, mint (S.G. 5/-), 1/-; Gt. Britain, O.W. Official, 3d. & 1d., Queen, used, 4/-; do., Govt. Parcels, 1883, 1½d., 6d., 9d. & 1/-, used (S.G. 35/-), 22/6.

BRIGHT & SUN, 164, Strand, London, W.C.

RHODESIA

On British South Africa.

(ALL MINT). s. d.

½, 1, 2, 2½, 3, 4, 6 and 1/- per set...	2	10
2/6 grey each	2	9
3/- lilac	3	6
5/- orange	5	10
5d. on 6d.	0	7
7½d. on 2/6	0	10
10d. on 3/-	1	0
2/- on 5/-	2	4

Cash with order. Postage extra.

LEONARD BRAND

48, KEYES ROAD,
CRICKLEWOOD.

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

Prepaid Advertisements are inserted in THE POSTAGE STAMP at the following rates:—12 words, 1s.; and 1d. for every additional word.

Advertisements can be received up to 5 o'clock THURSDAY for insertion in the following week's issue.

NEW HEBRIDES on Fiji now in stock, singles, blocks, panes and sheets. For prices see Ewen's Weekly Stamp News, Norwood, S.E.

PICTURE Postcards of the late Mr. E. J. Nankivell; four for 6d., 12 for 10d., post free.—J. H. Simmons, 2, Rokeby Road, Brockley, S.E.

PERHAPS YOU HAVE NEVER TRIED an advertisement in our columns. Perhaps it has not occurred to you to send your "Offers" along to THE POSTAGE STAMPS. The next time you want anything why not use our columns? For particulars and price see above.

WANTS.

WANTED, Portuguese and Colonies in exchange. G. Smith, Central Hotel, Letchworth, Herts.

WANTED immediately, correspondents in every British Colony and Foreign Country, to send parcels of stamps. Prompt cash. Woolrich, 20, Nansen Street, Ardwick, Manchester, England.

The POSTAGE STAMP

Founded by
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

Edited by
FRED. J. MELVILLE.

*An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors*

No. 5. Vol. 4.
(Whole Number 83)

1 MAY, 1909.

Price 1d.

Gossip of the Week

BY CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Rhodesia on B.S.A.



THE new Rhodesians hold promise of creating more than ordinary interest. The provisional 5d. 7½d. and 10d. values are likely to be popular with the more speculatively inclined collectors as they present some similarity to the rare provisionals of March, 1891, of British South Africa. That reminds me those large figure overprints of 1891 have all dropped in the new Gibbons from 60s. to

40s., due, no doubt, to a considerable quantity of remainders changing hands during the past year.

Minor Varieties of the Overprint.

The overprinting of the word Rhodesia on the B.S.A. stamps shows a number of minor varieties on the sheet. One entire vertical row has a peculiar tailed final "A" and there are several other very consistent minor flaws. Although I have not seen them I hear rumours of "dotty" varieties which conjure up the horrors of the South African War. When I say I have not seen them I refer of course to the "dotty" varieties—the sheets I saw all had certain of the stamps removed.

"Shoddy" Overprints.

In these days, with the modern facilities for perfection in printing, it is scarcely excusable for any London printer to produce so poor an overprint. The type is a fancy font, and many such fonts have several different ways of ornamenting one letter. Such fonts are totally unsuitable for stamp overprinting, though the variety fiend might revel in their use. If there are only half a dozen varieties, and they are reproduced on each denomination up to the £1, there's quite a good thing in it for the shareholders—ah, what?

The Forthcoming Hawaiian Book.

Mr. Henry J. Crocker, the owner of the 1906 Championship Cup for his collection of Hawaiians, writes me to

say that his book on Hawaiian Numerals will be out in the course of a few days. I am looking forward to a rare treat when it arrives, and shall bid me off to my den and gloat on those fine old plateable antiques. I shall forget for a brief while that there are such things as new issues, and shall be content to revel in the good old type-set mysteries of the past; and what better guide, philosopher and friend at such a time than Mr. Crocker? I am glad to learn that the advance orders have assured the publisher of the sale of over one-half of his edition. The book will be of a sumptuous order, neither dollars nor pains having been spared to make it worthy of the monumental collection which has brought the book into being.

The Pageant of Postage Stamps.

Work has commenced in earnest at Earl's Court. I was there when the Hon. Exhibition Secretary held an informal reception in honour of the J.P.S.'s 160 odd frames which had just arrived at Earl's Court from Newcastle. Those frames have done valiant service. They were made for the 1908 Show at Caxton Hall. Already they have worked two exhibitions in 1909, Manchester and Newcastle; now they are waiting to be loaded up with their pageant of postage stamps of the United States and Colonies at London's famous exhibition centre.

The Dealers' Stalls.

The complete plan of the Stamp Section has just been approved by the Committee and by the Directorate of the Exhibition. I print it on the next page. It will be seen that there are eight stalls inside the section (numbered 1—8), for which the stamp trade will be asked the modest sum of £13 10s. each for selling rights throughout the season, May to September (about five months in all). The spaces indicated between the stalls and the walls are to be occupied by seven large South Kensington show cases, and several settees for the comfort of those making a prolonged stay in the stamp section. The J.P.S. Office is indicated by the second double door to the left of Stall No. 1.

Public-Spirited Philatelists.

There is no more public-spirited philatelist than Major Evans and I understand that one of the first big exhibits to be promised for the Golden West Exhibition was his

magnificent collection of stamps of the Confederate States. This alone will be worth several visits to Earl's Court for the purpose of careful study. Then Mr. Hadlow has promised his fine collection of U.S. revenue stamps. Mr. Whitfield King is to show sheets of the much discussed imperforate stamps of the 1908-9 series. Mr. Peckitt and Mr. Morley, too, are lending some interesting exhibits.

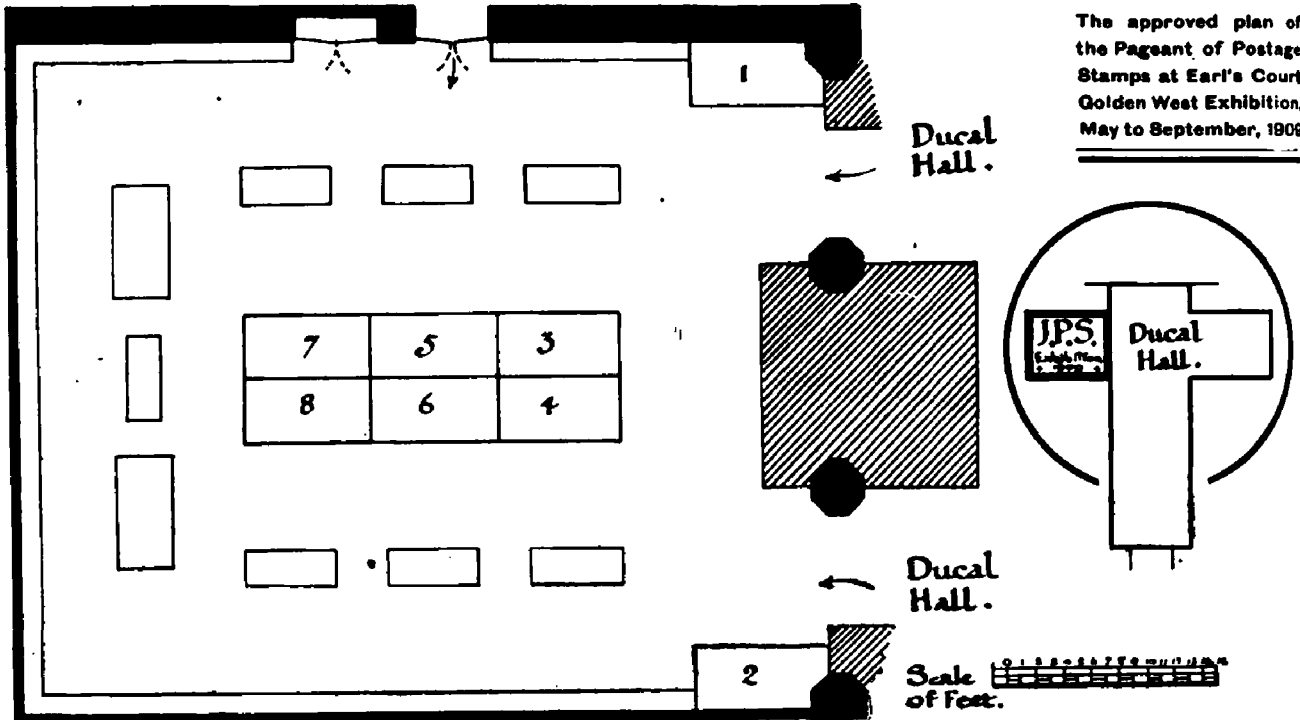
More Exhibits Wanted.

Of course with the great space to be covered there will be room for a great many more items than are promised at the moment of writing. Large portraits and engravings of U.S. Presidents and Statesmen who appear on the postage and revenue stamps of the great Republic would be gladly accepted on loan by the Committee. At present no one has promised any of the U.S. Colonial emissions. The great thing which collectors should bear in mind is that if they all think their own little displays are too

small to shew it will be rather hard lines on the organisers. Every collector who has even a single exhibit of interest should come forward on an occasion like this. The more who are concerned in the making of the exhibition the more widespread will be the interest aroused.

Season Ticket Arrangements.

It is early yet to say much about the opening arrangements. The opening is expected about the second week in May, so exhibits should be hurried in to Mr. H. F. Johnson, 44, Fleet Street, E.C., as rapidly as possible. Season tickets (double) can be had, admitting the holder and one other to the Earl's Court Exhibition throughout the season, at a cost of half-a-guinea. Collectors intending to make the exhibition a regular rendezvous will do well to invest in a season ticket. Mr. Johnson will, no doubt, undertake to procure same for any who communicate direct with him on the subject.



Our Library Table

The Standard Postage Stamp Album (Vol. I. For British Empire Second Edition). Ipswich: Whitfield King & Co. Price 12/- to 40/-.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send me particulars and specimen pages of the new 1908 edition of their popular standard album (Vol. I. British Empire). As I stood sponsor—in the prefatory notes—to the first edition I am interested to find that the enterprise of this firm in publishing an album on the lines of their well-known catalogue is meeting with its due reward. Only the other day I was spending a delightful afternoon with Mr. Leon Adutt at his "Philatelic" Hotel, and the entertainment afforded by his beautiful collection, mounted in a Standard album, was for me the event of the Easter week-end.

The new Standard is in no sense a reprint of the first. Every page we are told has been altered and re-arranged, colour names corrected and various improvements introduced, the most important one being the avoidance of any two colonies being represented on the same page except in the case of colonies which are no longer issuing stamps.

The prices of the new edition run from 12/- to 40/-, and for the collector who is in earnest about his stamp collection we would recommend him to go in for one of the higher priced volumes on the loose leaf plan, for it is an economy in the long run, saving the occasionally necessary remounting of the stamps, which is always to their detriment in some degree, and also saving in expense of time and money. The leaves for Great Britain and Colonies, all linen hinged, and complete with spaces for all stamps issued up to February, 1909, can be had for 22/6.

The New Catalogue—Second Notice

BY THE EDITOR

In lieu of our usual feature "In the Stamp Market," we continue our notes on the prices in the new Catalogue. We would repeat that while some of the rarer stamps call for occasional notice, we have the more particularly directed our attention to the changes in the quotations for stamps generally to be found in the albums owned by the medium and general collector.

British Columbia.

2½d. rose unused 20s. to 22s. 6d.
1867 Perf. 14. 2c. unused 5s. to 7s. 6d.
25c. " 10s. to 12s.

British East Africa.

July, 1895. ½ anna dull brown, unused 15s. to 10s.
(drop), used 10s. to 8s. (drop).
1 anna green, unused 65s. to 40s. (drop),
used 40s. to 30s. (drop).
3 annas unused 10s. to 15s.
4 " " 7s 6d. to 10s.
8 " " 15s. to 20s., used 15s. to 20s.

Nov., 1895. 4 " slate green 6s. to 10s.

The 50r. lilac (Nov. '97) priced unused at £5 in 1908, is now described as mauve, and the price is advanced to £6.

British Guiana.

There are no changes to be noted in the rare circular stamps, nor in the PATIMUS, and the 1856 issues. The most notable changes occur in the dollar values of the 1888-9 provisionals.

1858. 1c. vermilion (variety a) used 60s. to 70s.
1c. red (variety c) with white line, now
priced at £5.
May, 1860. 4c. blue (variety b) unused 35s. to 25s.
(drop).
1867. The 8c. rose, perf 10, unused, is advanced
from 20s. to 30s., and a new shade rosy
mauve is included, priced 30s. unused,
7s. 6d. used.
1888-89. 2 dollars unused 18s. to 60s.
4 " " 35s. to 60s., used 30s. to 60s.
5 " " 30s. to 26s. (drop).
4 " (large figure) 60s. to £6.
1900-02. 60c. green and rosine, unused 10s. to 17s.

British Honduras.

A printer's error is here responsible for jumping the price of the 1s. green 1866, used from 15s. to £150! The 50c. (small surcharge) on 1s. grey CA., formerly priced at 60s. unused, is no longer priced; while the used, which was not priced in 1908, is now priced at 60s. The 50c. (large surcharge) on 1s. grey, unused 6s. to 7s. 6d.

British Solomon Islands.

Lithographed ½d. unused, 1d. to 4d.
1d. " 2d. to 6d.
2d. " 3d. to 9d.
2½d. " 4d. to 1s.
5d. " 7d. to 1s. 9d.
6d. " 8d. to 2s.
1s. " 1s. 4d. to 3s.

British Somaliland.

The single CA.'s are now priced used, up to the 12 annas. There are some substantial drops in the officials, and the 1s. bi-coloured Queen overprinted SERVICE, though still condemned as not issued, is offered for sale at 5s.

Officials.

1903 Queen. ½ anna unused 5s. to 3s. (drop).
1 " " 5s. to 3s. 6d. (drop).
2 " " 5s. to 4s. "
8 " " 10s. to 5s. "
1 rupee " 15s. to 6s. "
King. ½ anna " 5s. to 3s. "
1 " " 5s. to 4s. "
8 " " 10s. to 6s. "

British South Africa.

There are some drops to be noted here, the first type £5 used having fallen from 90s. to 60s., the 1s. of same type 4s. to 2s. 6d., and the March, 1891, provisionals

2d. on 6d. unused 60s. to 40s. (drop).
4d. on 6d. " 60s. to 40s. "
8d. on 1s. " 60s. to 40s. "

Brunei.

As illustrating the modern tendency for new issue collecting a number of the picture series of this Colony have risen notably.

1907. 1c. unused 1d. to 2d.
3c. " 2d. to 3d.
5c. " 3d. to 1s. 6d.
8c. " 4d. to 1s.
50c. " 1s. 9d. to 2s. 3d.
1 dollar unused 3s. 6d. to 5s.

Canada.

There is here a general tendency to rise; all issues of the Dominion should be very sound from the investment point of view.

1851, on laid paper. 6d. purple black, used 25s. to 30s.
6d. purple, used 25s. to 30s.
1852-7, on ordinary wove. 6d. greenish purple, used 24s. to 30s.
7½d. green, used 60s. to 70s.
thin paper. 6d. purple, used 25s. to 30s.
ribbed paper. 8d. vermilion, used 5s. to 7s. 6d.
1858, wove, perf. 12. 6d. purple brown, used £6 to £7.

The issue of 1859, 1868, and the Jubilee series all show rises in the prices of the medium stamps.

Cape of Good Hope.

1855-58. 1d. brick red, used 7s. 6d. to 10s.
1s. deep green, unused £5 to 90s. (drop).

Woodblocks.		1908.
1d. brick red	120s.	used.
1d. scarlet	110s.	"
4d. pale blue	70s.	"
4d. blue	60s.	"
4d. deep blue	160s.	"
		1909.
1d. vermilion	£6.	
1d. carmine	£7.	
1d. brick red	£9.	
4d. pale blue	80s.	
4d. greyish blue	80s.	
4d. blue	80s.	
4d. deep blue	£10.	

Cayman Islands.

These much discussed stamps have had such a good advertisement from all the well-intentioned connoisseurs of all that is speculative and unnecessary in modern issues, that it is not surprising to find the demand for them has caused some rise in the prices. It is worthy of note that not a single stamp of these islands is priced *used*.

1900	½d. unused	2d. to 3d.
1901	2½d.	" 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d.
	6d.	" 3s. 9d. to 4s. 6d.
	1s.	" 10s. to 12s. 6d.
1905	½d.	" 1d. to 4d.
	1d.	" 2d. to 1s.
	2½d.	" 4d. to 9d.
	6d.	" — to 3s.
	1s.	" — to 6s.

The only surcharged value priced is the 1d. on 5s. priced at £1. Prices are now lacking for the April, 1907, 4d., 6d., 1s. and 5s.

Ceylon.

1857-59	2d. yellow-green, unused, 15s. to 20s.
	6d. deep claret or purple-brown, now priced at £10.
	1s. 9d. green, formerly priced at £5 10s. 0d. is now left unpriced, but the 1s. 9d. yellow-green formerly unpriced is now listed at £10 unused.
1861	5d. clean cut perf., used, 4s. 6d. to 6s.
	1s. dull violet, used, 6s. to 7s. 6d.
	9d. rough perf., unused, 50s. to 60s.
	1s. dull violet, " 20s. to 25s.
	The 6d. olive-brown, now priced at £8. unused.
	8d. yellow-brown, " £18. "
	2s. deep blue " £3. "
1864	10d. orange, wmk. star, used 6s. to 10s.
1869-90	Surcharge 2c. on 4c., the three rare shades are all levelled up to 30s. unused, 20s. used.

Cook Islands.

1892 Toned paper, 10d. unused, 7s. 6d. to 10s.
All values except the 1d. are now unpriced *used*.
White paper, 2½d. blue, 1s. 6d. to 2s.

Dominica.

1903 Pictorial 3d. unused, 5d. to 1s.
6d. " 8d. to 1s.
1s. used, 1s. 4d. to 2s.

The three high values 2s., 2s. 6d. and 5s. are now unpriced *used* and unused.

1907-8 Multiple. 2½d. bicol., unused, 4d. to 9d.

East Africa and Uganda.

1903-4 1 rupee, used, 3s. to 4s.
1906-7 1 rupee, unused, 1s. 9d. to 2s.

Falkland Islands.

1894. ½d. on half of 1d., unused 10s. to 15s., used 12s. 6d. to 15s.
1898. 2s. 6d. unused 7s. 6d. to 15s.
5s. " 12s. 6d. to 15s.

Fiji.

The catalogue has been re-written, the new list being based on Mr. C. J. Phillip's *magnum opus*.

Gambia.

There are slight increases in the 1d. and 2½d. CA embossed stamps.

1d. CA (Cameo) unused 6d. to 9d., used 8d. to 1s.
2½d. " " " 9d. to 1s.

We are not altogether surprised to find the 1902 King single wmk., 1s. 6d., 2s. 6d. and 3s. values dropped in spite of the statements which got abroad regarding the numbers printed of these three denominations. We read in the new issue chronicles that 6000 only were supposed to be printed of each of these three denominations. When it is recalled that 3,780 of the 2s. 6d. value were overprinted for the provisional ½d. of April, 1906, and 4,500 of the 3s. were overprinted for the 1d. provisional, if any faith were to be pinned to the 6,000 fable, we should have a residue of 2,220 of the 2s. 6d. value unsurcharged, and 1,500 of the 3s. value unsurcharged.

Yet after a lapse of several years since their issue we find the unsurcharged stamps still to be had in plenty though considerable numbers must have by this time been absorbed in private collections. In fact, the stamps are still current in the Colony. The changes in the new Gibbons' prices for these values are:—

1902 King single wmk.
1s. 6d. unused, 5s. to 2s. 6d.; used 6s. to 2s. 6d.
2s. 6d. " 6s. to 4s.; " 6s. to 4s.
3s. " 7s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.; " 7s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.

To be continued.

Jamaica Jottings

BY ASTLEY CLERK.

From the Jamaica Times.

The J. P. A.

Mrs. Few, the Secretary of the *Jamaica Philatelic Association*, takes exception to just one line in the paragraph entitled "Proposed Club" for study in our last column, and sends us the following communication:—"I have just been reading the *Times* philatelic column, and regret that you should have mentioned the J.P.A. as you have done, you are quite correct in saying that we hold no gatherings, nor give lectures, but to say that we

club has not a dozen members is incorrect, and I must ask you, on behalf of the Association, to correct this as it will otherwise give a wrong impression to philatelists desiring to join. The *Jamaica Philatelic Association* was established in 1893, and is therefore 16 years old—during which time we have had over 130 members. The Earthquake of January 14th, 1907, reduced our numbers considerably, as many suffered so much loss (some even losing their entire collection) that they were unable to

continue their membership. Since then we have had an average membership of twenty. The J.P.A. was formed to assist and promote stamp collecting in the Island by exchanging. While I agree with you that a Club to hold meetings to study stamps and read papers would assist our holding, I do not see why you should have written so slightly of such an old Association as ours; it can serve no good and only creates a wrong idea; it would have been more to the mark if you had, as a keen philatelist, advised collectors desiring to exchange to join us—and no doubt each club would be helpful to the other. Perhaps in your next issue you will publish these facts about the J.P.A., and so correct the wrong impression your circular will cause." On reference to the paragraph to which Mrs. Few takes exception it will be seen that the objectionable line is portion of a *circular* for which I did not claim authorship, still I endorsed it, and so will accept the correction—I am glad that Mrs. Few agrees with the idea of study suggested in the circular, and will be obliged if she will bring the matter to the notice of her membership. Readers who wish to *Exchange* their duplicates will get all information about the J.P.A. from Mrs. Few.

The Ser-ets.

Linn writes asking if I have ever seen the *Ser-i-et* variety of the *Ser-ets* as she has got the ½d. and 2½d. among her set. Yes! I have the stamp. I wonder if Linn knows the *Sep et* variety copies of which are also in my collection, as well as the *Servict* variety. These *Ser-ets*

are worth studying as one can easily trace the deterioration of the letters, commencing with the V, until the error and its varieties appear.

U.S. Proposal.

A Massachusetts Congressman proposes to make U.S. stamps usable in England for mail matter for the U.S. and vice-versa—his object "to facilitate exchange between the two countries and render it practicable to maintain a more satisfactory postal arrangement." What will Britain say?

Our Last.

The well known Queen's Head 2s Jamaica has at last made its appearance with the multiple watermark. The multiple list now stands as follows:—

Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf. 14.

½d.	Green and Black	Arms.
½d.	Green	
1d.	Carmine and Black	
1d.	Carmine	
2½d.	Ultramarine and Black	
3d.	Olive Green	Queen's Head.
4d.	Orange Brown	
5d.	Orange and Black	Arms.
6d.	Orange	Queen's Head.
1s.	Purple Brown	
2s.	Red Brown	
5s.	Violet and Black	Arms.

Philatelic Dictionary

BY B. W. H. POOLE

(Continued from page 19).

Norddeutscher Postbezirk.—The inscription shown upon the stamps of the North German Confederation, meaning "North German Postal Circuit."

Norge.—The Norwegian equivalent for "Norway" as shown upon the stamps of that country.

North Borneo.—The territory of the British North Borneo Company, officially known as the "State of North Borneo," occupies the northern part of the island of Borneo, and has a total area of 31,000 square miles with a coast line of over 900 miles. The population numbers about 175,000, consisting mainly of Mohammedan settlers on the coast and aboriginal tribes inland, with some Chinese traders and artisans. The interior is mountainous, Mount Kinabalu being 13,000 feet high, and is thickly wooded. The chief town, Sandakan, is on the north-east coast. The appointment of the Governor is subject to the approval of the Secretary of State. Postage stamps were first issued in 1883.

Northern Nigeria.—The protectorate was established on January 1st, 1900, and includes the northern portion of the territories formerly administered by the Royal Niger Company. It is bounded on the south by Southern Nigeria, on the west and north by the French possessions in the hinterland of Dahomey and the Soudan, and on the east by Lake Chad and the German territory of the Cameroons. Since the occupation of Kano and Sokoto in 1903, steps have been taken for the establishment of administrative control over the whole of the Protectorate, of which the area is about 256,400 square miles, while the population has been estimated at about nine millions. Postage stamps were issued in March, 1900—three months after the establishment of the Protectorate.

North German Confederation.—A confederation of German States of which Prussia was the chief—formed after the Austro-Prussian War of 1866. The first meeting of the North German Parliament took place at Berlin in February, 1867. Later in the year the postal rights of Thurn and Taxis were purchased by Prussia, and this led to the formation of a general postal system for the whole of the Confederation. The new service was inaugurated on January 1st, 1868, and special postage stamps were issued, these remaining in use until they were superseded by the issue for the German Empire on January 1st, 1872.

Norway.—An independent kingdom of Europe, forming the western portion of the Scandinavian peninsula. It has an area of 124,130 square miles and a population of nearly 2½ millions. It has an eventful history, dating from 872, but space prevents even a brief synopsis of this. In 1814 it was united to Sweden under the same King, but from that time until the union was ultimately dissolved, in 1905, Norway's constant endeavour was to obtain absolute independence. Its Parliament of 123 members is called the "Storting," which is divided into two sections, chosen by itself, to discuss projected bills, called "Odelsting" and "Lagting." Postage stamps were first issued in January, 1855.

Nossi Be.—A volcanic island, belonging to France, situated six miles off the north-west coast of Madagascar. It is fourteen miles long, has an average breadth of nine miles, while its total area is 130 square miles. Its population numbers about 10,000. Postage stamps were first issued in 1889, but in 1896 special stamps were superseded by the issue for Madagascar and Dependencies.

To be continued.

Single Issue Specialism

BY FRED J. MELVILLE

Gambia Embossed Issue of 1886-87

THE subject of single issue specialism has been brought very much to the front recently through the articles on the subject in *The Postage Stamp*. Few issues are better suited to the moderate specialist than the embossed stamps of Gambia on paper watermarked Crown and CA. The stamps are by no means unobtainable and are not very costly. The moderate specialist who has to avoid countries which print their stamps in very large sheets has the opportunity of acquiring complete sheets (comprising, as they do, only 15 stamps to the sheet) in the Cameo type of Gambia.

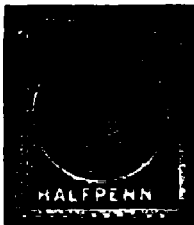
Another advantage which these stamps possess is that although they are very popular they have not by any means been exhausted as a field for study. There is plenty still to be learned about them, and in the present article we shall content ourselves rather with indicating the lines on which the collector can work out the different classes of varieties for which he may search.

The values on CA paper began to appear in May, 1886, when the 2½d. and 3d. were issued. The Royal Society's work on Africa gives July, 1886 as the date of the 4d. and September of the same year for the 6d. and 1s. The ½d., 1d. and 2d. appeared in the following year, 1887.

Colour Varieties.

These are fairly numerous, several distinct colours or shades denoting the different printings which we may summarise as follows:—

- ½d. grey green, myrtle green
- 1d. carmine, rose carmins, crimson
- 2d. orange yellow, orange, deep orange
- 2½d. pale ultramarine, deep ultramarine
- 3d. grey, slate grey, pearl grey
- 4d. brown, deep brown
- 6d. olive green, bronze green, grey green
- 1s. violet, deep violet



Catalogue Values.

The 1909 Gibbons shows just a slight tendency to increase in this issue, and it will be noted that only two or three of the colour varieties are at present priced at more than 1s. to 2s.

	Unused		Used.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
½d. myrtle green	0	3	0	6
½d. grey green	0	3	0	6
1d. crimson	0	9	1	0
1d. pale carmine	0	9	1	0
2d. orange	1	3	2	0
2d. deep orange	1	3	2	0
2½d. ultramarine	1	6	1	6
2½d. deep blue	1	0	1	6

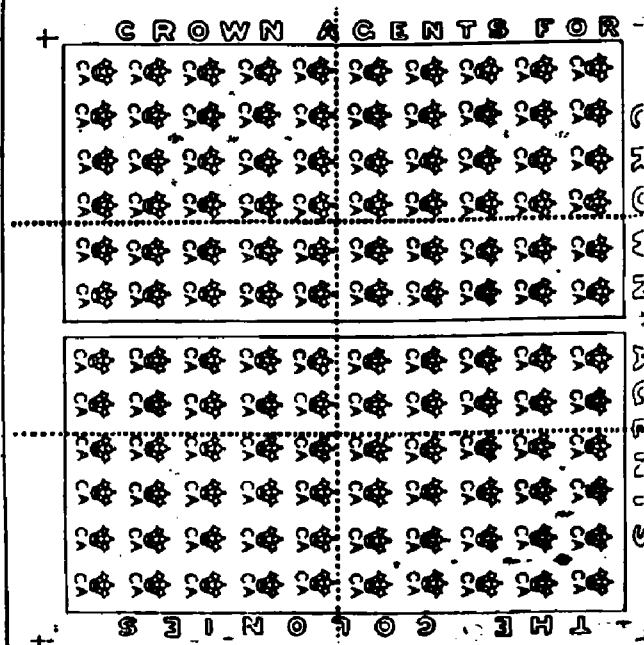
3d. slate grey	1	6	2	6
3d. grey	1	6	2	6
4d. brown	1	3	2	0
4d. deep brown	1	3	2	0
6d. slate green	2	0	4	0
6d. olive green	17	6	6	0
6d. bronze green	4	0	—	—
6d. deep bronze green	10	0	—	—
1s. violet	2	6	4	0
1s. deep violet	10	6	5	6

Varieties of Impression.

All the values are known with the embossed design double, some of them are also known with the double embossing but with one of the embossed impressions inverted. None of these have yet been included in the catalogue, but a little bird whispers that they are not unknown to the good people who make catalogues and catalogue prices. We have had the ½d. (? shade) reported in this latter variety and have seen the 1s. violet similarly embossed.

Watermark Varieties.

The formation of the watermarks in the sheets of the "Crown CA" paper is fairly well known. Suffice it to say here that the watermark is arranged to fit sheets of stamps printed in panes of sixty in ten horizontal rows of six stamps. Two such panes are printed side by side. The embossed stamps of Gambia being printed only in sheets of 15 on this paper the paper has had to be cut up in such a way that portions of the marginal watermarks occur on the stamps, and in every case where the "Crown CA" watermark appears it is sideways.





The diagram shows by means of the dotted lines how a half sheet of watermarked paper was cut into six pieces for the Gambia stamps of this issue.

The normal position of the Crown CA is from left to right but it is to be found inverted, i.e., from right to left, such varieties being however remarkably scarce. The watermark varieties may be summed up:—

Normal (left to right).

Inverted (right to left).

Showing portions of the words CROWN AGENTS

“ ” “ ” division lines of the panes
It is of course possible that they may be found with the watermark reversed, and also reversed and inverted, but we have not encountered these varieties in this issue though they are known to us in the earlier “ Crown CC ” issues.

Gum.

All the values exist with two apparently different gums, one being a smooth colourless gum, and the other is a coarser gum of a brownish-yellow colour.

Varieties on the Plates.

There are numbers of small defects in the plates, but only a few important ones. The well known top corner varieties of the 6d. are among the most prominent. The label containing the word GAMBIA on stamp 1 on the sheets of the early printings of this issue of the 6d. slants to the left, while the last stamp on the top row has the label slanting to the right. The entire top row is defective, stamps 2, 3 and 4 being slightly larger than the stamps in rows 2 and 3.

The defect in this plate was the cause of the introduction of a new plate without these varieties in the top row. The new plate was only printed in the grey green colour.

Among the other prominent varieties on the plates the 3d. value, stamp No. 2 on the plate shows an elongated left stroke to the letter M of GAMBIA, while stamp No. 5 on the same plate shows a long right stroke of the same letter.

Marginal Varieties on the Plate.

All the plates from which these stamps were printed

had three printer's guide dots in the right hand margin and one dot in the left margin. In the final printing of the 3d. the positions of these dots were reversed, there being three in the left hand margin and only one at the right. This of course only shews in the complete sheet, and it only occurs in the pearl grey colour.

Perforation Varieties.

The sheets of this issue were all perforated by comb machines which perforated three sides of all the stamps in one row at a time. There were two different comb machines employed for this issue. They can however only be distinguished in sheets, both machines gauging 14. In the sheets perforated by the first comb there are two rows of perforation down the right hand margin of the sheet as in our illustration. The narrow spaced lines of perforation were originally made to perforate between the panes of stamps on a sheet of ordinary De la Rue type of colonial issues. In the second comb perforator employed for these Gambia stamps there is no such line.

In collecting complete sheets of these stamps it is also possible to distinguish between sheets which have been passed into the perforating machine top first and those which have been passed into the machine upside down.

Part double and treble perforations are known of several of the values.

We have not by any means exhausted the possibilities of the embossed CA issue of Gambia, but sufficient has been outlined to shew the interest and variety which these stamps afford.

The illustrations which accompany our notes have been lent by the publishers of the Melville Stamp Book (No. 4) on Gambia, which contains a very full and copiously illustrated account of the postal emissions of this colony.

Note.

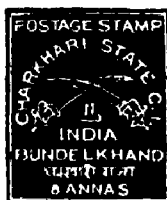
For special offers of the stamps of this colony see Mr. W. H. Peckitt's advertisement in this week's number of "The Postage Stamp."

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

Charkari.—(Vol. IV. p. 44).—We append an illustration of the design of the new stamps recorded in our last number.



Colombia.—(Vol. IV. p. 8).—*Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* reports the discovery of a copy of the 5 pesos, purple, of 1908-4, perf. 11½, 12. Hitherto this stamp has only been known imperforate.

Crete.—(Vol. IV. p. 32).—We learn from *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* that the 5 lepta has appeared with the ELLAS surcharge in large block capitals in red and that the 1 drachma has been issued with the overprint in large fancy capitals similar to the surcharge on the 5 dr. chronicled on page 32. The "E" of ELLAS in this surcharge is round instead of square, and we understand that this overprint is lithographed. The list of varieties in the new types is as follows:—

Surcharged "ΕΛΛΑΣ" in block capitals in red.

	s.	d.
1l. chocolate	0	1
2l. lilac	0	1
5l. green	0	2

Surcharged "ΕΛΛΑΣ" in fancy capitals.

	s.	d.
1 dr. green and black (of 1907)	1	3
5 dr. olive green and black (of 1905)	6	0

Cucuta.—According to *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* the 5 centavos, blue on yellow of 1905 has been found surcharged with all four types of the "2 Cts" overprint in blue, so there are four more varieties to be added to the already appalling list of the 1906 provisionals.

Crete. (Austrian).—(Vol. II. p. 286).—We understand that the 25c. has been issued on white paper instead of blue paper as before. The design is similar to the Austrian stamp illustrated below, but with the word "CENTIMES" between the numerals at the base.



No wmk.	Perf. 12½.	s.	d.
5c. green on yellow	0	1
10c. carmine on pink	0	2
15c. chocolate on buff	0	3
25c. deep blue on blue	0	4
25c. deep blue	—	—
50c. red on yellow	0	7
1fr. deep brown on grey	1	2

Liberia.—As we go to press we have received a full set of the new Liberia stamps designed, engraved and printed by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., Ltd., of London. For the present we must refer our readers to a full and detailed description of these beautiful stamps in our "Stop Press" Column on page 60. The values are ten in number from 1 to 75 cents and are all bi-coloured. The same plates have been used in separate coloured combinations to provide a set of Officials, all of which are overprinted "OS" in script (see page 60).

Morocco Agencies.—(Vol. IV. p. 44).—A correspondent informs *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* that he has the 10c. on 1d. with the control letter "H9"—a variety that has not yet been placed on sale in Great Britain. The complete list of the control letters is as follows:—

	s.	d.
5c. on 1d. ... F6, G7	0	1
10c. on 1d. ... F6, G7, G8, H9	0	2
1d. ... F6	0	1
1d. ... F6	0	2

New Hebrides Condominium.—(Vol. III. p. 299).—The *Australian Philatelist* publishes some interesting notes regarding these stamps. We understand that the first supply were conveyed from Fiji on board H.M.S. *Prometheus* which was due to arrive at Port Vila on Oct. 12th. The lot was of a total face value of £593 5s. and consisted of the following quantities:—

1d. ...	6,000
1d. ...	15,000
2d. ...	10,800
2½d. ...	15,000
5d. ...	5,000
6d. ...	3,000
1/- ...	1,440

Our contemporary states:—"Instructions were issued that these stamps were not to be sold in large quantities to speculators or others, and we believe that this resolution has been carried into effect. Some of the values were exhausted, and a second supply arrived at Vila on the 12th January. They were put on sale on the 16th and consisted of an exactly similar parcel to the one above mentioned, and the surcharge shows not the slightest difference from the first series.

"The New Caledonian stamps with the surcharge arrived somewhat later at Port Vila than the Fijians, and were surcharged in Paris; and, to the disgust of the local authorities, some were sold to speculators and others before being sent to New Hebrides."

Orange River Colony.—(Vol. III. p. 70).—According to *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* the 1s. on the paper with multiple watermark has been issued. It will be remembered that, as recorded on page 33 of our last volume, a supply of these stamps was despatched to the Colony last October. The list of values on the new paper is now as follows:—

Wmk. Multiple Cr. CA.	Perf. 14.
1d. green.	...
1d. carmine.	...
4d. sage green and scarlet.	...
1/- bistre and scarlet.	...

Peru.—(Vol. IV. p. 44).—Below we give an illustration of one of the values of the new set recorded on page 44 which was unfortunately crowded out of our last number.



Rhodesia.—(Vol. IV. p. 32).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., the Secretary of the British South Africa Company, and Mr. A. H. Harris have shown us specimens of the new stamps surcharged "RHODESIA." The overprint is in fancy capitals, as illustrated below, and in addition to the values previously in use, 5d., 7½d., 10d. and 2s. ones have been issued. These are formed by means of surcharges—large figures in the case of the three pence values and in words for the 2s. Both types are illustrated below.

The complete list of values is as follows:—



Stamps of the British South Africa Company surcharged "RHODESIA." No. wmk. Perf. 14 to 15.

	s. d.
½d. green	0 1
1d. bright rose	0 2
2d. brown	0 3
2½d. blue	0 4
3d. claret	0 5
4d. olive	0 6
5d. on 6d. purple	0 7
6d. purple	0 8
7½d. on 2/6 bluish grey	0 10
10d. on 3/- deep violet	1 1
1/- bistre buff	1 3
2/- on 5/- orange	2 6
2/6 bluish grey	3 0
3/- deep violet	3 6
5/- orange	6 0
7/6 black	9 0
10/- dull green	12 0
£1 grey purple	23 6

The surcharge "RHODESIA" is, in most cases, printed right across the centre of the stamp. The overprints appear to be lithographed, and in many cases the stop is joined to the word. New printings of all values were, we believe, made for the purposes of this issue, and the shades of several of the denominations differ considerably from those of the unsurcharged stamps. We have seen

two quite distinct shades of the 6d., one being much paler than the other.

Surinam.—(Vol. III. p. 287).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have shown us a new variety of the locally produced 5c. stamp which we illustrate below. This is perforated 11½ × 10½ instead of being rouletted. We understand from *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* that 50,000 of these perforated stamps have been printed.



Provisional Issue. Rouletted 13½.

	s. d.
5c. red	0 6
5c. red	0 3

Tasmania.—(Vol. IV. p. 32).—The *Australian Philatelist* records the current 9d. stamp on Crown A paper with some curious perforation varieties, viz.:—perf. 11 on three sides and 12 on the other; perf. 11 on three sides and 12½ on the other; and perf. 11 on three sides and 12½ and 12 on the other! Our contemporary explains these vagaries as follows:—"The 9d. has also come along in both perfs., and we have likewise seen the latter value in a variety of compound perfs. (on both machines) of 11, 12, and 12½, as well as some stamps with a badly perforated line pasted over and the same stamp re-perforated. These are known as mixed perfs. It would appear that these stamps had been perforated on the 11 machine in Melbourne, and that subsequently it was discovered that some lines were missed, mostly marginal lines, and the defect was remedied on the 12½ machine. On arrival in Hobart it would appear that some rows were still overlooked, and the use of the 12 machine in that office was brought into requisition."

NOTE.

The Prices affixed are those at which Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. will supply any of the stamps chronicled that may be in stock.

The stamps are supplied at lower rates to subscribers to their *New Issue Service*, particulars of which can be had on application to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich.

The Prices quoted are for unused.

Notes on the Sunday Label Stamps of Belgium

BY F. E. WILSON

SO far as I am aware, these stamps have never been seriously specialised in by any British philatelist. The idea is that all letters franked by a stamp with this label will not be delivered on Sundays; if the sender wishes his letter delivered on that day, the label must be torn off or the inscription (which

is in two languages, French and Flemish) struck out. These singular and to this day unique stamps appeared in 1893, and at the time were ridiculed on all sides, notably by the eminent Belgian philatelist, the late M. Moens; but having now stood the test of time for sixteen years, they must have some advantages, otherwise a

practical people like the Belgians would hardly have tolerated them for so long a period.

The decree authorizing their issue was signed by King Leopold II. at Laeken, near Brussels, on May 14th, 1893, and the formal announcement of the values composing the set and their colours appeared on the following day, signed by the then Minister of Railways, Posts, and Telegraphs, M. Vandenspeersboom.

All the regular issues from 1893 to date have appeared in sheets of 300 stamps (six panes of 50 each, 5 x 10). The marginal inscriptions are very interesting, and consist of the control mark, "*Atelier du Timbre*," in three lines, contained in a double-lined frame, the whole being printed in the colour of stamp; then "*Dépôt 1893*," or whatever the year of printing, all on one line and also in a double-lined frame, but printed in black; and finally the most important inscription, which reads, "*Timbres Poste à 2 Cmes.* [respectively 5c., 10c., or 1fr., &c.], No. . . ." The whole being printed in *vermilion* on the first sheets and applied vertically down or up the margins. On the later printings this inscription is printed in *carmine lake* and the wording slightly altered, thus: "*Timbres Poste de*," &c. All the above-mentioned inscriptions are usually only found once on each entire sheet of 300 stamps, and generally on the right hand lower pane, there being invariably three upper and three lower panes. The stamps are always perforated 14 x 14.

A number of minor errors exist, caused by the *clichés* becoming defective or by the introduction of a foreign body on to the plate, which would ultimately cause such defects. Only those I have actually seen are listed below.

The ten values of the 1893 set appeared in the following order:—10c. June 1st; 2c., 20c. and 25c., August 1st; 1c. and 5c., September 1st; 50c. and 1fr., October 1st; and finally, 35c. and 2fr., November 1st.

The three low values (1c., 2c., and 5c.) show the Belgian Arms on a mantle, and the inscription, "Belgium Posts," in French and Flemish. The engravers' initials, H.H. and A.D., in microscopic letters, can be found beneath "*POSTERIJEN*." The values 10c. to 2fr. show the head of the King to left, with inscriptions in the two languages as on the low values, the design (for the 10c. to 2fr.) being identical with that of the 35c. issued in 1891, with the addition of the Sunday label, which, it should be carefully noted, is connected by ornamentation with the upper portion of the stamp (on all values, 1c. to 2fr.).

The first printings are on a fairly stout white wove paper, in very marked contrast to the later ones, which come on thinner much more highly surfaced paper. There is a wide range of shades of most of the values, owing to the large quantities used and the long time the stamps were in use.

All Belgian stamps are printed at the Government Printing Works at Malines, where they were transferred about 1867 from Brussels, and, owing to the strict and efficient control, errors of perforation, part pers., imperis., and other oddities (which abound in the modern issues of the neighbouring country of France), are almost entirely unknown.

The following is a brief reference list of the principal shades and minor varieties:—

10c., varying from very pale to deep red brown. A rather scarce minor variety of this value has a short broken Δ in the word "*PAS*" of the Sunday label, thus, "*P^sAS*."

2c., yellow, shows but slight variation of colour, as it was changed in the following year.

A sheet of this value is said to have been accidentally printed on the watermarked paper used for the Parcel Post stamps, and this variety has been chronicled for

years in Scott's Catalogue. I have never seen it, and it should be very well worth looking for.

20c. varies from very pale to deep olive green. The last printing (*Dépôt 1904*) is a distinct greyish olive green, quite different to any of the others.

25c. varies enormously, and we have dull ultramarine for the first printing, then pale ultramarine to deep ultramarine in a wide range of shades. This value gives us the most interesting error of the set, viz., no ball to "5" in left upper corner. This very marked error is said to have occurred so far back as 1894, which I can confirm from two extreme shades of the error, which undoubtedly come from very early printings. Curiously, it was never corrected, and I remember picking them out of the sheets at the Antwerp Post Office in 1903, and have a full pane of the last printing of 1904, on which Nos. 7 and 32 are the errors, and they are repeated on all the other five panes, giving twelve errors to the whole sheet. It is the only error of this series which has attained to (Gibbons) catalogue rank.

1c. The first printing was a distinct pale grey, quite different to any of the later colours; then a wide range of intermediate printings, grey, deep grey, iron grey, &c.; and finally, from 1905 to the last printing of 1906, shades of pale bluish grey, which are totally different to the first printing.

5c. Green, dull green, and pale green for the first printings, many shades of bright yellow green for the intermediate printings, and for the final printing of 1907 an absolutely distinct pale yellow green. Two interesting types of "7" in the *millésime* of "*Dépôt 1907*" are found, the first and rarer one being "7" and the second one "7."

The principal minor variety on this value has an inverted "r" for "i" in the word "*POSTERIJEN*," which therefore reads "*POSTERIJEN*." It is very marked, and occurred so far back as 1894. I believe it is only found on the first printings (green), and that it was quickly corrected.

50c. varies only slightly from pale to medium bistre brown.

1fr., carmine on green, ranges widely from deep carmine on bright green to pale carmine on the very palest green (almost white); but as this combination of colours is very susceptible to light, the very pale ones may possibly be accounted for by having faded.

35c. gives us a very interesting range of shades, the first printings being deep chocolate, which gradually became paler; the intermediate period produced shades of purple brown and reddish brown; a late and distinct printing is pale reddish chocolate, easily distinguishable by being on the highly surfaced paper. The last printing (*Dépôt 1904*) is a totally different rosy brown.

This value is used for internal Express letters.

2fr., lilac on rose, presents little variation of shade, although specimens which have been circulating about usually become gradually paler.

To be continued.

Index and Binding Covers.

The Index to Volume III. of *The Postage Stamp* is circulated with this issue.

Binding covers in navy blue buckram, gilt-lettered side and back are supplied by the publishers, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Amen Corner, London. Price 1s. 6d.

Readers sending their sets of numbers to Baldwins, Grosvenor Printing Works, Newton Road, Tunbridge Wells, can have them bound in the publishers covers at an inclusive charge of 2s. 9d. per volume, post free.

Simple Life in Stamp Collecting

BY C. A. HOWES, F.R.P.S.L.

From the Year Book of the American Philatelic Society

ONCE upon a time there were no stamp collectors. That was nearly seventy years ago. But within the following decade it is safe to say there must have been a few attracted by the novel bits of paper who desired to retain them as curios, and stamp collecting was begun. Then, in due course, about twenty years after the birth of the adhesive stamp, we find the dealers' advertisements beginning to appear. Now what were the prime features that led these early collectors and dealers to discriminate between their treasures? Simply these: The country of origin, the denomination, the design and the colour. And it is these four items that stand pre-eminent to-day, though almost lost sight of in the mass of detail and minutiae, even, which load down our catalogues and encumber our albums.

"Rank heresy!" I hear some one say. Maybe; but there are plenty of heretics and there are going to be more! It is always thus. Man cannot seem to rest content with elementary considerations; he must build a house of cards upon them, wing added to wing, story to story, tower to tower, until the whole mass comes tumbling down in a common ruin. That this would be the result of the development of modern philately, particularly along the so-called "doty" lines, has been the fear of many who have the best interests of the pursuit at heart, and a true appreciation of its merits as a hobby. It is these who have raised the cry for the simplified catalogue and the simplified collection; who have voiced the protest against overloaded catalogues, against "bloated" collections, against the "microscopic" philately which is forcing a collector to be a millionaire, and turning away in despair and disgust the novice and the amateur who might, if led in the right direction, prove future mainstays in the cause.

Let us consider a moment what has crept in since the early days to cause all this confusion of detail. In the first place *watermarks*—which are invisible when the stamp is in its place in the album. Secondly, *perforation*—merely a convenience for separating the stamps by breaking the paper between. The early collectors often trimmed off the perforation to improve the appearance of the stamp—which to them was the main thing. Third, varieties in the *paper used*—mostly not apparent when the stamp is mounted in the collection. Fourth, varieties of *type*, which may or may not be visible without a magnifier. Fifth, varieties of *surcharge*—as much of a bugbear as the perforations. Sixth and lastly, *shades*—which at least have the merit of lending "variety" to the appearance of the album page when they are well chosen. In scanning this list, pray tell me if there is anything that affects essentially the *stamp itself*, which is of course none other than the impressed design, unless it be type varieties and shades? And if one omits these as trivialities has he not returned to the "first principles" already enumerated? They are the "big four" of philately, and furnish the true basis for the "simple life" in collecting.

There is an old adage: "You may lead a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink," and its application in philately comes in just at this point. You can form rules for the guidance of the novice and the amateur; you can point out the important things and the trivialities; you can simplify lists and catalogues,—all that is easy; but how are you going to make collectors follow them? As my friend Luff says: "They are

all so afraid of losing a 'snap,' or selling something for less than it is worth, that they all want the most elaborate list, even the small boy." The specialist sets the pace and all must needs follow, no matter at what distance or what trouble and expense to themselves.

I hear some one say: We recognize all this, but what do you propose to do to change it or cure it? It never can be cured, for as long as human nature and particularly the collecting instinct remain what they are, so long will the desire not to miss anything that might prove "rare" lead to the demand for the fullest information possible, even by the tyro. It can simply be combatted by the "iconoclasts," if such you want to call them, by a campaign of education. This has already begun. You have all noted articles which have been appearing in the magazines on various phases of this very subject, and have noticed that they are growing more frequent. That means recruits. They may have ideas much at variance, but the germ is there. Simplified albums and catalogues have already appeared; that means more recruits. And bye-and-bye, perhaps, we shall have a majority of collectors who recognize the impossible, and are willing to seek more pleasure, even if less profit, from the possible.

All of the foregoing must not be construed as directed against specializing. Far from it. Specialism is necessary and desirable, for it produces a mine of information about the subject which is useful to all concerned, which points out many a pitfall and clears up many a knotty point.

Nor is it meant to turn any collector away from specializing if he desires. Far from that, too. When the collector reaches a point where his interest is deep enough, by all means let him specialize, for perhaps he can add his mite to the sum total of our knowledge, while the zest of original research is no small pleasure for the true investigator. But to quote again: "Let the specialists follow the handbooks and have all the fun they can with perforations and minor varieties, only don't force them on the rest of collectors. The man who attempts general collecting to-day practically has to specialize the whole world, if he follows the catalogues." That is the gist of the whole matter. The catalogues have become practically specialists' handbooks, and every purchaser thinks he must "go the limit," with the result that many are discouraged after a short trial, even if not at the outset.

My own preference would be for a properly classified catalogue, which admitted to the consecutive numbering of its lists only the varieties of prime importance, and relegated all minor varieties to sub-lettering, etc. This would combine the simplified catalogue with the added advantage of the specialists' handbook. But the difficulty would be greater, perhaps, in educating the collector to recognize the fact that these major varieties, numbered consecutively, were his breakfast food and in keeping him from casting envious eyes too soon upon the specialists' mutton. All hail to the actually simplified catalogues, then, and to those who have had the temerity and good sense to publish them. May the campaign go on until the tyro, the novice and the amateur recognize that these are his primers, that they really contain all the essentials, and that greater happiness, more contentment, and less expense will be found along their pathway. This will make far more collectors, better collectors in the end, and consequently greater benefit to our pursuit.

Stop Press News

NEW LIBERIAN STAMPS.

AN ARTISTIC TRIUMPH FOR PERKINS
BACON & Co.

A new issue of the 10 lower values, 1 to 75 cents, of Liberian Postage Stamps has just been made. Strikingly original as was the last issue in 1906, this issue, which may be called the "landscape series" certainly surpasses it. All the stamps have been designed, engraved, and printed from steel plates by that well known firm of stamp engravers, Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. Ltd.

The 1 cent gives a view in a coffee plantation in Liberia, with hills in the distance, the frame being simple arabesque in style with numerals in the upper corners, and a few coffee beans at each side.

The 2 cents, with a small portrait of President Barclay, from a very life-like photograph by Messrs. Fradelle and Young, has rather a more ornate style of frame, with numeral in left-hand bottom corner.

The 5 cents is perhaps one of the most remarkable "seascape" stamps ever seen. The Liberian gunboat "Lark" is seen lying with steam up ready to protect the shores of the Republic, the effect of the Postal Union blue sea and sky being very pretty. A rope frame with the usual knots, with numerals in lifebuoys in the bottom corners, completes a very unique stamp.

The 10 cents is triangular in form, with allegorical figure representing Commerce, with anchor, &c.

The 15 cents shows a native woman making cotton thread, sitting under the branches of a huge tree, with her bowl of carded cotton; holding the spool high in her left hand, she twists it rapidly and the thread is drawn off by the right. Numerals are in both bottom corners and palms overshadow the vignette in a graceful manner.

The 20 cents is one of the "plant series," showing the Malagueta pepper plant, a native of Liberia, with its leaves and flowers. The frame, with numerals in left bottom corner, is a suggestion of Borassus palm leaves, blending very prettily with the pepper plant.

The 25 cents gives the idea of a calendar or show-card, but instead of the almanac, a pretty native view of palms, and hills in the background, is shown.

In the 30 cents, one colour stamp, we have a larger and a very striking portrait of the President. Such an effect as is shown in this stamp is only possible in plate work; surface

printed stamps can never show the like.

The 50 cents stamp has been pronounced the most beautiful of the series. (Personally, we would give the palm to the 25c.). The four natives in their "dug-out" canoe, three rowing, one steering, on the broad river, with the jungle foliage in the background, show a typical native scene. The frame with the "travelers' tree," a wonderful kind of palm tree of the country, on either side, gives an appropriate surrounding. Our copy of this stamp shows a guide (hair) line, in black extending from top to bottom of the stamps and bi-sectioning the letter T of "CENT."

The 75 cents is, we suppose, one of the most singular and extraordinary, and at the same time appropriate stamps ever designed. The last of the series of views is, most suitably, an album of views! (or is it a stamp album for Librarian issues?). No similar stamp has, to our knowledge, ever been printed. It shows the book, as accurately as circumstances will allow, and on the cover is a label with a pretty view of a native village. The illusion is complete, and we can only commend the designers of this elegantly devised novelty for their ingenuity. The one defect is that the name LIBERIA, which is inscribed on what is technically known as the "back" of the book, is far from being readily distinguishable.

We think all philatelists will congratulate Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. upon their latest production, and express the hope that they may have the opportunity of exercising their talent upon some of the other issues of the world, where artistic merit is conspicuous by its non-existence.

The "On Service" stamps are printed from the same plates, but in different shades and colours from the ordinary stamps, the letters "O.S." being in writing style as before, the position in the stamp being varied according to the design.

All stamps are perforated 14, by the Comb Machine, with the exception of the 10 cents stamp, which is rouletted.

"What's On" Next Week.

Monday, May 3. London, Auction (Glendining). Bank Holiday in Scotland.
Tuesday, May 4. London, Auction (Glendining).

Herts Philatelic Society, Annual Dinner at the Café Monico, London, 7 p.m. for 7.30.

Leeds Philatelic Society, "British West Indies," by Charles W. Harding.

Wednesday, May 5. Bath Philatelic Society, Debate on Stamps versus Coins.

Saturday, May 8. Probable date of Opening of Earl's Court Exhibition.

Editor's Letter Box

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Our Advertisers' Offers.

Mr. Peckitt offers the CA and other issues of Gambia at very low prices, and a 6d. handbook on the stamps of this Colony.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. advertise some of their excellent stamp albums, which are unrivalled for price, paper and printing.

Mr. Oswald Marsh offers fine copies of Colonials at half catalogue.

Messrs. Bright's bargains this week include a Mulready envelope, and stamps of Gibraltar, Ceylon, India and Bulgaria.

Mr. Edgar Coombs offers Northern Nigeria King singles, in blocks of four from the 1d. to 2/6 and a number of other interesting sets in blocks.

Mr. E. Burnet-Ginn includes Niger Coast and the popular picture set of United States, 1869, among his special offers for the current week.

Mr. D. Field's special bargain for the week is the 1d. slate grey Fiji, 1893-97, perf. 11 x 10 (S.G. No. 153) catalogued at 7/6 and offered at 2/6 post free.

Our Binding Covers.

In navy blue buckram, gilt lettered side and back, for binding any volume of *The Postage Stamp*, price 1s. 6d., from Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

WANTS.

WANTED. Leaves for Hilke's "Desiratum" Philatelic Album, must be perfectly clean, any number up to 5 doz. H. Wisc, 5, Angus Street, Glasgow.

The POSTAGE STAMP

An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors

Founded by
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.
Edited by
FRED. J. MELVILLE.

No. 6. Vol. 4.
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8 MAY, 1909.

Price 1d.

Gossip of the Week

BY CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Rhodesian Varieties.



THE varieties of the cheap and nasty surcharge of Rhodesia on B.S.A. are worse than I thought when I wrote of them last week. The shareholders in the Chartered Company can congratulate themselves on the business acumen of their officials where matters philatelic are concerned. To get all the varieties of type in the surcharges you practically have to take them in strips of ten.

Just think of it my flush friends—there are ONLY eighteen denominations up to the £1, and a cheque for £27 4s. 7d. will cover the face value of the set in such strips. Of course there is no doubt they would look better in complete panes (£163 7s. 6d face), but the baby needs a new pram, the missus a new bicycle, and I . . . what does it matter what I want, when the good lady and the youngest need their luxuries?

Inverteds—When?

One cannot help admiring the colossal impudence of the chap, whoever he was, who put the company up to the minor variety dodge. Having gone so far may we not look for inverted overprints at an early date? Or if not at an early date, perhaps later? The late Cecil Rhodes was not altogether complimentary to stamp collecting as a hobby, but what would he have said to this exquisite piece of jobbery?

A New Asiatic Colony.

News is just to hand that the Anglo-Siamese Treaty, by which 15,000 square miles of territory is ceded by Siam to Britain, will be ratified in June next.

It will be a matter of speculation, whether this portion of Siam will be included in the Malay States, or for a time worked as a separate "branch."

"Dabblers" in new issues should thus prepare themselves, and make arrangements for any prospective issue or provisionals that may make themselves into popular labels. In the meantime Siamese stamps postmarked in

these parts have been looked after by a few far-seeing collectors.

Abdul (H)amid trouble.

As we write Reshad Effendi has been proclaimed Sultan of Turkey. "Ab" the Sick is quite agreeable to this change, provided the Great Powers see that the Assembly do not make quite certain of his not again occupying the throne, via gun or bomb, knife or poison.

Now that Abdul is really deposed, there must at once be a change in the current stamps, which bear his sign-manual and inscription as to his being Allah's Deputy on Earth, the guarantee of the stamp doing its duty.

As the Reformed or Liberal Party of Turks seem to be doing things properly, one might suggest that if they get a decent respectable printer to make their stamps, as De la Rue, Waterlow, or Perkins Bacon, they can get a good deal of the "needy" to pay the army and others. There is no doubt Great Britain will get the order, if placed outside the Porte.

The Union Monthly.

It is only a small four-page leaflet which makes its uncertain appearance from time to time to delight the heart of its progressive promoter. Its limited space is too small and too valuable to be devoted entirely to stamps, and the good folk of Sargeant, Minn., U.S.A., and the world generally are informed that it is also "devoted to Mail Order Men, Circular Mailers and Postcards." The editorial, or should we call it "leading article," says: "this issue has a circulation of 2000 . . . We have a large circulation, goes everywhere and you always can depend on us, we issue regular." [My copy is perhaps a variety—all, or nearly all, the stops are missing].

A Catalogue Quotation for Collectors.

A paper which goes everywhere is of course sure to reach Cornelius sooner or later, and after my long rigmarole on philatelic literature the other week "The Union Monthly" came as a welcome relief. The first item in the number before me is a little homily entitled "The Little Things," in which we are told with pungent brevity that "a single bitter word may dispute an entire family for a whole day." An advertisement next attracts our attention headed "STAMP COLLECTORY LOOK!" A very promising offer is "LOOK HERE, Names of 100 stamp collectors, 50c.; 100 butchers, 25 [c.]; agents, boys, girls, farmers, 15c. per 100, 200 for 25c." How proud we stamp collectors ought to be to see ourselves catalogued 100 per cent. higher than butchers!

Another advertiser seems to have had a mixed experience of hobbies for he offers at one fell swoop to sell a "22 cal. revolver, printing press, fountain pen, and good stamp collection." Other excellent opportunities are offered to the lucky readers of this journal: "WHY NOT EDITOR A PAPER? I will print a four-page monthly, 8½ x 5, with all your copy stories, ads., editorials, etc., 100 copies, 50c.; 500 copies, \$2." [What price 2,000?]

If any reader of *The Postage Stamp* wants to take advantage of the opportunity of "Editoring" a paper he should also communicate with the advertiser who says: "EARN MONEY writing stories, full instructions for 10 cts. silver." Every paper to be successful now-a-days, when everything tends to the success of the advance movement among women, must have something to appeal to the ladies. "The Union Monthly" has it:

WOMEN, LADIES,
Maids, girls.

The Royal Road to Beauty.
Southern Bloom Greaseless Cream.
Enclose 10c. for sample.

No Philatelic Charms for "Hoodlums."

The same mail as that by which our esteemed contemporary, "The Union Monthly" arrived, brought the April, 1909, issue of the *Jolly Hoot Owls*, a paper which

is non-political, non-sectarian, international, devoted to hobbies, stamps, curios, coins, facts, fiction. The chief article is a review of the Carlton Hall Stamp Exhibition of *March, 1908*, more than twelve months late, the article being very well weighed and considered in the interval. I read: "Many distinguished visitors were in evidence and, on the whole, a better-natured, well-behaved concourse of people, young and old, enthusiastic, eager, and receptive, could hardly be desired. Philately has no charms for toughs and hoodlums and I would go on record as congratulating our British collegians upon the character and ensemble of that part of the public to which they have catered." I commend one of the "Jolly Hoot Owls" advertising aphorisms to our manager for use in stirring up some of our younger dealers to brisker advertising methods. "Doing business without advertising is like winking at a girl in the dark: you know what you are doing, but she doesn't."

The Golden West.

The American Stamp Exhibition opens at Earl's Court this Saturday. Cornelius will be there, of course, and hopes to meet many of his reader-friends. You will readily "spot" me by the monocle, but lest there be any one-eyed politicians there, study the features on the preceding page.

The 'Susse' Perforations of France

A Reply to Mr. Franz Reichenheim from the present Owners of the Machine
Translated from "Le Collectionneur de Timbres Poste"

BY ALBERT H. HARRIS

MOST of the philatelic journals reprinted the article on "Susse" perforations contributed by Mr. Franz Reichenheim to the *Monthly Report*.

We should not intervene in the matter did not the authority of his name lend weight to a fable it is necessary to destroy.

It has been said, and Mr. Reichenheim repeats the story, that Monsieur Susse discontinued perforating the stamps of the Empire because the machine broke down, and that this machine, afterwards acquired by Monsieur Maury, was repaired under his direction, thus accounting for noticeable distinctions between the perforations of the period and those made at a later date.

It is most frequently asserted that the vertical lines of teeth are not exactly facing each other, and that the holes are irregular.

These indications are quite misleading. If Monsieur Susse discontinued perforating the stamps it was, as already stated, because the authorities reduced his allowance of 2% by one half, and also doubtless because, with the large staff employed at the maison Susse it was difficult to keep effectual control over the stamps and continual leakage would clearly absorb the profits.

The machine never broke down, and therefore was never repaired in the slightest degree; the arrangement of the holes is exactly the same now as in 1861, that is to say, they are equi-distant, *exactly facing each other*, and all quite round.

A brief examination of the machine is enough to prove it. For the rest, we have had a few plain sheets of paper passed through the machine, and the fifty rectangles are as clearly perforated as ever. One of these sheets has been sent to Mr. Reichenheim, and we very much hope our esteemed *confrère* will call back the error into which

he has been led by unreliable information.

As to a method of distinction between the original perforations and those applied later, it may often be found in the shape of the teeth, which are either irregular owing to the way the stamps were torn apart, or else quite even.

This is explained by the fact that to obtain the later perforations used stamps were requisitioned, which had *already been separated by scissors*, and these were pasted side by side on small sheets of paper, *ad hoc*. The perforating needles fell upon the edges of these stamps, which, of course, were already separated.

When blocks or parts of sheets have been perforated and then separated by hand, the result is absolutely identical to the original. This method of procedure destroys all means of comparison.

The rows of Susse perforation had the great drawback of being slightly closer together than the width of the stamps and of perforating into the design, chiefly at the edges of the sheet. Specimens perforated later, being carefully arranged, with the proper spacing, are consequently better perforated, and better centred than the originals.

As to the shades mentioned by Mr. Reichenheim, we may say that the stamps we use are taken haphazard from our stock, and the whole gamut of shades of the period may have been included. This is therefore no certain test, but a simple process of elimination.

From our notes it will be seen that stamps perforated at a later date are procured with the actual machine used by Monsieur Susse, in the state in which it was in 1861, and that they have perforations identical to the originals.

Incidentally, we may add that the Susse machine was capable not only of perforating stamps, but of cutting them apart, in sheets of fifty, as neatly as could be done with scissors.

Stray Notes on Holland

BY B. B. KIRBY

CONGRATULATIONS



APRIL 30TH, 1909.

HOLLAND is at present attracting a large amount of interest both from the general and from the philatelic public. The general interest may be accounted for by the event of the birth of a Princess who is heiress to the House of Orange. Philatelic interest in Dutch stamps is being stimulated largely by the forthcoming Amsterdam Philatelic Exhibition.

Having been assisting the Editor of *The Postage Stamp* in the preparation of his forthcoming handbook on Holland, he has asked me to contribute some general notes on the Postal Issues of Holland, for the benefit of the readers of this journal who turn to these stamps with interest at this auspicious moment in the history of the kingdom of the Netherlands.

Historical.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands or Holland, as we call it, is one of the most commercial countries on the face of the globe. The soil it occupies had to be won from the sea and, small as the country is, it was engaged during the 16th century in a death wrestle with the great Spanish Empire, under Charles V. and afterwards Philip II., husband of Queen Mary of England, but owing to the steadfastness and courage of William the Silent, Prince of Orange and Nassau, the Netherlands regained their independence.

Attacked by the sea from without, and by rivers from within; gaining land from the ocean and saving it from river floods; wresting new farms from the depths of the sea and from the beds of lakes, and thus the Kingdom was made to grow and expand. The fiery powers of nature were employed against their enemies. Owing to the drastic action of the Dutch in piercing the dykes, and allowing the ocean to pour over the land that had been with so much labour saved from the hungry sea, the Spaniards were compelled to raise the second and last siege of Leyden. The Leydeners, on 3rd October, 1574, saw with extraordinary emotion the fleet of Admiral Boiesot approaching the walls of the devoted town. The sea is the dreaded enemy of the Dutch—an enemy always at their gates. After winning a foothold for themselves and maintaining it against all comers, they sent out fleets which founded Colonial settlements all over the world. At home, always looking out for fresh conquests, the Dutch have actually increased the size of their Country since 1683 by one half!

Early Postal Arrangements.

Since 1st July, 1750, the postal services of the provinces of Holland and West Frisia were under the control of the United States of the Netherlands. In the other provinces the post was in the hands of the municipal authorities or was a private monopoly.

Following upon the creation of the Batavian Republic in 1795 by the French, who in their zeal for republican institutions overturned all existing forms of government, by the aid of their victorious legions under Generals Dumouriez and Vellerman, Napoleon on 5th June, 1806, created his youngest brother, Louis Buonaparte, King of Holland. Louis, in 1807, promulgated a law uniting the whole of the posts of his kingdom under one organisation. Tired of his brother's tyranny and on account of the exactions made on the Dutch, Louis abdicated, and the Kingdom of Holland was annexed to France on 9th July, 1810. The postal regulations as existing in France, at that time were then introduced. In 1818, the French having been driven out of Holland, William, Prince of Orange, son of the Stadtholder dispossessed by the French in 1795, became King, assuming the title of William I., and by a royal decree dated 18th January, 1818, the old law of 1807, already mentioned, was re-established in a slightly modified form and remained in force until 1850.

By a Royal Decree of 12th April, 1850, the rates of postage and other regulations concerning the postal service were fixed and the issue of postage stamps was foreshadowed.

On the 22nd December, 1850, it was announced that the postage stamps would be issued on January 1st, 1852, instead of on the same date in 1851, as previously stated.

A Royal Decree on the 12th November, 1851, was issued, giving details as to the new postage stamps and particulars as to their use, etc. This was supplemented by a Ministerial Ordinance.

First Issue of January 1st, 1852.

Bearing in mind the fine work of Jacques Wiener, of Brussels, as exemplified in the first issue of Belgium, the Dutch Government asked this engraver, in May, 1851, to prepare the matrices for the first Dutch stamps. In addition he also supplied the Mint with all the necessary plant, etc. In the meantime a yearly contract had been concluded with the Royal Mint at Utrecht by which all the stamps were to be printed there.

The design of the stamp, which is very pleasing, consists of the profile of King William III. to the right upon a background of horizontal lines within an ornamental oval, the whole enclosed in a rectangular frame, bearing the inscription "POST ZEEL" at the top and at the bottom the figure of value and the letter "C."

The stamps were engraved in *taille douce*, and were printed in sheets of 100 stamps. The sheet was composed of 4 panes of 25 stamps, in 5 rows of 5, the whole being surrounded by four lines having the word *POSTZEGELS* once on each side in the centre of these lines. This issue, the only one of Holland, is watermarked with a post horn suspended by a cord. As this watermark varies slightly in each stamp it is possible, with the aid of the watermark to reconstruct the sheet! The paper varies from thick white to medium wove. The gum ranges from yellowish to brown.

This issue consists of three values, 5 cents blue, 10 cents carmine, 15 cents orange-yellow. A great range of shades can be found in each value.

The light blue shade of the 5 cents was authorised by the Government, as the postmark did not shew up well on the dark blue. There is a copy of the 5 cents blue in the Taping Collection, perforated 10½, with very small holes.

In 1893, J. A. Moesman, a printer of Utrecht, came

into possession of the plate of the 10 cents, and made some impressions in fancy colours, viz., pale blue, pale brown, yellow, red and pale green.

5c. blue.
10c. carmine.
15c. orange yellow.

Second Issue.

The first type having been in use for 12 years the Government decided to issue a fresh series designed by an artist who was a native of Holland. The design is somewhat similar to that of the first issue. The king now has donned a military uniform and the inscriptions have changed places. These stamps were engraved in *taille douce* by J. W. Kaiser, of Amsterdam, and printed in sheets of 200 stamps divided into two paues of 100, 10 rows of 10. They were perforated by a comb machine gauging $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$.

There were two printings of this issue, the first at the Mint at Utrecht, the second at Haarlem in the works of Messrs. Enschedé & Sons. The latter can be distinguished by the fact that the paper is thinner and slightly bluish and also by the brighter colour of the stamps.

Of the first printing the 5c. blue was issued in July, 1864, the 10c. rose-carmine on 12th May, 1864, and 15c. orange-yellow on 1st January, 1865.

Of the second printing the 5c. bright blue appeared on 29th December, 1866, the 10c. carmine about the same date and the 15c. olive-yellow on 27th March, 1867.

5c. blue.
10c. rose.
15c. rose.

Third Issue.

Owing to the lack of space at the Mint at Utrecht the Government entered into a contract as from 1st October, 1866, with the firm of Messrs. Enschedé & Sons, of Haarlem, who made the Dutch banknotes, to print all the stamps of Holland and the Colonies. This contract still remains with the same firm.

When the Government awarded the contract to this firm, they commissioned them to prepare a new design, but pending the completion of these new plates, a printing was made of the second issue as stated above. In this manner the numerous essays which are found can be accounted for.

On 4th September, 1867, a Royal decree announced the issue of new postage stamps.

Design of the Stamps.

Profile of King William III. to the left in a circle consisting of a chain net work. It is enclosed in a rectangular frame, at the top of which is the word "NEDERLAND" and at the bottom value and the word CENT. The sides consist of ornamentation after the Greek key type.

These stamps were engraved by Mons. J. Nusser, of Dusseldorf, Germany, and were printed in sheets of 200 stamps divided into two panes of 10 rows of 10.

The perforations in this issue and also in the three following series are extremely complicated. The perforation machine of the previous issue (a comb machine) gauging $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ was still in use and in addition the printers had purchased a new comb machine measuring $10\frac{1}{2} \times 10$ and also three single line machines gauging 14, $18\frac{1}{2}$ and 18.

The $10\frac{1}{2} \times 10$ machine was withdrawn from use after a short time as the public objected to it owing to the fact that it was difficult to separate the stamps without tearing them. From the single line machine it can easily be seen that a large number of perforations can be obtained.

The following perforations may be found $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ (a),

$10\frac{1}{2} \times 10$ (b), 14×14 (c), $13, 13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ (d), $18, 18\frac{1}{2}$ (e).

The issues perforated (c) and (d) centre also divided into two sets one on white and the other on azure tinted paper.

Types of Numerals of Value. (Chief Characteristics.)

	TYPE I.	TYPE II.
5c.	Downstroke of "5" wide and large ball.	Downstroke of "5" narrow and small ball.
10c.	"1" has small serif and joins foot in curves.	"1" has larger serif and joins foot at a sharp angle.
15c.	"1" wide, ball of "5" large.	"1" narrow, ball of "5" small.
20c.	"2" has larger curve and wider foot (showing more white space) and the downstroke is generally thicker than in die II.	"2" has small curve and narrow foot and thinner downstroke.
25c.	"2" has wide foot, body and ball of "5" large.	"2" has narrow foot, "5" thinner body and small body.
50c.	"0" is wide all round.	"0" is narrow at top and bottom.

The foregoing description has been extracted from Messrs Stanley Gibbons & Co.'s catalogue.

	Type I. Perfs.	Type II. Perfs.
5 cents blue	a, - c, d, e.	a, b, c, d, e.
10 cents carmine	a, b, - - -	a, b, c, d, e.
15 cents chestnut	a, b, - - e.	a, b, c, d, e.
20 cents green	a, b, - - -	a, b, c, d, e.
25 cents purple	a, - - - -	a, - - d, e.
50 cents gold	a, - - - -	a, - - - -

Through the courtesy of the printers, M. Moens was supplied with several sheets of each value imperforate, in order that he might supply one of his customers with imperforate specimens.

Fourth Issue.

This issue was intended primarily for use on printed matter. They were designed by J. Nusser, and engraved on wood by Viery Frères, of Paris, and printed typographically by Messrs. Enschedé & Sons, at Haarlem, in sheets of 200 stamps (20 rows of 10).

Design.

Coat of arms of the Netherlands surmounted by the royal crown, accompanied by two sprigs of oak and bay leaves, joined by a knot of ribbon: the whole is enclosed within a circle of pearls and a frame with ornamental corners; NEDERLAND at top and value at bottom.

The 1c. black and 2c. orange appeared on 1st January, 1869; 1c. green and 1½c. rose appeared in June, 1869; whilst the ¾c. brown and 2½ cents purple were put into circulation on 1st January, 1871, and December, 1870, respectively.

To be continued.

Note.

For special offers of the stamps of this country see Mr. W. H. Peckitt's advertisement in this week's number of "The Postage Stamp."

The Pony Express Stamps

BY L. W. CROUCH.

In view of the opening this week of the Golden West Stamp Exhibition at Earl's Court, London, the following article on one of the most interesting series of stamps exhibited there will be of special interest.

EVERY properly brought-up boy has heard of the pony express, though perhaps not in connection with stamps. He has read blood-curdling stories of encounters with red Indians, scalping, tomahawks, and everything connected with the Wild West.

Besides affording material for exciting novels and "penny dreadfuls," the Pony Express has been immortalised among philatelists by the stamps issued by some of its promoters, Messrs. Wells, Fargo & Co. Collectors have fought somewhat shy of these stamps owing to the quantities of forgeries which there are about on the market, but which are easily distinguishable by careful examination.

The first pony express was started by two private individuals in 1853 and ran between Leavenworth and Denver. In 1860 it was considerably extended, and a company was formed under the name of "The Central Overland California and Pike's Peak Express Company." This company started operations on April 3rd, 1860. The rates charged were, between San Francisco and Salt Lake City 3 dollars per ½ oz., and beyond Salt Lake City 5 dollars per ½ oz. No special stamps were issued by this company, which was unable to carry on the express owing to the enormous expense.

In May, 1861, the Civil War broke out, and the ordinary mail routes between east and west were unavailable as they ran through territory occupied by the Confederates. Accordingly an Act of Congress approved March 2nd, 1861, in anticipation of coming events, enacted (section 9) that authority be given to the Postmaster-General to discontinue the mail service on the southern overland route (known as the Butterfield route) between St. Louis and Memphis and San Francisco, and to provide for the conveyance, by the same parties, of a six-times-a-week mail by the "central route;" that is, "from some point on the Missouri River, connecting with the east, to Placerville, California."

The first express ran on the central route on July 1st, 1861.

The firm of Wells, Fargo & Co. were given the contract of carrying the government mails over this route, each express rider having to carry for the government 5 lbs. of mail matter, and were allowed to charge the public any amount not exceeding 1 dollar per ½ oz., which was the rate ultimately fixed on by the company.

For the purpose of prepaying these postal charges, the company issued adhesive labels, the first issues of which

should figure among the semi-official carriers' stamps in the catalogues.

The first stamp issued was of the face value of one dollar, and is known as the "garter type." With this stamp I do not propose to deal. It was quickly superseded by the Pony Express type, of which there were three values, viz., 1 dollar, 2 dollars, and 4 dollars.

The design showed in the centre an express rider on a white shield; above the rider's head there appears on the shield the figure of value; below, on part of the shield, which is turned up, the word "DOLLAR" or "DOLLARS;" above the shield, in white letters, the words "PONY EXPRESS;" below, in coloured letters, "WELLS, FARGO & CO.;" flower ornaments are shown in the four corners. The design is surrounded by a coloured outer line, the whole measuring 21 x 24½ mm.

These stamps were lithographed by Messrs. Britton and Key, of San Francisco, in sheets of 40 stamps in two panes of 20 in 5 rows of 4. They were issued imperforate; apparently only the first printing was issued gummed, and was also on very thick paper. Subsequent printings were ungummed and on thinner paper.

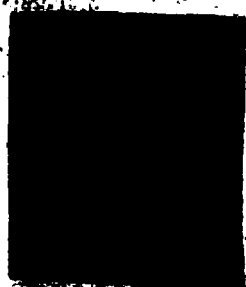
The overland telegraph line was completed in October, 1861, and, in accordance with the terms of the agreement between the company and the Post Office Department, the contract was determined. The company issued a circular, dated October 26th, 1861, announcing the discontinuance of the pony express service and ordering the withdrawal of the stamps.

Reference List.

White wove paper. Imperforate.

? August, 1861.	1 dollar deep rose
	2 dollars deep grey-green
	4 dollars black

Although Messrs. Wells, Fargo & Co. no longer acted as Government Agents, they still continued their operations as a private express company. They collected their dues by means of money, but finding this inconvenient, reverted to the use of stamps. The remainders of the stamps in the old colours were used up, and a fresh issue of the 2 dollars and 4 dollars was made, printed in rose and green respectively; new values of 10 cents and 25 cents were added to the series. These were required for prepayment of letters which were not mailed over the whole route, the rates being fixed according to the distance. A 3 dollars value was mooted, but was never printed or issued; this denomination only figures in the forgeries.



GENUINE.



GENUINE.



FORGERY.



FORGERY.

The design of the 10 cents and 25 cents was similar to that of the dollar values. The words "PONY EXPRESS" at top are in block capitals instead of in fancy capitals; the figure of value is absent; the word "DOLLARS" is replaced by "10 cts. ½oz." or "25 cts. ½oz.," as the case may be, and above the words "WELLS, FARGO & CO.," appear the word "IF" in the centre, and below that in a curved line in coloured capitals "ENCLOSED IN OUR FRANKS."

The exact date of the issue of these stamps I am unable to state, but it was probably about December, 1861; at a later date the colour of the 25 cents was changed from blue to rose.

The new values were printed in sheets of the same size as before, and all were issued un gummed.

Reference List.

<i>White wove paper. Imperforate.</i>	
? December, 1861.	10 cents brown
	25 " blue
	25 " rose
	2 dollars rose
	4 " green

Reprints, 1897.

Reprints of all these stamps were made in April, 1897, by Messrs. Britton & Rey, the printers of the originals. The original stones had been lost or destroyed, and all that could be found was the die of the 1 dollar value, the frame of the 10 cents, and the numerals of the other values including the unissued 3 dollars. The die of the 1 dollar had the word of value in the plural. All these dies were very much worn and required a great deal of retouching. The reprints can therefore be readily detected, if they are met with; they are however quite scarce.

The crown of the hat of the express rider is unshaded; the hoof of the right forefoot of the horse is separated from the leg; the mouth of the horse is open half way up to the eye; in the cent values the faint white ornaments in the top corners are missing; on the 2 dollars and 4 dollars the word of value is followed by a full stop; on the 1 dollar reprints in blue and black the word of value is in the plural. This mistake was afterwards corrected.

A stone was made up containing 20 impressions in five vertical rows of four. Each vertical row was of stamps of the same face value. Reading from the left they were 4 dollars, 2 dollars, 1 dollar, 25 cents, and 10 cents. The colours were not well imitated, and in consequence

of the stone containing all values, various quite fancy colours of the different values are known.

The different colours in which the reprints were struck, I take from Mr. J. N. Luff's invaluable work.

Reference List.

<i>White wove paper. Imperforate.</i>		
April, 1897.	10 cents.	} Brownish bistre, pale vermilion, brown carmine, dull blue, grey-green, full black.
	25 cents.	
	1 dollar	
	2 dollars	
	4 dollars	

Forgeries.

Forgeries of these stamps abound, they may be encountered in nearly every collection, but when once one has got hold of the essential characteristics of the genuine, one is surprised that anybody could be deceived.

The best "tip" is the foot of the express rider; in the genuine the express rider is wearing those large broad trousers so characteristic of the cowboy, and there is no space between his foot and the horse's body. In the forgeries, at least in all that I have seen, his foot stands clear away from the body of the horse.

Perhaps the commonest forgery is that one which is found in all sorts of colours, and of the face value of 1 dollar, 2 dollars, 3 dollars, and 4 dollars. The lettering is too tall and thin, the rider faces one instead of looking to the right, and they always bear a cancellation consisting of a double-lined ellipse with the words "PONY EXPRESS" at top, and "SERVICE" at bottom between the lines.

In the writer's collection there is a rather good forgery of the 4 dollars, but one by which nobody could possibly be deceived who is familiar with the genuine; it is apparently a woodcut.

The writer would be glad to purchase any forgeries of these stamps which he has not already in his collection.

[We append Scott's latest catalogue prices for these interesting stamps.—Editor.]

	Unused.	Used.
10c. chocolate	50	1.00
25c. blue	100	3.00
25c. red	25	1.00
\$1 red	50	1.50
\$2 green	1.00	6.00
\$2 red	2.00	2.00
\$4 green	3.00	12.00
\$4 black	2.00	7.50

Decline of the Penny Stamp

The Postmaster-General's Racy Review of the Year

ON April 27th, Mr. Buxton treated the House of Commons to one of his delightfully pleasing speeches, which, while full of excellent good humour, had the effect of forcing home his points in a most effective manner. The speech is in the same vein which so captivated those present when the P.M.G. opened the Juniors' Exhibition in Caxton Hall. The subject matter was a review of the Post Office work for the year. Our report is abridged from the article by the Parliamentary Representative of the *Daily Mail*, published in that journal April 28th.

Among the suggestions the P.M.G. had received for increasing the revenue: "One lady suggested that all offers of marriage should be made through the Postmaster by telephone at a special fee. (Laughter.) I had a suggestion also from a gentleman that in the case of actions for breach of promise the plaintiff should not win his or

her case unless he or she could show a written promise of marriage to which had been attached two shillings and sixpence worth of penny stamps. (Laughter.) That lady and gentleman seem to have suffered from much the same evil in different ways. (Laughter.)

"A more practical suggestion was that the telephone and telegraph poles should be used for advertisements—especially for soap and pills, which seem to be the two requisites for human nature. (Laughter.) I am afraid that the æsthetic sense of members would object." (Applause.)

Upstart Halfpenny Stamp.

The progress of the penny stamp had not been satisfactory this year. "In these days of cheapness the upstart of the halfpenny post is largely superseding the more gentlemanly penny stamp." Many communications

previously carried by post are now sent by telephone, which is also cutting into the telegraph service.

British Magazines in Canada.

He was pleased with the increase under the magazine post of British publications sent to Canada. "I must be content to go down to posterity as the man who made two British magazines read in Canada instead of one American."

As to the cash-on-delivery system initiated for the Colonies, 4,200 parcels were sent from Britain, while 435 were received from various Colonies. "One may say that cash-on-delivery is creating an outlook for British goods, even though small, among our Colonies."

"It was brought to our notice that in consequence of the increasing size of ladies' hats—(laughter)—the restrictions of the parcels post—and they are pretty liberal, six feet in length—were being infringed. We have had to enforce them. I hope that those who attend matinees and places of that description will bless me in their prayers. (Laughter and applause)."

Daylight Saving.

Mr. Buxton, though he did not approve of the Daylight Saving Bill, had taken a vote of the employes in the Secretary's department to see whether they would like to change from nine to four instead of ten to five. Of 840, 661 voted for the earlier hours, and 148 against.

An Express Stamp de luxe.

"It has been said that anybody can find Genesis, but it takes an able-bodied man to turn up Hosea. Nothing is easier than to suggest reforms, but it is much more difficult to carry them out. A would-be reformer suggested that I could get a quarter of a million additional revenue out of a special de luxe express stamp. I worked it out and found that the public would have to send a thousand million express messages, and that we should have to employ a hundred thousand additional messengers."

Speaking of complaints to him, Mr. Buxton said that he had a communication the other day from a man who said he had wired to Grimsby for one live lobster and had received five. "I don't know what became of the other four," said Mr. Buxton, and the House laughed.

Expenditure had increased, and he had handed to the

Treasury a million less than two years ago. The cost of increased pay and allowances to postal servants on reaching a maximum would be about a million, while half a million had been spent for the benefit of the public.

Clerk's Love Story.

MR. JOYNSON HICKS amused members by relating at some length the love story of a postal clerk named Dick, and the hardships which had been imposed upon him by the Department. Mr. Dick, he said, was a postal clerk in Glasgow who "cast his eye" on a certain "Miss M.," who would in all probability soon become his wife. "Miss M.'s" father took objection to Mr. Dick and communicated with the postal authorities, with the result that Mr. Dick, in consequence of what was officially described as his "discreditable conduct," was transferred to Manchester.

At Manchester he received a letter from the irate father, who complained of Mr. Dick maintaining influence over "Miss M.," and Mr. Dick as a consequence of Mr. M.'s representation was officially warned by his superiors. "It is rather hard," said Mr. Joynton Hicks, "that just because he wrote love letters—"

MR. CROOKS (indicating the front bench Ministers): Never been in love themselves; they don't know what it means.

MR. JOYNSON HICKS: It is true that he wrote a fiery letter to the father. I should have done it myself. I think the Postmaster-General in the same circumstances would have done so. ("Hear, Hear,") In effect the Postmaster-General says postal clerks must not write love letters to the ladies of their choice. (Laughter.) Perhaps there will be a supervision established. Possibly that is why an assistant Postmaster-General is to be appointed. Whoever the young gentleman may be, he will, I presume have charge of the amatory department. (Laughter.)

MR. BUXTON promised a full, open, and impartial inquiry into the alleged grievances of Mr. Dick.

No Penny Post to France

MR. BUXTON, replying to the debate, said that a penny post to France was a question of money, and he did not think at present he could ask the Treasury to allot the very considerable sum necessary.

New Stamp for Seattle Exposition

Truly we are making philatelic history these days. A new 2c. stamp is to be issued commemorating the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific section of our national history as it is typified in the Seattle Exposition so soon to be opened.

The stamp is to be unique in design, and the following description will be read with interest:—

The new stamp is to be rectangular in form and of the same size as that issued to commemorate the Jamestown Exposition. Panels at the top and bottom contain respectively the words "U.S. Postage" and "Two cents." In the centre of the stamp the larger part of a circle rests on the lower panel and encloses a ribbon bearing the inscription, "Alaska-Yukon-Pacific 1909;" the circle frames the picture of a seal standing on a cake of ice. On either side of the stamp is an ellipse containing the Arabic numeral 2, with laurel branches in the background. It is expected that the stamps will be placed on sale about June 1, the opening day of the exposition.

A portion of the above design had been approved by Mr. Geo. von L. Meyer for an envelope stamp, and it would have made a very pretty one with the seal standing out in embossing, but it was found that the envelope

contractors would not be able to have them ready for distribution in time, and it was then decided to have the adhesive. The design was then worked over to suit the purpose. P.-M. General Hitchcock approved the design of the new stamp April 3.

As we go to press, Chas. F. Heyerman submits a clipping from the *Detroit Free Press*, which reads as follows:—

OBJECT TO ICE DESIGN.

Yukon Exposition Stamps Excite Remonstrance from Promoters

SEATTLE, April 9.—The merchants of Seattle, aroused by reports that the special issue of stamps being prepared to commemorate the opening of the Seattle Exposition contain in the design a cake of ice on which a seal is reposing, have entered a protest.

A dispatch was sent by the chamber of commerce to-day to Secretary of the Interior Ballinger urging him to make an effort to have the design changed, as one of the objects of the fair is to show the world that Alaska can raise something besides icebergs.

—*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News.*

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

Colombia.—(Vol. IV. p. 56).—A correspondent has shown *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* a copy of the 5c. in the re-drawn type, produced at the Government Printing Works in Bogota, perforated 10. All three values of the new type are now known with both perforations, making the list of varieties as follows:—

Redrawn type with imprint "LIT. NACIONAL."

Perf. 10.

½c. orange.
2c. carmine.
5c. blue.

Perf. 13.

½c. orange.
2c. carmine.
5c. blue.

Crete. (Italian)—(Vol. II. p. 57)—The current 25c. stamp of Italy has received the "LA CANEA" overprint for use in these offices, making the list of new varieties as follows:—

Contemporary stamps of Italy overprinted "LA CANEA."

	s.	d.
5c. green	0	1
10c. rose	0	2
25c. blue	0	4

Fiji.—(Vol. III. p. 33).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., Mr. Peckitt and Mr. C. R. Robinson send us the 1s. with multiple watermark. The stamp is printed in the same colours as before, although this Colony has adopted the new colour scheme. The list of values now issued on the new paper is as follows:—

Wmk. Multiple. Cr. CA. Perf. 14.

	s.	d.
½d. green	0	1
1d. purple and black on red	0	3
1d. carmine	0	2
1s. green and carmine... ..	1	4

Liberia.—(Vol. IV. p. 56).—We now append a list of the values and colours of the handsome new issue, the designs of which were fully described last week.

No wmk. Perf. 14.

	s.	d.
1c. green and black	0	1
2c. red and black	0	2
5c. ultramarine and black	0	4
15c. indigo and black... ..	0	10
20c. pink and green	1	1
25c. deep brown and black	1	3
30c. deep red brown	1	8
50c. deep green and black	2	6
75c. red brown and black	3	9

No wmk. Rouletted.

	s.	d.
10c. mauve and black	0	7

Natal.—(Vol. III. p. 202).—Mr. P. L. Jaques has shown us the new 6d. and 1s. stamps inscribed "POSTAGE-POSTAGE" and in colours conforming to the new official scheme. We understand that these were issued at Durban on April 3rd, but the new 2s. 6d., which has been reported as issued in various quarters, had not up to that date been placed on sale.

The list of new varieties is now as follows:—

*Inscribed "POSTAGE-POSTAGE."
Wmk. Multiple Crown CA Perf. 14.*

	s.	d.
6d. purple	0	8
1s. black on green	1	3
2s. blue and purple on blue	2	6
5s. red and green on yellow	6	3
£1 black and purple on red	24	0

Paraguay.—(Vol. III. p. 312).—After a quiescent period, extending over nearly two months, this Republic has again started its surcharging antics. Two more values—a 60c. crimson and 1p. blue—have been seen with the "1908" overprint, but as there seems a doubt as to whether they were actually issued or not, we give our readers the benefit of it and refrain from chronicling them.

The 1c., 2c. and 30c. (in a new colour) of the ordinary stamps of the type dated "1904" have been overprinted 20c., and some of the remainders of the 2c. of 1889 have been made available for postage by the application of a similar surcharge, but with the bars above "CENTAVOS."

It seems a dangerous practice to surcharge low values with a higher denomination, but the postal affairs of Paraguay are in such a hopeless muddle at present that we suppose nothing really matters.

The list of varieties now stands as follows:—

Ordinary Stamps of 1904.

Overprinted "Habilitado en—5 (or 20)—CENTAVOS" in three lines.

	s.	d.
5c. on 1c. olive green	0	3
5c. on 2c. carmine	0	3
5c. on 60c. chocolate	—	—
5c. on 60c. orange brown	0	6
5c. on 60c. pink	0	3
20c. on 1c. greenish blue	—	—
20c. on 2c. carmine	—	—
20c. on 30c. violet	0	6
20c. on 30c. pale greenish blue	—	—

Stamps of 1901-2 similarly surcharged.

5c. on 28c. orange	—	—
5c. on 40c. blue (redrawn)	—	—

Stamps of 1889 similarly surcharged but with bars above "CENTAVOS."

20c. on 2c. rose red	—	—
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According to Champion's *Bulletin Mensuel* the following quantities of the new varieties were issued:—8,000 of the 20c. on 1c. greenish blue; 2,000 of the 20c. on 2c. carmine; 1,500 of the 20c. on 30c. pale greenish blue; and 2,200 of the 20c. on 2c. of 1889.

Siam.—(Vol. IV. p. 45).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have shown us specimens of the 2 atts on 24s. and 9 atts on 10s. of 1908 with inverted surcharges.

1908. Error: Inverted Surcharge.

	s.	d.
2 atts on 24s. purple and blue	15	0
9 atts on 10s. ultramarine	25	0

Rhodesia.—(Vol. IV. p. 57).—We understand that the overprints recorded on page 57 exist in different settings. As we stated before, the surcharges were probably applied by means of lithography and the impressions were transferred to the stones in horizontal strips of five for some values and strips of ten for others.

Thus in the 4d. the overprint consists of 12 strips of five types and on most of the other values the surcharge consists of 6 strips of 10 types. In most cases the differences between the types are very minute, but we have no doubt our specialist friends will soon show us how to distinguish them. There are different settings—some used for only one or two values—and in one of these, type No 3 has no stop after "RHODESIA." The only values we have seen with this setting are the 4d. and 2s. 6d., so we record the following:—

Error: no stop after "RHODESIA"
 4d. olive.
 2s. 6d. bluish grey.

NOTE.

The Prices affixed are those at which Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. will supply any of the stamps chronicled that may be in stock.

The stamps are supplied at lower rates to subscribers to their New Issue Service, particulars of which can be had on application to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich.

The Prices quoted are for unused.

The New Catalogue—Third Notice

BY THE EDITOR

BY this time the new Gibbons will be in the hands of every serious collector and the prices which are of the greatest interest to each individual will have been duly noted. We therefore conclude our review of the catalogue with just a few of the more notable changes.

Morocco Agencies.

- 1905-6, Multiple paper. 5c. unused 1d to 6d.
 10c. " 2d. to 6d.
 20c. " 4d. to —
 25c. " 6d. to 1s.
 50c. " 10d. to 1s. 6d.
 1p. " 1s. 9d. to 2s.
 2p. " 3s. 6d. to 4s.

Gold Coast.

The 1d. blue, CA. (1883) unused has dropped from £7 to £6.

Grenada.

- 1878-9. Small Star. 1d. deep green, unused, 60s. to 40s., drop; used, 7s. 6d. to 2s., drop.
 1d. blue-green, used 1s. to 2s.

1904-6. Multiple. Unused, ¼d., 1d. and 2½d. still unpriced.

- 3d. unused, 5d. to 8d.
 6d. " 8d. to 1s.
 1s. " 1s. 4d to 2s.
 2s. " 2s. 8d. to 6s.
 5s. " 6s. 6d. to 10s.
 10s. " 12s. 6d. to 80s.

India.

May, 1860. 8p. purple on bluish, unused, £5 to £3 (drop).

Ionian Islands.

All three values are now priced used, orange, 50s.; blue, 40s.; carmine, 35s.

Labuan.

1902-3. 25c. with centre in black instead of green is now catalogued and priced, unused, at £6.

Mauritius.

Do coming events cast their shadow before them in the Mauritius section, or is it that a certain indefatigable collector has been clearing the boards of every unattached fine piece he could find of these rare gems? The rises quoted in the list below are for *used*, the worn plate impressions of the 2d. blue, March, 1859, being the only notable unused pricing, having risen from £3 to £8.

- 1847 1d. orange-red £650 to £1000.
 2d. blue — to £1200.
- 1843 Post Paid 1d. vermilion, £20 to £25.
 " " 2d. deep blue, £30 to £40.
 " " on blue paper, 1d. vermilion, £14 to £20
 " " " " 2d. deep blue, £12 to £18
 " " " " " " PENOE, £15 to £25.
 Same, intermediate impressions, showing diagonal lines, etc., 1d. red, £6 to £8.
 Ditto, 2d. deep blue, £8 to £10.
 Ditto, PENOE, £8 to £12.
 Ditto, but blue paper, 1d. red, £6 to £8.
 " " " " 2d. deep blue, £8 to £12.
 " " " " " " PENOE, £8 to £12.
 The same, worn impressions showing diagonal lines, white and yellow paper 1d. red, £3 to £5.
 Ditto, 1d. red-brown, £1 10s. to £2.
 Ditto, 2d. blue, — to £6.
 Ditto, 2d. " " PENOE, — to £9.
 Ditto, on blue paper 1d. red, £2 to £2 10s.
 " " " " 1d. red-brown, £1 10s. to £2.
 " " " " 2d. blue, £4 10s. to £6.
 " " " " " " PENOE, £5 10s. to £10
- Mar., 1859 Imperf. Early impressions 2d. deep blue, £5 to £7 10s.
- Oct., 1859 Imperf. Bluish paper, re-engraved, 2d. deep blue, £16 to £20.
- Dec., 1859 White laid paper, imperf. 1d. red, £6 to £10.
 " " " " 1d. scarlet, £6 to £8.
 " " " " 2d. blue, £1 10s. to £2 5s.
 " " " " 2d. pale blue, £1 10s. to £2.

Natal.

Surcharge 14½ to 15½mm., 1d. bright red, used, 15s. to 40s.

New Brunswick.

1851. 3d. red, unused, 65s. to 25s., probably a printer's error.

Papua.

This list is entirely re-written. The note under No. 34 obviously should read after No. 49, and it is our opinion that the prices of No. 14 and 14a should be exchanged with those of Nos. 20 and 21. If the price for No. 26 is based on stock in hand Messrs. Gibbons are to be congratulated.

Queensland.

There is a real "snap" for anyone who gets the 1882-86 £1 on thick paper for 2s. 6d., unused. But we don't think it is meant—not really.

Sarawak.

The 2c. Indian red, perf. 12½ has dropped 5s. to 2s. 6d. In our opinion the prices of this stamp, No. 42, should be exchanged with those of No. 88. While there were 60,000 of the perf. 12½ printed, only 40,000 were printed of the other.

Sudan.

1893. 5p., unused, 2s. to 4s.; used, 1s. to 2s.
10p. " 2s. 9d. to 5s.; used, 1s. 6d. to 3s.

The 1902-8 series have all gone up unused, and are now priced used.

Transvaal.

The 1d. on anchor wmk. is listed but not priced.

Zanzibar.

June, 1904 All values from 3 annas to 5 rupees have risen.

In the Stamp Market

BY O. REGINALD GUM

New Hebrides at Auction.

W. M. H. tells me that he was an unsuccessful bidder for some New Hebrides on Fiji at Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper's sale on April 15th and 16th. The ½d. CA. single realised £1, and a set ½d. and 1d. multiple and 2d., 2½d., 5d., 6d. and 1s. single CA. (seven stamps in all) realised 21s. My correspondent could have bought them cheaper in the Strand. Mr. Peckitt's prices, which were those we published the week before last, only total to 17s. 9d. the set of seven. Mr. Ewen advertises the values up to 5d.

As for the ½d. single wmk., Mr. Peckitt received a few in his latest consignment, and offered them in a circular to clients of his new issue service at 7s. 6d. each. The result of the circular was that he was inundated with applications, and ultimately had to return much good money. How it must have grieved his generous soul to have had to return so much filthy lucre!

Cayman 1d. on 4d.

My friend Mr. Watkin writes to tell me that he had a letter the other Sunday from Miss Parsons—Gwendoline of that ilk. In this letter the lady confirms that the Cayman 1d. on 4d. was only a fiscal, but that "she had heard it had passed through the post." Never mind—it is in the catalogue!

Mr. Ewen on New Issue Prices.

Mr. Ewen makes some trite observations on the pricing of new issues in the new Gibbons.

The catalogue states:—

"As regards the prices quoted, we have not felt it necessary to increase those of many of the older issues. Colonials have gone up for some time, and we consider that for the present, the prices are, in general, quite high enough; there are, of course, many exceptions to this rule."

Mr. Ewen says:—

"The last paragraph is very contradictory; how can there be many exceptions when the prices of many of the older issues have not been increased?"

"The fact is that the bulk of the old stamps have stood still in value, whilst the bulk of the new issues have gone up, but as it would never do to let collectors see this, the prices of the latter are omitted in a great number of cases, especially used. The failure to distinguish between 'multiple ordinaries' and 'multiple chalkies' of course renders it impossible to quote the higher prices of the former."

Catalogue Surprises.

"Grenada" continues Mr. Ewen "furnishes a surprise, the 10s. King multiple being quoted 80s. Another surprise is the 2½d. Papua, horizontal wmk. ('wide rosettes'),

priced 5s. and 10s. respectively, according as it is on thick and thin paper.

"The New Zealand list is now one of the most thorough in the catalogue. We notice the 1s. perf. 14 × 13½, has been advanced to 4s., and the 6d. is unpriced.

"Why is the £25 Northern Nigeria included and the £20 Natal omitted? Also, why is the \$50 Pabang on \$5 Perak ignored?"

"The turtles on page 288 have two heads! Is this compensation for not distinguishing the two watermark varieties?"

Liberia 1860-1880.

One often wonders why the 1860 to 1880 issues of Liberia are so cheap—for cheap they are. These stamps are by no means common, though I remember a pretty large parcel of the 1880 lithographs coming on the market ten years or so back. The reason is, perhaps, that their crudity of design makes them unpopular. Moreover, quite a number of collectors are ready to immediately denounce copies shown them as "forgeries." Yet they will readily invest their money in the more recent picture issues.

Canadian Quebecs.

I think that these are at last settling down to a steady basis.

The "steadying" process has shown us which is to be the scarce value. Without a shadow of doubt this honour will be held by the 15c., which already, on account of difficulty of procuring, many dealers refuse to sell unless in the whole set.

Lincoln Imperforates.

Somewhere we have seen that these stamps will be very common. From a Washington correspondent we learn the whole state of affairs.

It appears that the impressions upon the "Lincoln" plates are differently and wider spaced to those of the other stamps. The result is, that the owners of the various Standard Auto-machines have returned their supplies of the Centenary stamp, because the machines cut a vertical strip of ten into about 10½ stamps.

This stamp is by no means common in the ordinary perforated state, let alone imperforate. Few dealers possess proper stocks, and one feels inclined to believe a correspondent who denies that large quantities have been issued. Still, if six millions were printed, what are they to the stamp collectors of the world? Our 9d. and 10d. current British are catalogued at 3d. each, and always readily sell at 1d., but many more millions have been printed, sold, and used since 1902.

British New Guinea and Papua

BY E. D. E. VAN WEENEN

From the "Australian Philatelist"

In *Ewen's Weekly* of May 9th, 1908, and subsequent dates, the stamps of British New Guinea, and the same surcharged "Papua" in thick, and afterwards in thin letters, are fully discussed. It seems that a correspondent discovered there were two kinds of watermarks; one, the rosette in a horizontal position, the other vertical. The fact of the two positions of the watermark has long been known by Australian collectors, but little or no notice was taken of it. It appears now that what was thought accidental was really not so, as from the size of the sheets, the position of the watermark could not have been reversed by mere chance. At the same time it is possible that when the paper was watermarked, some of the sheets may have been cut up irrespective of the position of the watermark.

However, taking the watermarks as two varieties, some of the correspondents in "*Ewen's*" are a good deal astray as to their measurements. According to them the long axis ranges from 10.75 mm. to 12.5 mm.; and the short one 9 mm. I have measured about 200, and find them on an average 12 mm. in the long axis and 10.5 in the short axis. In one or two values, notably the 2½d., there is little between the measurements of the two axes. I can only account for this by the relative dampness of the paper (especially the thick) when the watermark was impressed.

Ewen's quotes three qualities of paper, varying, however, more in thickness. In a few instances I have found all three in one value, but in most instances it is very difficult to separate the first and second unless the gum is removed. Some of the stamps are more thickly gummed than others, and one gum used has toned the paper. The thickest paper was used for printing the first issues of British New Guinea, and in this the watermark is mostly horizontal. According to the same journal, all the values of British New Guinea are printed on the three papers. So far I have found only the following on the thin paper (No. 3):—2d., vertical watermark, and ½d., 1d., 2d., and 2½d. horizontal wmk. The 2s. 6d. "Papua," thin surcharge, wmk. horizontal, is the only value of that issue that I have found on thin paper. The same issue, with vertical wmk., I have found as follows:—Thick paper (No. 1), 2½d.; paper No. 2, all values; paper No. 3, all values except 2½d. and 4d. In the thick surcharge, wmk. horizontal, I have found: Paper No. 1, none; paper No. 2, ½d., 2½d., 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d. Wmk. vertically: Paper No. 1, 2½d., 4d., 6d.; paper No. 2, 1d., 2d., 2½d.; paper No. 3, ½d., 1d. Messrs. F. Hagen, Ltd., kindly placed their large stock at my disposal, so that I had a good opportunity of finding out whether the various varieties as quoted in *Ewen's* were correct. It is possible that the missing links between *Ewen's* and my own list may be found in other collections. If so, no doubt the owners will give me an opportunity to examine them. The rarest stamp found by me is the 2s. 6d. thin surcharge, with vertical wmk.

There are a number of minor varieties found in some of the plates. For instance, in No. 20 the leaves over the value on the right hand are unshaded to a great extent, and less so the leaves to right of value on left hand in No. 27. These varieties are most pronounced on the ½d. and 2½d. plates. In the thin surcharged

"Papua" the "Pa" is raised above the other letters in No. 17, and the last "a" of "Papua" in No. 19 is also raised. In the 6d. value the "u" of "Papua" is also raised. In all values Nos. 10, 16, and 21 the small "p" of "Papua" is an inverted "d." The printing of the ½d. and 2½d. was not evenly executed, as the colouring of the medallion in which the value is inserted is sometimes lighter or darker than the rest of the stamp. The central design, in black, has not always been correctly placed, and in many stamps it goes over either the left or right side of the inner frame, and in one or two instances over the bottom part of the frame. The lines forming the sky vary in shade, and are at times blurred. In some stamps of the thin surcharged "Papua" there are plain indications of a second impression, one over the other.

The latest issue, where the words "British New Guinea" have been replaced by "Papua," already shows varieties. For instance: In the ½d. value the word "Papua" is printed in somewhat larger type than in the other values, the 1d. and 2½d. are in shades, and the ½d., 2d. and 4d. are perforated 12½ all round, as well as 11 all round, the latter being used for all values.

It may be of interest to advanced collectors to learn the various postmarks used in British New Guinea (now Papua). Before it issued stamps of its own, Queensland ones were issued. The first cancelling mark consisted of an oblong of 8 thick bars, each 2 mm. thick, the dimensions of the oblong being 28 × 23 mm., with the centre cut out in which were inserted the letters B.N.G. (no stop after the G). My earliest envelope is dated: Port Moresby, 28th Aug., 1891. In the next, dated Samarai, 22nd June, 1896, also with a Queensland stamp on it, the cancellation consists of an oblong of 10 bars, 1½ mm. thick, of about the same dimensions as that on the 1891 envelope, but the letters BNG are in thin type, 7 mm. long, and there are no stops. I have the first cancellation also on the 1d. and 6d. British New Guinea vertical postmark. The next cancellation is like the second one mentioned, but the letters B.N.G. are wider apart and have stops. Another shows the word "Samarai" (letters about ¾ mm. thick and 6 mm. long), with the word "Registered" in same type above it. This was followed (or perhaps preceded) by circular cancellations:—1. Samarai on top and BNG (without stops) at bottom, letters 3½ mm. long, and a Maltese cross on each side, with date in centre. 2. Samarai, or Port Moresby, on top, British New Guinea at bottom, and a stop on each side, and date in centre (letters 3 mm. long), diameter of circular 24 mm. The above two have no outer line. 3. Outer line to circle, 24 mm. diameter, name of post town on top and Papua at bottom, and a large dot on each side. This cancellation is now in use.

Back Nos. of "The Postage Stamp."

Those of our friends who are lacking any back numbers of the present vol. will do well to write direct to our Publishers, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, 1 Amen Corner, London, E.C., for what they require. Many newsagents do not care to bother about back numbers. Any number still on sale may be had for the published price and postage, *i.e.*, 1½d.

Stop Press News

FORGED BORNEO STAMPS.

SATURDAY, MAY 1ST, AT BOW STREET.

NEW CHARGE AGAINST PRISONERS.

The hearing of the case in which it is alleged that postage and revenue stamps of British North Borneo were forged was resumed at Bow Street on Saturday last. It is alleged that the prisoners, John Stewart Lowden and Henry Harmer, stamp dealers, obtained the stamps in Paris with a view to selling them to collectors.

Mr. Bodkin, prosecuting, now said that he proposed further to charge the prisoners with conspiring to contravene the Post Office Act, which made it an offence to be in possession without lawful excuse of fictitious stamps, either British or foreign. The offence of forging a stamp, as an indictable offence in this country, was only provided for by the Stamp Duties Management Act of 1890, but that Act dealt exclusively with the stamps of Great Britain, and therefore there could be no charge in respect of the forging of these stamps.

Chief Inspector Stockley, who arrested the prisoners, said that in a room fitted up as an office at Harmer's residence he found upwards of 20,000 of the 1886 issue of British North Borneo stamps, of the value of one, two and four cents; a quantity of similar stamps of the current issue, the denominations ranging from one cent to 25 dollars, and also a number of stamps of British Honduras, South Africa, Costa Rica, Philippine Islands, Cuba, Orange River, and others. He also found a large number of various stamps at Lowden's office in Villiers Street. The stamps included 92,490 British North Borneo of the 1887 issue.

Witness asked Lowden for the books of the West End Stamp Company, but he replied that he had not got them, as he had sold the business for £10 to a man named Schneider, who, he believed, was a stamp dealer in Gray's Inn Road. Witness added that he also found at the offices in Villiers Street bills and cheques signed by the prisoners showing that between November, 1907, and May, 1908, they had remitted £151 5s. 9d. to a man in Paris.

Marcel Calcas, a detective of the French police, stated that in December last, in company with other officers, he visited the office of M. Careme, in Paris, and there saw men at work printing, gumming, and perforating British North Borneo and other stamps. He found on the

premises a machine for printing cancellation marks on stamps. Between 700,000 and 800,000 of nine different kinds of British North Borneo stamps, some in course of manufacture, were seized by the police, together with litho stones and a large quantity of correspondence signed in the names of Harmer, Herbert Mack and Herbert Mack & Co.

The prisoners were again remanded.

Items in Brief

Mr. F. Atkins, speaking at the Sheffield Society's dinner, mentioned that the dies from which our postage stamps are made were manufactured in Sheffield.

The Prahran Philatelic Society, Victoria, Australia, is arranging to hold a "Smoke Night" in May.

Is it a new sort of religious Ceremony?

It will be held at the Prahran Coffee Palace: Prince Henry's room is outdone.

L'Annuaire Timbrologique contains an advertisement commencing: "Au diable les allumettes."

We should not limit this kindly sentiment to matches.

Mr. C. L. Harte-Lovelace should compile a Philatelists' Cookery Book.

In *G.S.W.*, referring to a one candarin stamp of China (S.G. 13), he says:—"I kept it well stirred (in warm water), watch in hand, and at the end of forty seconds all traces of yellow had disappeared and its value had increased (presumably) to 1s."

Mr. Ch. De Bont, writing in *G.S.W.* of the 10 centimes Belgium 1884, says:—"This stamp was produced in ten printings."

A nice opportunity for a mix-up of inverted centres; but we think there is a mistake somewhere.

Messrs. Hayman and Ashley are to lecture this week at the Herts on "The Purchasing Power of the Penny."

I am interested to know how a Great Mogul would spend a penny.

A penny will buy a postage stamp.

A penny will buy THE POSTAGE STAMP.

"The youngest member is aged eighteen months."—*Report of Chums Society of Stamp Collectors.*

Children make good specialists. Fenelon says they "are very nice observers, and they will often perceive your slightest defects."

Good luck to the Chums Baby Bloater. May it wax great in philatelic wisdom.

What's learned in the cradle is carried to the tomb.

Will someone invent a philatelic rattle?

"Mr. T. Blake and the Hon. Secretary propose starting the bathing season at Whitsun. Bathing station, Adelaide Crescent. Week-days 7 a.m., Sundays 8.30 a.m. Other members will be welcome."—*Notice issued by Brighton Branch J.P.S.*

No swapping while bathing.

Won't they get cold talking stamps?

They ought to wear the J.P.S. badge (plus the University costume).

Editor's Letter Box

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Articles, Contributions and Correspondence, should be addressed to the Editor, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the correspondent. Articles, etc., not accepted, will be returned when postage is prepaid.

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Answers to Correspondents.

J. T. (Hull).—"What should be the conditions of the perforations [of a good used stamp]?" They should be *all there*. In the matter of postmark there are two courses open—A stamp almost unobliterated or with a neat clean postmark, either could be considered a fine used copy. The specialist cannot afford to neglect the legible postmarks which confirm his dates. As regards margins in a perforated stamp, I think there is nothing much uglier than the kind you describe, with a carriage drive along *one side*. The points you raise are of course to some extent, matters of individual taste. As to the elusive watermarks, have you tried laying the stamps against a black or dark object?

F. A. W. (Watford).—Wants to know why the £5 English stamp *unused* appreciates so slowly? He "should think there would be very few in existence." The reason is very simple. So many people laid in a few that there are still enough to go round and some to spare. I know one man who has got over ninety of them.

E. N. (Battersea).—The Otterdale is one of the best Exchange Clubs for advanced collectors. The Secretary is H. Dannatt, 18, Nelson Street, Greenwich, S.E. For a medium collector, the Junior Philatelic Society has an Exchange Section. The Superintendent of this is D. S. Darkin, 303, Green Lanes, London, N. There are many others. Consult the advertisement columns of this journal.

M. W. H. (London, W.).—Thanks for your interesting note on New Hebrides prices.

A. J. W. (New Malden).—See page 244 of the latest Gibbons' catalogue, part I.

G. C. (Margate).—The firm you name is quite an old established one.

The POSTAGE STAMP

Founded by
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.
Edited by
FRED. J. MELVILLE.

*An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors*

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Gossip of the Week

BY CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Post Office Laws.



MR. BUXTON is to have an Assistant Postmaster-General and a short Bill has been introduced to enable the new official to sit in the House of Commons. The American P.M.G. has long had his First, Second, and Third Assistant P.M.G.'s. The mention of this Bill reminds me that I received the other day the Post Office Consolidation Act of 1908, which

came into force on May 1st. It is a consolidation of the unrepealed portions of about twenty-six Acts relating to the Post Office and covering a period of two centuries. The important Act of 9 Anne, c. 10 (1710) is the earliest referred to and the original is highly interesting to the philatelic historian.

A Philatelic Broncho Buster.

There have been some exciting times down at Earl's Court. One of the J.P.S. officials—I will not say which—thought he would give the stamps a rest and just have a peep at those charming damsels, the cowgirls, who are performing in the Red Man and Wild West spectacle in the Empress Theatre at Earl's Court. When our friend took up his stand in the middle of the exit gangway, the cowboys and cowgirls were showing their powers with some bronchos. Now one broncho in particular had made up his mind to leave the place and he chose the particular exit which our friend was barring. It was a short swift race up the gangway. In another second there would have been one stamp collector less in the J.P.S. How the broncho's mad career was stopped, I am not informed; and as to who the official was—wild horses would not drag his name from me.

Proposed Bolton Philatelic Society.

Mr. H. O. Moscrop writes me: "At the request of a few local philatelists a preliminary meeting will shortly be called for the purpose of establishing the above-named Society. I trust to have the hearty support of all inter-

ested in philately residing in, or near, Bolton, and shall be pleased to hear from anyone desirous of attending the first meeting."

I am always glad to give publicity to such proposals. There should be a society, or at least a "fellowship" or "circle" of collectors in every town. The collector who ploughs a lone furrow has not half the opportunities for progress that another has who makes a point of meeting fellow collectors and discussing knotty points, swapping duplicates and generally stimulating one another's interest. Any collector in or near Bolton should write Mr. Moscrop, at 91, Thicketford Road, Tong Moor, Bolton.

Hong Kong 6c.

One wonders as to the real necessity for a 6c. value in this China Colony, for few are seen anywhere, and very, very few dealers possess any—that is in the legitimate used state. Looking through our Scott's the other day we were surprised to see that it was not catalogued. Maybe its scarcity has been such that no copies have strayed south of the "All Red Route" from China. Correspondents in Hong Kong should be asked to place this and the 5c. value upon their letters, for either are worth half-a-dozen 2c., 4c. or 10c. values.

Soudan Army Officials.

With the great interest displayed in the stamps of the British Protectorates, Egypt and the Soudan, the officials of the latter give quite an excellent scope for a furtherance of philatelic study. The used Soudan Army Officials are by no means common, and fully worth their catalogue value, but the unused specimens should be worth the philatelic Egyptologists' careful attention. Unlike our own Officials, these stamps are not strictly kept for use of the Government Service, but are on the same footing as the French Military stamps. Therefore they are quite as legitimate in unused condition as in used. On the other hand their supply is limited in such a manner as to prevent them being bought off the Garrisons in quantities by dealers. From what a French correspondent in Egypt informs me, it is very likely that these stamps will be discontinued, as they are considered to promote dishonesty among the easily corrupted "fellahs" employed in the Canteen and Clerking Departments. The fact that at least a couple of Egyptian dealers have returned orders marked "out of stock" seems to shew that the discontinuance is probable.

Postal Pen Cancels.

How often it is that one hears collectors question the honesty of stamps bearing a rubber stamp or pen mark in addition to the postal obliteration. And still more often turn their backs upon an old stamp with a script cross upon it. It appears not to be generally known that older Indians, Ceylons or Hong Kongs had these defacements placed on them for the purpose of preventing the temptation of the detachment of the stamps from the letter by the childlike natives. None of these stamps were ever used for revenue purposes, separate labels being provided. Thus a first issue Hong Kong with a business firm's name on its face as well as a postmark is quite genuine in every way. The same applies to many another early Colonial issue bearing pen marks. Early Canadians, Tasmanian, New Zealand, West Indian, &c., were never used for fiscal purposes but so cancelled, because the acting postmaster did not possess any other means of obliterating a stamp than by pen and ink.

Hotels for Amsterdam Visitors.

Anyone who is going over to the Amsterdam Exhibition should book rooms as early as possible. Mr. Booleman, the energetic Secretary of the Exhibition, tells me that rooms should be reserved fourteen days beforehand. The hotels which Mr. Booleman recommends for British visitors are:—

Amstel Hotel, first class.	Near the Weesperpoort	
Price from fl. 8		Station.
Hotel de l'Europe,		
fl. 8	} In the centre of	
Bracks Doelen Hotel,		
fl. 8		
Hotel des Pays-Bas,		
fl. 2.50		
Hotel Victoria.	Opposite the Central Station.	
fl. 2		
American Hotel.	Near the Exhibition.	
fl. 2		

These charges do not include "le petit déjeuner."

Another Philatelic Exhibition Postmark.

Mr. Booleman also informs me that there will be a special post office fitted up in one of the Exhibition halls, and that all correspondence posted in the Exhibition will be cancelled with a special postmark. The Exhibition will be open from June 8rd to 10th. Up to the present no information is to hand with regard to the opening ceremony, or any other programme of festivities, but no

doubt everything will be done by the Dutch philatelists to make their Exhibition a great social as well as a great philatelic success.

No Philatelic Societies in China.

The Chinese Minister made an interesting, if quaintly delivered, speech at the Annual Dinner of the Herts Society on May 4th. While he very properly claimed that a system of postage existed in China before the Christian era, he admitted that his celestial homeland had not yet a philatelic society. I should think there must have been plenty of collectors to form several societies in some of the China Settlements in the days when the Wuhus, the Kewkiangs, Chefoos, Ichangs, and all the rest of the locals were being put out to bring grey hairs prematurely to the philatelists' locks.

A Successful Dinner.

The dinner was quite a successful affair, though on a totally different plan from the old days when we used to meet at a modest 8s 6d. board in Fleet Street, and where, instead of hobnobbing with Excellencies of the Celestial Empire and High Commissioners, we used to know everyone, and where we felt quite happy and content to talk stamps with our neighbours, and even to pick up a bargain between the dessert and the coffee.

Distinguished Visitors.

Among those present were the Chinese Minister, the Hon. W. Hall Jones (High Commissioner for New Zealand), the First Secretary of the Chinese Legation, W. Morgan Young (Master of the Armourers Company), J. D. Heath (of Perkins Bacon & Co.), P. D. Warren (Surveyor-General of Ceylon), Dr. Milbourne West (President of the Leicester Philatelic Society), A. D. Ferguson (Hon. Secretary of the British Guiana Philatelic Society), W. Lane Joynt, L. L. R. Hausburg, R. B. Yardley, J. T. Grein, Baron Anthony de Worms, Baron Percy de Worms, H. L. Hayman, H. A. Slade, and many other well-known collectors

Back Nos. of "The Postage Stamp."

Those of our friends who are lacking any back numbers of the present vol. will do well to write direct to our Publishers Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, 1 Amen Corner, London, E.C., for what they require. Many newagents do not care to bother about back numbers. Any number still on sale may be had for the published price and postage, &c., 1½d.

The Postage Stamp Handbooks

Important Announcement regarding the continuation of "Nankivell's Philatelic Handbooks"

Arrangements are now being made for the continuation of the series of small handbooks on the postage stamps of popular countries, which were initiated as "Nankivell's Philatelic Handbooks." Only one has been issued under this title (*Jamaica and Cayman Islands*). In future the series will be styled "The Postage Stamp Handbooks," and while they will be under the general editorship of Mr. Fred J. Melville, they will not be restricted to the writings of any one author.

Among the authors whose works are at present in preparation for this series are the late Mr. Edward J. Nankivell, Mr. Fred J. Melville, and Mr. Bertram W. H.

Pool. The first two booklets are both from the pen of our late Editor, and one of them will deal with the popular Cape of Good Hope stamps.

The work of other writers will be included in the series as opportunity affords, but the series will continue the policy projected for the Nankivell Philatelic Handbooks of reprinting serial articles from *The Postage Stamp*, so that readers may have the more important articles in convenient and separate form.

A further announcement regarding these booklets will appear shortly.

King's Heads to Date

BY BERTRAM W. H. POOLE

Orange River Colony

THE stamps of the Orange River Colony issued down to the end of 1902 are a veritable paradise for the surcharge fiend. During the period the territory formed the Boer Republic of the Orange Free State, or Oranje Vrij Staat to give it its Dutch name, surcharges were of frequent occurrence, and they all have one characteristic in common—an abundance of varieties of type, &c. These variations were due more to the deficiencies of the printing establishment than to any desire on the part of the authorities to raise revenue at the expense of stamp collectors, and their manifold complications make the country anything but an easy one to study or collect with any idea of completeness.

Though the Dutch surcharges are bad enough, they are as nothing compared with the orgy of overprinting that followed Lord Roberts' occupation of Bloemfontein. The catalogue lists of varieties are enough to send any self-respecting anti-surcharge collector to Bedlam, and the specialist could double these with little difficulty!

In strong contrast to the foregoing are the King's head stamps, which first appeared in 1903, and with which we are now concerned. Their advent must have been warmly welcomed by hundreds of collectors tired of the never-ending complications of V.R.I's.

These King's head stamps form an interesting little group. The design is handsome and a great improvement on the stereotyped De La Rue types. On a central oval is a portrait of His Majesty King Edward VII., and on a graceful scroll, extending from the left over the top and to the right of this, is "ORANGE RIVER COLONY." Under the portrait is a view of the veldt, and at the base on the left and right respectively, a springbok and a gnu are shown, while in the lower frame the word "POSTAGE" appears. In the upper corners are tablets denoting the value.

The stamps were originally issued on the paper with single Crown over "CA" watermark and since 1905 three values have appeared with multiple watermark. Others will be issued on this new paper as soon as present supplies are exhausted, and if this Colony adopts the Crown Agents colour scheme it will necessitate a change of colours for several of the values.



1903-4.—The set consists of nine values all of the same design. The four higher values are in two colours, but in all cases the stamps were printed at two operations. The same head plate was used for all, but there is a separate duty-plate for each denomination. The stamps were printed in sheets of 120, arranged in two panes of 60 (10 horizontal rows of 6), placed side by side. The plate number—in the colour of the portrait medallion—is shown above the 2nd and 11th stamps in the top row and

below the corresponding stamps in the lowest row. This consists of an uncoloured figure "1" on a solid circle of colour with a ring around. The stamps were designed and engraved by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., Ltd., printed on single CA paper, and perforated 14 in that firm's usual style.

Wmk. Crown C.A.	Perf. 14.	
	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	s. d.
½d. yellow-green	- 0 1	0 1
1d. scarlet	- 0 3	0 1
2d. brown	- 0 3	0 2
2½d. ultramarine	- 0 4	0 4
3d. mauve	- 0 5	0 3
4d. sage green and scarlet	- 0 9	0 5
6d. mauve	- 0 8	0 5
1s. bistre	- 1 4	0 8
5s. brown and blue	- 6 6	—

Range of Catalogue Prices: Unused.

There is little to record in the way of alterations in price as only the ½d., 1d. and 4d. have, so far, appeared on the new paper. Of these three values the ½d. remains at its original price of 1d., the 1d. has risen to 3d., and the 4d. was increased from 6d. to 9d. in 1908, and still remains at the latter figure.

1905-7.—In 1905 the 1d. value appeared on the new paper with multiple watermark, the 4d. followed in 1906, and a year later the ½d. appeared. All the other values are still current on the single C.A. paper.

Wmk. Multiple Cr. C.A.	Perf. 14.	
	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	s. d.
½d. green	- 0 1	—
1d. scarlet	- 0 2	0 1
4d. sage green and scarlet	- 0 6	—

Cape of Good Hope

The King's head stamps of the Cape of Good Hope call for little comment as they form a straightforward issue that provides no varieties whatever. There is a different design for each value, and the only feature they all have in common is the portrait of King Edward in the centre, which is the same as that shown on the stamps of the Transvaal, Lagos, Cyprus, India, etc.

The only value that shows any ornamentation other than conventional scrolls and foliage is the 2½d., on which pineapples are depicted in the upper corners.

The designs are hardly artistic, but they provide a welcome relief from the monotonous De La Rue "stock" types.

Like the current stamps of the Orange River Colony they are for postage only, and being so inscribed they are not available for any fiscal purpose. In each case the value is shown in words as well as figures. On some denominations the value is shown four times, the name twice or "POSTAGE" twice for the sake of symmetry. We illustrate two representative designs.

The stamps were all designed and engraved by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., Ltd., and as they are printed on their

own special paper there are no changes of watermark to record. It is, of course, possible that the Crown Agents' new colour scheme may be adopted by this Colony, and in that event there will be a few changes of colour to record later on.



1902-3.—The set consists of nine values all of different design. They are all printed in sheets of 240 arranged in four panes of 60 (10 horizontal rows of 6) placed two and two. A plate number appears in the margin above the 2nd and 11th stamps in the top row and below the corresponding labels in the bottom row of each sheet. The plate number is "1" for each value and it consists of an uncoloured figure on a solid circle of colour with a ring around.

Each stamp is watermarked with a cabled anchor and

NOTE.—For special offers of the stamps of this country see Mr. W. H. Peckitt's advertisement in this week's number of the "Postage Stamp."

Stray Notes on Holland

BY B. B. KIRBY

Continued from page 64.

[NOTE—In the reference list of the Second Issue on page 64 last week the 15c. was given as "rose" instead of "orange-yellow."]

Again in this issue the perforations are very various, there can be found perfs. (a) 14 × 14, (b) 13, 13½ (small holes), 18, 18½ (large holes). The stamps perforated 18, 18½ (small holes) can be divided into two sets on white and azure tinted papers.

There is one major variety to be noticed, viz.: in the 1 cent black there is a full stop after the word "CENT." also there are several minor ones, such as broken frames, etc.

The delicate colour of the 2½ cents gave rise to complaints that the sun made the colour fade, so the printers were ordered to intensify the shade. This was done by mixing more red with the ink. This accounts for the reddish violet colour which can be obtained in the stamps of this value.

- ½c. brown, perfs. a, b, c.
- 1c. black, perfs. a, —, —.
- 1c. green, perfs. a, b, c.
- 1½c. rose, perfs. a, b, c.
- 2c. yellow bistre, perfs. a, b, c.
- 2½c. mauve, perfs. a, b, c.

All the values exist imperforate.

Fifth Issue.

By a royal decree, dated June 6th, 1872, new postage stamps were created, known by philatelists as the fifth issue. They were engraved in wood at the State Printing Works at Berlin, from a design by C. Ten Kate and were printed typographically in colours on white wove paper of varying texture.

the perforation gauges 14 in the usual De la Rue style.

Wmk. Cabled Anchor. Perf. 14.

	Unused.		Used.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
½d. green	-	0 1	0	1
1d. rose	-	0 12	0	1
2d. brown	-	0 3	0	3
2½d. ultramarine	-	0 4	0	4
3d. magenta	-	0 5	0	2
4d. olive green	-	0 6	0	2
6d. mauve	-	0 8	0	2
1s. ochre	-	1 4	0	3
5s. orange-brown	-	6 6	1	0

Notes.

As the stamps are still current and have not been altered in any way since their appearance in 1902-3, catalogue prices have, naturally, remained stationary. There are no striking shades except in the case of the two lowest values, both of which may be found in distinct dark and pale tints. For a short time the 2d. and 2½d. jumped to 6d. each owing to some difficulty in obtaining these values. This difficulty was, however, simply due to the fact that the authorities wished to use up the old "Hope" stamps first and supplied the King's heads only on special requisition.

There are two types, a large one for the 2½ gulden value measuring 20 × 25 mm, and a smaller one for the other value, measuring 18½ × 22½ mm.

Design.

Effigy of King William III. in a circle of pearls, between the royal Arms at top the word "NEDERLAND" and at bottom value in tablet. Large type of similar appearance, only value at top and "NEDERLAND" at base.

A peculiarity of these stamps is that, in the large one, the outside frame the line divides into two, when it approaches each corner. Again, in the other type the outside line on the right and bottom is a single one, whilst on the other two sides it consists of two lines.

The sheets of the lower values consist of 200 stamps (20 rows of 10), and of the higher value of 50 stamps (5 rows of 10). There are some varieties of this issue, viz., the 20c. green can be found with a dot under the figure of value, and the 25c. purple has the tail of the "T" in cent. split; also on the 5 cents blue there is a variety with a bald patch in the King's head. The 2g. 50c. is also found with double vertical perforation.

All the values are known imperf., but are extremely rare.

In this issue, again, the varieties of perforation are numerous. They are—(a) 14 × 14, small holes; (b) 13, 13½ × 14; (c) 18, 18½ (small holes); (d) 14 × 14 (large holes); (e) 13, 13½ (large holes); (f) 12½ × 12; (g) 11½ × 12; (h) 12½ × 12½. There are two comb machines, the old 12½ × 12 machine and a machine gauging 12½ × 12½ which was purchased later.

The variety measuring 11½ × 12 is due to the fact that when perforating the March, 1885 issue of the Transvaal an accident happened to the machine which had been in use since 1864, the first needle in the horizontal row being

broken. When this was repaired it was found that in a length of 10 mms. only 11½ holes were punched instead of 12½.

In addition to the above-mentioned varieties it is possible to divide the stamps of the gauge of 12½ × 12, 11½ × 12, and 12½ × 12½ into two sets consisting of small and large holes. They are quite distinct, and well worth collecting.

In order to conform with the Postal Union rules the issue of a 12½ cent value was authorised by the King on June 16th, 1875. This was issued on July 1st, 1875, is of a grey colour, and is known with all the perforations aforementioned except perf. 14 × 14. There is an extremely rare variety of this stamp on white ribbed paper perforated 9.

Some new values having become necessary, a Royal decree dated 20th November, 1888, authorised the issue of the 7½ cents chocolate, 22½ cents blue-green, and 1 gulden bluish purple. These were issued on 15th December, 1888. The 7½ cents and 1 gulden are perforated 12½ × 12, and the 22½ cents perforated 12½ × 12 and 12½ × 12½.

- 5 cents blue, perfs. a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h.
- 7½ „ chocolate, perfs. —, —, —, —, —, f, —, —.
- 10 „ carmine, perfs. —, b, c, —, e, f, g, h.
- 12½ „ grey, perfs., —, —, —, d, e, f, g, h.
- 15 „ yellow-brown, perfs., —, b, —, —, e, f, g, h.
- 20 „ yellow-green, perfs., a, b, —, d, e, f, g, h.
- 22½ „ blue-green, perfs. —, —, —, —, —, f, —, h.
- 25 „ purple, perfs., —, —, —, d, e, f, g, h.
- 50 „ bistre, perfs. —, —, —, d, e, f, g, h.
- 1 gulden slate violet, perfs., —, —, —, —, —, f, —, —.
- 2 gulden 50 cents, perfs. a, —, —, —, —, —, —, —.

Sixth Issue

A further fresh issue of newspaper stamps was announced by a Royal decree of 15th September, 1876, and on 10th December of the same year the set, consisting of ½ cent rose, 1 cent green, 2 cents yellow-ochre, and 2½ cents purple, was issued. These stamps were engraved on wood in the works of Messrs. Enschedé and Son, at Haarlem, where they were typographically printed in sheets of 200 stamps (20 rows of 10).

Design.

Figure on a white ground in a circle enclosed within a rectangle having the ground covered with figures representing the value, in the corners a figure within a small pearly circle.

There existed only one engraving for the different values, the figures being added to the matrices. Again most of the varieties of perforation, which have been before cited, can be found in this issue. The paper is ordinary white wove, but in June, 1893, the set appeared on laid paper. In April, 1894, a fresh printing made on thin white glazed paper and the stamps appeared in brighter colours.

There are two types of the ½ cent rose, in one the fraction bar is 8—8½ mm long and rather thick, whilst in the other the bar is longer, measuring 9 mm long, and is also thinner.

One stamp in the sheet (the 120th of the 1 cent green, perf. 12½ × 12½) has the curl of the ornament below the figure of value on the right hand side missing.

A variety of the 2½ cents purple has both sides of the frame under the small circle containing the figures of value broken and also the upper part of the stamp is doubly printed.

- ½c. rose, perfs. d, e, f, g, h.
- 1c. green, perfs. —, e, f, g, h.
- 2c. yellow ochre, perfs. —, e, f, g, h.
- 2½c. mauve, perfs. —, e, f, g, h.

Seventh Issue.

Owing to the death of King William III. on November 23rd, 1890, it was necessary for a fresh issue to be made. This was accomplished by the substitution of the head of Queen Wilhelmina for that of King William. The portrait was engraved by Messrs. Enschedé & Son. The stamps were printed in sheets of 200 (20 rows of 10) excepting the large sized stamps, which were printed in sheets of 50 stamps (5 rows of 10).

We now seem to leave the varieties of perforations behind us, at any rate as regards the small-sized stamps, as all this issue gauge (uniformly) (a) 12½ × 12½.

For the larger stamps the printers appear to have purchased two single line machines measuring 11½ and 11. Consequently there are to be obtained stamps gauging (b) 11½ × 11½, (c) 11½ × 11, and (d) 11 × 11.

The stamps of this issue can be divided into two sets, distinguished by the paper. In the first the paper is medium white wove and rather mottled in texture, whilst the second is thinner wove, quite uniform and very smooth.

A new value, that of 3 cents orange, was issued on April 1st, 1892, in pursuance of the royal decree of the 11th February, 1892.

On June 5th, 1896, it was announced that the 50 cents would be issued as a bi-coloured stamp and of the large size, and also that a stamp to the value of 5 gulden would be placed on sale. Subsequently these two stamps appeared on 15th July, 1896.

- 3c. orange
- 5c. blue
- 7½c. brown
- 10c. carmine
- 12½c. grey
- 15c. brown
- 20c. green
- 22½c. myrtle green
- 25c. purple
- 50c. bistre
- 50c. brown and blue green, perfs. —, c, d.
- 1g. olive green and brown, perfs. —, c, d.
- 2g. 50 ultramarine and rosine, perfs. b, c, d.
- 5g. lake and bronze green, perfs. —, —, d.

} perf. a.

To be continued.

Our Advertisers' Offers.

Mr. Peckitt advertises the stamps of Orange River Colony and Cape of Good Hope which are the subject of our "King's Heads to Date" article this week.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. announce that a full line of their fine albums will be on sale at the Earl's Court Exhibition at their Stall in the Stamp Section. They also offer some bargains in Crete provisionals.

Mr. D. Field offers special bargains in the rare hand-stamped Congo, and his advertisement should be well worth looking into this week.

Messrs Hamilton & Co., of Brighton offer a big bargain packet.

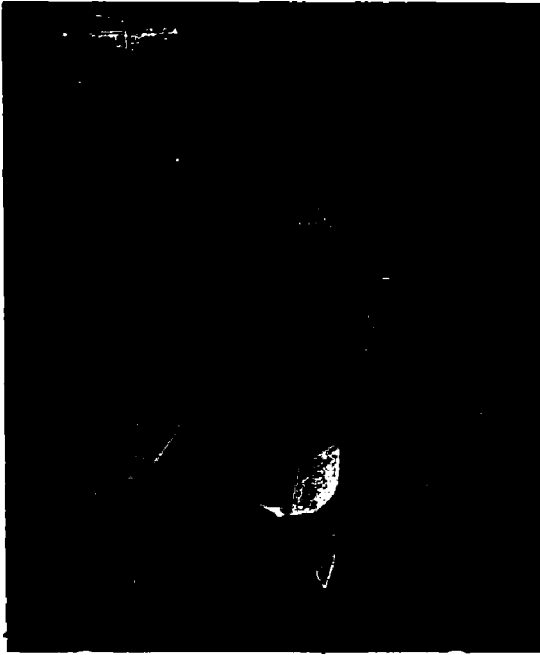
Mr. E. Burnet-Ginn of Tottenham lists some cheap items in Canada.

The Victoria Stamp Co. offers varieties of the 1897 provisionals of China.

The House of Houtzamer which is now styled W. and A. Houtzamer is still carrying on business at the old address, 368, Strand, and is offering this week bargains in Tobago and Tonga.

The Earl's Court Exhibition

The Visit of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs in State.—The Collections of American Stamps.—Major Evans' Superb Display of Confederate States.—Trade Exhibits



HERBERT F. JOHNSON,
Hon. Secretary of the Loan Exhibition of Revenue Postage
Stamps at Earl's Court.

THE Golden West and American Industries Exhibition at Earls Court with its important American Postage Stamp Section in the Illinois Building (Ducal Hall) was opened on Saturday by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of London and Sheriffs in State. Long before twelve o'clock, the time for the opening ceremony, a huge crowd was passing through the turnstiles at the Warwick Road and other entrances to the Exhibition grounds.

The clerk of the weather had given us the best of fine days. A cloudless sky and a glorious sun gave a summer brightness and warmth to the pleasant gardens and courts of the Exhibition grounds.

The Opening Ceremony.

An escort of infantry was drawn up outside the main entrance for the arrival of the Lord Mayor and his party, who were received by the directors of the Exhibition Company, headed by M. Crémieu-Javal, and a large number of invited guests.

The Lady Mayoress, on her arrival with the Lord Mayor, was presented with a large "shower" bouquet of pink roses; and then a procession was formed, and the Lord Mayor was conducted to a platform erected in the Imperial Gardens, where, without formality and with notable brevity, he said: "Mr. Crémieu-Javal, ladies and gentlemen,—It gives me great pleasure to declare this

'Golden West and American Industries Exhibition open.'

The Luncheon.

And with these few words the formal opening of the Exhibition was concluded. The huge crowds of visitors dispersed themselves about the grounds to enjoy a regular gala day of amusement, and a large company of invited guests accompanied the Lord Mayor to the opening luncheon.

At the luncheon Mr. P. Crémieu-Javal presided, being supported by the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs and representatives of the U.S.A., the South American States, Norway, Turkey, Servia, Japan, Germany, Sweden, France, Russia, and other countries.

Among the guests present were: Lady Barnard, Sir Alfred Bateman, Sir Stewart Bayley, Sir George Birdwood, Sir Vincent Caillard, Sir Francis and Lady Dixon-Hartland, Admiral Sir Edmund Fremantle and Lady Fremantle, Sir Frederick Fryer, Lady Violet Greville, the Norwegian Minister, the Servian Chargé d'Affaires, the Danish Minister, the Brazilian Minister, Sir Thomas and Lady Brooke-Hitching, Sir Henry and Lady Seymour King, the Earl and Countess of Kinnoull, Mr. W. G. Ellison Macartney, Admiral Sir A. H. Markham and Lady Markham, Colonel Sir Roper Parkington, General Sir Harry Prendergast, Sir Horace Rumbold, Bart., and Sir William and Lady Vincent.

The toast of the King and that of the President of the United States preceded the toast of the Queen and the other members of the Royal Family.

The Lord Mayor proposed the success of the "Golden West" Exhibition, pointing out that these exhibitions served a good purpose in bringing under review the industries, manufactures, and commerce of the different nations. The present exhibition would show where this country was behind America, and where America was behind this country. It was impossible to have a complete representation of all the industries of America, but the exhibits would be found to be a comprehensive example.

Mr. J. W. Rickman, the American Commissioner for the "Golden West" Exhibition, responded.

The Lord Mayor proposed "The Chairman," who briefly replied.

A Tour of Inspection.

After the luncheon the Lord Mayor and his party made a tour of inspection and included *en route* the Stamp Section, which the party entered from the Queen's Court. Mr. Harold T. Hartley, the Managing Director, explained the purpose and scheme of the stamp exhibit to the Lord Mayor, but it must be confessed that the fine specimens with "original gum" in the stamp section scarcely proved the same fascination to the Mayoral party as the opportunity afforded by the American Chickie Company's handsome stall (at the main entrance to the stamp section) of sampling the toothsome chewing gum of American fame.

The Stamp Exhibits.

Our chief interest of course lay in the Stamp Section, which is in the left wing of the Illinois Building as one enters the Exhibition from Earl's Court Station (Warwick Road entrance). Here, in a fine bright hall in which the light is well controlled, are about 160ft. of wall frames containing a very fine display of the stamps, postage and revenue, of the United States. In addition there is a series of huge South Kensington Museum show cases in which the stamp display is continued.

Immediately on entering the section we find on our left the stall of Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., of Ipswich, who have a very good exhibit of their Albums and Catalogues. At the opposite entrance is Mr. W. H. Peckitt's sign inviting us to inspect some of the choice items which he is prepared to dispose of to well-intentioned buyers.

In the centre, the first trade stall to attract attention is that of Mr. W. S. Lincoln. This stall is very effectively labelled "the oldest established stamp dealer in the world," Mr. Lincoln having lately celebrated his jubilee in the stamp business.

Next to the Lincoln stall is that of Messrs. Charles Nissen & Co., where not only Great Britain stamps but many bargains in other countries and some excellent value in cheap packets are offered.

Another stall which was not occupied at the opening, was later in the evening duly ticketed as, "Reserved for D. Field," Mr. and Mrs. Field having visited the Exhibition and chosen the site during the day.

The exhibits which form the main section of the display brought together by the Junior Philatelic Society are of a high degree of interest, though in the short time at our disposal between the opening of the Exhibition and going to press with this issue of *The Postage Stamp* there is scarcely time to do them justice.

The display begins with a very composite and interesting collection of United States formed by a band of Juniors who have been working together mounting and preparing the special collection for some weeks past. The stamps in this collection are all drawn from the private collections of Messrs. S. R. Turner, G. T. Turner, H. H. Harland, B. B. Kirby, Fred J. Melville.

The collection formed by this little union of members of the Junior is fairly comprehensive, and while dealing at the outset with the regular issues of United States adhesives it goes on to locals and U.S. Colonials. An interesting feature is the showing side by side the proof impressions and the actual stamps, and in many cases the reprints and forgeries. Many copies on entire originals are shown also. This will certainly be one of the most instructive portions of the display as it has been well written up and arranged under the direction of that artist-philatelist Mr. S. R. Turner, who has himself been very partial to early U.S. issues for some years past and provides many of the good things which are included in the show. A skilful and effective use has been made of the fine illustrations and diagrams in our Editor's "United States Postage Stamps 1847-1869" in making the collection self-explanatory to the visitor to the Exhibition.

Following on this combined collection we find Major Evans' superb collection of the stamps of the Confederate States of America. This collection is without doubt the finest one of these stamps in this country, and it is the strongest feature at present in the Stamp Section. Practically everything in the regular Confederate issues is shown in complete panes, and a magnificent range of dated entires confirms the Major's well known studies of these stamps in a most effective manner.

Another exhibit of rare beauty is Mr. Herbert F. Johnson's splendid series of mounted proofs. These fill no fewer than four of the large cases and they cover practically all the regular issues of U.S. postage stamps. They are proofs on India paper mounted on plate sunk mounts, and were much admired by some thousands of visitors during the opening day.

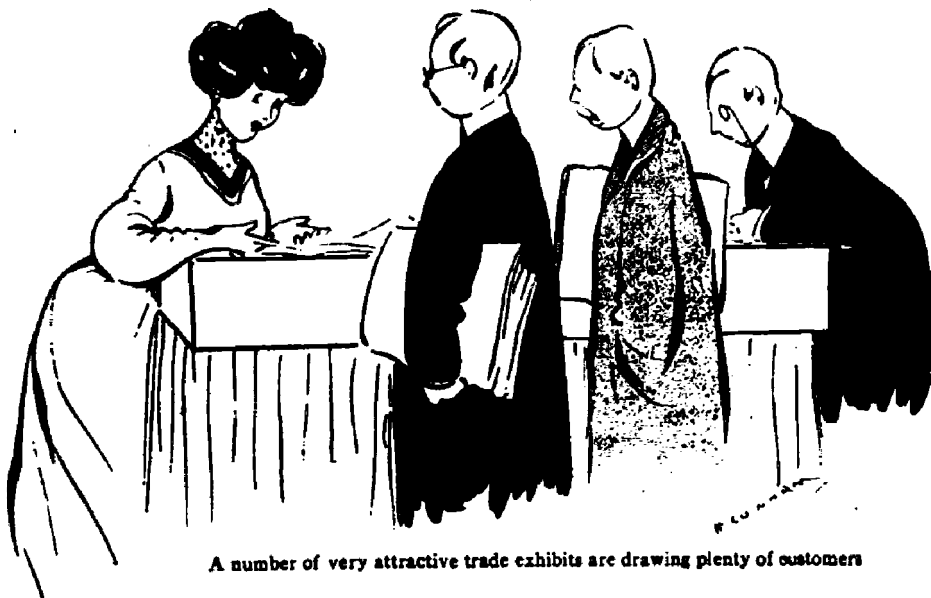
With American collectors the revenue stamps are quite popular, and so Mr. William Hadlow's fine collection of fiscals and Mr. Charles Nissen's collection of Match stamps will prove attractive both from the collector's point of view and also from the popular aspect, their fine engraving and colouring making them very handsome *objets d'art*.

Visitors to the Exhibition.

The Duke of Argyll and Princess Louise with a party of children were present on the opening day. Among the visitors we noted some well-known collectors, but among the crowds it was not possible to get anything like a complete list. Major Evans and Miss Evans, Mr. and Mrs. D. Field, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Gilbert-Lodge, Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Wrinkle, Messrs. Owen Fearnley, H. H. Harland, H. F. Johnson, A. Selinger, B. B. Kirby, W. S. Lincoln, W. E. Lincoln, C. Whitfield King, C. Whitfield King, Jun., S. R. Turner, G. T. Turner, A. Grellier, W. J. C. Pope, and others were among those present on the opening day.

The Trade Stalls.

Next week we shall hope to give a special illustrated article on the Exhibition with photographs taken on the spot by our own photographer. Of the eight stalls set apart for stamp dealers six had been taken up by the opening day, in spite of the very short notice which the trade have had of the Exhibition. Of these six stalls, four have been let with right to sell goods on the spot, the other two being non-selling exhibits. Messrs. Whitfield King, whose representatives were present through-



A number of very attractive trade exhibits are drawing plenty of customers

out the first day, had only booked a non-selling stall, but business was so promising that within an hour after the opening they had converted it into a selling exhibit.

The Stallholders are:—

1. W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, W.C. (non-selling).

2. Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich (selling).

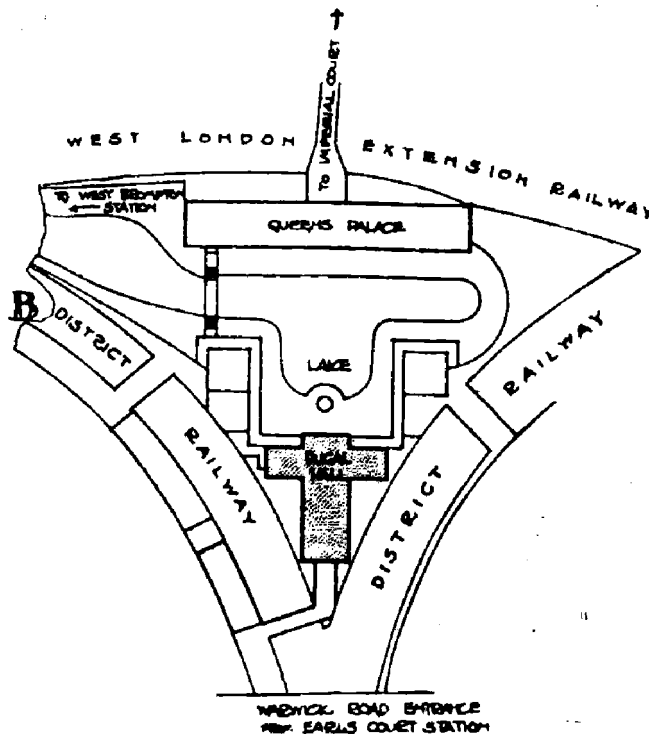
3 & 4. W. S. Lincoln & Son, 2, Hollis Street, Oxford Street, W. (selling).

5. Charles Nissen & Co., 7, Southampton Row, W.C. (selling).

6. D. Field, 4 & 5, Royal Arcade, Bond Street (non-selling).

How to get to the Exhibition.

The Exhibition is open daily (Sundays excepted) from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Admission is 1s., children 6d. Weekly tickets 2s. 6d. Season



Plan shewing the approach to the Stamp Exhibits in the Illinois Building (Ducal Hall) from Earl's Court Station.

tickets (double) 10s. 6d. Return tickets may be taken (including admission) from 150 London and Suburban stations for 1s. The nearest stations for the Stamp Exhibits are Earl's Court on the District Railway and Earl's Court on the "Piccadilly" Railway. The Warwick Road entrance adjoins these stations, and, after passing through the entrance corridor, there is a cloak room on our left where one may leave parcels, umbrellas, etc., which may interfere with ones freedom in the Exhibition and then one immediately enters the Illinois Building (Ducal Hall) and the Stamp Exhibits are in the left wing with an opening on to the Queen's Court with its pleasant lake and bandstand from which military bands discourse popular airs daily.



ARTHUR SELINGER.

Hon. Secretary of the Junior Philatelic Society which has organised the Stamp Section of the Earl's Court Exhibition.

American Postage Stamps

Exhibited by the Junior Philatelic Society in the Wing of the Illinois Building

BY FRED J. MELVILLE

From the Official Catalogue of the Golden West and American Industries Exhibition

[We extract the following from the short popular introduction to the stamp exhibits in the Official Catalogue of the Exhibition, price 6d.*]

The stamps of the United States are remarkable for their rare excellence of engraving and the beauty of their colouring. Within the very limited compass of space afforded by a postage stamp we find engraved miniatures of famous portraits and sculptures of the heroes of the Republic, dainty vignettes of notable national paintings typical of the history and progress of the most enterprising nation of modern times.

The first record of any postal arrangement in America is found in an order by the General Court of Massachusetts dated 1639, by which the house of Richard Fairbanks, in Boston, was created a receiving house for letters arriving from beyond the seas.

The Crown granted to Thomas Neale, in 1692, by letters patent, authority to set up posts in America, and Neale deputed the duties to Andrew Hamilton.

Benjamin Franklin is the most notable figure in the postal history of the country. He was Postmaster of Philadelphia 1737, and became joint Postmaster-General of America with William Hunter in 1753. He was the first Postmaster-General appointed by the Congress of the Confederacy.

The United States adopted the adhesive postage stamp in 1847, when the first Government issues appeared. Prior to this, several postmasters issued stamps on their own account to facilitate the prepayment of postages due to them. Some of these postmasters stamps are of the highest degree of rarity. The one issued by the postmaster of Alexandria, Va., is valued at £800, only four being known. Of the Annapolis stamp only one copy is known, that being in the collection of the Earl of Crawford. Others are:—

Baltimore Md. 10 cents black £816.

" " 5 " " £90.

Boscawen, NH., 1846, 5 cents dull blue. Only one copy is known.

Brattleboro, Vt., 5 cents £100. (There are ten varieties of type which are all illustrated in the Exhibition from photographs).

Lockport NY., 1846, 5 cents red and black on buff. (Only one copy is known of this).

Millbury, Mass., 5 cents on bluish paper £200.

New Haven, Ct., 5 cents £600.

New York, 1845, 5 cents black

Providence, R.I., 1846, 5 cents and 10 cents.

St. Louis, Mo., 1845-7, 20 cents black. A pair of these has been sold for £1,026.

The first two stamps issued by the Government in 1847 bore portraits of Franklin and Washington.

5 cents brown (*Franklin*)

10 cents black (*Washington*).

A number of originals, and also of the Government facsimiles of these stamps are shewn.

Among the rarest of the early stamps of the United States are what are known as the *premières gravures* of 1861. These were issued on August 14th (?), 1861, but were almost immediately superseded by stamps of an

improved design. A set of these *premières gravures* fetched a very high price in Boston, Mass., a few years ago.

The 1869 issue of U.S. postage stamps is a highly popular one with collectors. The stamps are of a square shape, and have a series of portraits and pictures, among which are reproductions of Vanderlyn's painting "The Landing of Columbus," the original of which is in the Capitol in Washington; and Trumbull's painting of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Among later issues are the beautiful picture stamps issued in connection with the Columbian Exposition at Chicago, the Trans-Mississippi Exposition at Omaha, the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis, the Jamestown Exposition, and finally, during the present year, a special stamp is being issued for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition at Seattle.

The stamps of the Confederate States, which are shewn very fully in the display in the Stamp Section, are of great historical interest in connection with the American Civil War, and are not less important from the philatelic point of view.

Numbers of curious stamps issued by local private enterprises illustrate the earlier postal difficulties under which the country laboured, chiefly owing to the enormous area covered by the United States. Among these the Pony Express stamps are perhaps the most noteworthy.

The comparatively recent expansion of a Colonial Empire of the United States is typified by the gradual extension of American postage stamps into the colonies and dependencies of Hawaii, Cuba, Porto Rico, Philippine Islands and Guam.

Many of the stamps shewn in the collections at the Exhibition are proof impressions.

An additional portion of the display is devoted to revenue stamps, which are very popular with American collectors.

The exhibits have been brought together under the auspices of the Junior Philatelic Society of London, and have been loaned by its members in Great Britain and in the United States of America.

* "Golden West and American (U.S.A.) Industries. Guide and Catalogue, 6d." London: Gale & Polden, 3, Amen Corner.

The "Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The *Postage Stamp* is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:

Bright & Son, 161, Strand, W.C.

F. C. Ginn, 148, Strand, London, W.C.

Lewis May & Co., 15, King William St., Strand, W.C.

W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.

James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.

Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.

The Court Stamp Co., 10, Marriott's Court,

Manchester.

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. (All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.)

After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

Crete.—(Vol. IV. p. 56).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 10 l. and 20 l. with a new type of overprint, much larger than that previously in use.

Surcharged "ΕΑΛΑΣ" in fancy capitals.

	s.	d.
10 l. carmine (Hermes)	0	2
20 l. blue green	0	3
1 dr. green and black (of 1907) ...	1	3
5 dr. olive-green and black	6	0

Hong Kong.—(Vol. III. p. 227).—We understand from *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* that current supplies of the 2c. are printed in a much darker green than that previously in use.

Natal.—(Vol. IV. p. 68).—We learn from *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* that the 2s. 6d. and 10s. stamps in the new colours and for postal use only, have now been issued, so the complete list of varieties in the new type is as follows:—

Inscribed "POSTAGE-POSTAGE."

Wmk. Multiple Cr. C.A. Perf. 14.

	s.	d.
6d. purple	0	8
1s. black on green	1	3
2s. blue and purple on blue	2	6
2s. 6d. carmine and black on blue ...	3	3
5s. red and green on yellow	6	3
10s. carmine and green on green ...	12	0
£1 black and purple on red	24	0

Paraguay.—(Vol. IV. p. 68).—We now find that the 60c. crimson and 1 peso blue referred to on page 68 as having received the "1903" overprint have actually been issued, and Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a specimen of the higher value. The complete list of stamps that have been disfigured with this surcharge is as follows:—

Dated "1904" and surcharged "1908."

	s.	d.
1c. emerald green	0	1
5c. ochre	0	1
10c. lilac brown	0	2
20c. orange	0	3
30c. carmine	0	4
60c. crimson	0	7
1p. blue	1	0

Rhodesia.—(Vol. IV. p. 68).—A correspondent points out that, in addition to the 4d. and 2s. 6d. values, the 1s., 5s. and 10s. also exist in the setting in which the no stop error occurs. We therefore have to record the following:—

Error: no stop after "RHODESIA"

	s.	d.
4d. olive	1	0
1s. bistre buff	3	0
2s. 6d. bluish grey	7	6
5s. orange	15	0
10s. dull green	25	0

Russia.—(Vol. IV. p. 45).—The *London Philatelist* records the 10 kop. in the new type (similar to the 4 kop.), and also the 14 k., 15 k., and 25 k., on the new

paper with varnish lines, but in the same designs as before. Our list of varieties is now as follows:—



New design. No wmk. Overprinted with varnish lines.

	s.	d.
1 kop. orange	0	1
2 kop. green	0	1
4 kop. carmine	0	2
7 kop. blue	0	3
10 blue	0	4

Old design. No wmk. Overprinted with varnish lines.

	s.	d.
14 kop. blue and rose	0	6
15 kop. claret and blue	0	6
25 kop. pale green and mauve	0	9
50 kop. yellow-green and mauve ...	1	6
70 kop. orange and pale chocolate ...	2	2

We take the following interesting paragraph from our contemporary:—"It seems that only the small values have been altered in type, and the reason is in order to protect the farming people in the interior (the Mushiks), who are very ignorant and uncivilized, and therefore do not know anything about cleaned and forged stamps, and as their demand does not extend to the high values above 10 cop., the Post Department did not think it necessary to alter the type of the value above 10 cop. too. The lines of varnish on all the values do not extend all over the sheet, but only on the space occupied by the stamps themselves; and this is in order that the margins of the sheets might not be used by forgers for manufacturing forged stamps on the original paper, as has repeatedly been done with forged 70 cop. and 3½ rouble stamps of the 1903-4 issue, and 3½ and 7 rouble stamps of the 1883 issue; for this purpose, in the year 1907, the margins on the sheets of the values over the rouble have been overprinted by large coloured crosses and triangles, because the margins on these high values were extremely large, and bore the watermarks. By the way, I may inform you that the new issue has found very little sympathy in Russia, the paper being too thin, the gum does not stick, and the lines of varnish are very sensible towards external influences. It is rumoured that this issue will soon be replaced by another issue."

NOTE.

The Prices affixed are those at which Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. will supply any of the stamps chronicled that may be in stock.

The stamps are supplied at lower rates to subscribers to their New Issue Service, particulars of which can be had on application to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich.

The Prices quoted are for unused.

In the Stamp Market

BY O. REGINALD GUM

The New St. Vincents

Should prove, *in used condition*, really stamps of worth. The change in the design of Peace was quite unexpected, everybody imagining that the picture stamps would be at least the last word in new issues for some years to come. The 1d. value, procurable at prices from 1d. to 2d. each, according to the modesty of the vendor, are bound to appreciate, as have many low values for this West Indian Colony.

And the Grenadas.

Is something happening here also? Several continental dealers have been scouring home dealers' stocks for all the current ½d. and 1d. Grenada "Ships" they can get. One is inclined to say "Vat ist der matter?" Many people on the other side of the Channel possess a distinct advantage in several ways, by seeing and hearing "what's to happen" direct from friends in Berne—the Tattersall's of the Postal World.

Egyptian Service.

Several months ago these stamps dropped very greatly in price, and most reasonable dealers were selling at 2d. per set from the 1 millieme to the 1 piastre, and about 4d. to 6d. for the 5 piastres. The cause of this was that the Egyptians had been holding as long as they could, until a regular "Stock Exchange Panic" seized them, with the result that everybody dumped their holdings upon the European market. Now the issue of the O.H.H.S. are no more with a single exception. But it is impossible that a country like Egypt could in a few months provide us with a whole set of stamps to keep going at a low, very low price for years to come. Your humble, O.G., does not for one minute advise anybody to speculate, as he would inhumanly hope their fingers would come in contact with anti-cold cinders. At the same time he safely calculates that the 3m. and 5 piastres Egypt O.H.H.S. will be worth gleaming.

To re-echo our late lamented Chief's complaint, when are Messrs. Gibbons going to move Egypt from part I to part II. One might think it was because of their extensive French connection.

Newfoundlands.

We notice that the Newfoundland Section of Gibbons' Part I has been re-written, on the basis, we are informed, of an article last year. This is well, for our "Philatelic Bible" was sadly in a mix-up with the 1880 to 1890 issues. When the day comes that cataloguers find perfs. and watermarks beyond their power, the stamps of Newfoundland will become first favourites. At present they seem too simple for the great scientific specialists special attention.

Plenty of Opportunities

Exist for the possessor of a narrow and shallow pocket to really make his collection into a little "bank-book." If one cannot afford to expend upon postal emissions of greater face value than ½d. and 1d. the scope is great. Turn to the German Colonies and see the advances in the lowest, the 3 pfennig values of these in all protectorates, specially in used condition—if they are priced. It cannot be said that the Teutons have run their Colonial Post Offices at the expense of Philatelists, though some

so-inclined person may suggest that the German mind has not yet arrived at the point of grasping its chances.

A Tax on Dealers.

The popularity [? popularity—EDITOR] of Mr. Lloyd-George's Budget could be only more so, from a philatelic point of view, if he could have taxed stamp dealers. There is no doubt that such a license would help to clear the trade of many of those "street-corner" dealers, and place the legitimate trade on a sounder footing. Further it would be the means of checking the gentlemen who repair, surcharge, manufacture, and re-perforate their own stamps. Slightly, at first, the smaller firms would feel the rigour, but the spring clean of the undesirables would soon tend to further the business of the respectable houses.

Better still would be a tax upon approval selections—those swindle sheets of the commonest and vilest class of "stamps" procurable, sent out by some people to rob and plunder the juvenile collectors' few coppers per week. Again there ought to be some check on the vile and outrageous stuff offered for sale in stationers' shops. One sees sheets of Borneos, Labuans, South American fiscals, and other rubbish offered at two or three times its catalogue price.

Robbing Youngsters.

We have a very good example of the value given juvenile purchasers. In a certain English town a stationer sold the packets of stamps of a firm at 33½% discount. Another firm came along and offered 50% on whatever purchases took place, and took all returns. Not to be beaten the former concern kept their customer by giving 66½% discount, sale or return terms. What price the poor purchaser? He pays 1s., the stationer gets 8d., and the manufacturer 4d. There's value! *And the consumer always pays!*

Used Low Value French Colonials.

I often wonder how many collectors possess French Colonials of 1 to 10 centimes values in *used condition*. Thus, they are really scarce, and the long blank columns in the catalogues only too readily show their being out-of-stock at the dealers. Whilst they are current there remains a chance of collectors filling up spaces with the more legitimate condition of these labels. Take the Chinese surcharges of the 1906 issues, Somalis of 1902, Guineas of 1904, Guadeloupe of 1905, Indo China of 1904, or Madagascars of 1904—these are all now obsolete, and the 1, 2, and 4c. values in used condition are practically rarities as far as quantities are concerned. Look at Gibbons' prices for what used low value French Colonials they do have. These are anything of 50% and more above the price for unused.

Good Snaps

As our American friends say can be found in both Gibbons. The 30c. Chili 1901-2 bi-colored is only priced at 2d. The foreign catalogues price at three times the amount, and it is not a very common stamp. Now that the Egyptian Officials are obsolete, those values, 3m. and 5 piastre overprinted O.H.H.S. should show how uncommon they are.

Dutch stamps should be well worth watching—we anticipate a 3c. value in orange color.

Stop Press News

SOUTH AFRICAN UNION.

LATEST CABLEGRAMS SAY THE UNION IS ASSURED.

NATIONAL CONVENTION'S LABOURS NEARING AN END.

The newspapers all contain cable messages which appear to show that the National Convention on the Union of the South African Colonies is nearing the end of its labours. Possibly by the time these lines appear in print their deliberations will be over, and everything tends to show that the Union is to become an established fact. The effect of such an Union of the South African Colonies on the postal emissions of such important philatelic colonies as those concerned, it is early yet to discuss, but the appearance some time back of a series of De la Rue essays inscribed "AFRICA" along with another set inscribed "IMPERIUM" may perhaps be taken as shewing that some important changes in postal administration have been receiving the attention of the authorities within recent years.

THE STAMP PROSECUTION.

LATEST DETAILS.

SATURDAY, MAY 8TH, AT BOW STREET.

The evidence of an expert engraver was of considerable interest to the collectors and dealers present at a further hearing of the Stamp Prosecution on Saturday, May 8th, at Bow Street. The case is one in which John Stewart Lowden, twenty-nine, stamp dealer, 20, Villiers St., Strand, and Henry Harmer, thirty-nine, stamp dealer, 11, Preston Road, West-cliff-on-Sea are charged with conspiring to obtain money by fraud from persons buying from them, or from the West End Stamp Company, or Herbert Mack & Co., Limited, stamps purporting to be issued for postage and revenue purposes in British North Borneo.

Thomas Macdonald, who explained he had 40 years' experience as a block engraver, stated he was employed by Messrs. Blades East and Blades, and had designed and engraved the whole of the plates for the British North Borneo stamps from the commencement. He now produced the original plates and explained the differences between the old and new processes of stamp making.

The witness identified several stamps submitted to him as having

been made from his own original plates. A large number of series of other North Borneo stamps produced, he declared to be forgeries. In the latter he detected different hands, and there were many striking discrepancies between these and the genuine stamps. The forged stamps had probably been photographically enlarged and touched up and photo-transferred, or photographed direct on the stone. Certain of the stamps submitted, however, bore a remarkable resemblance to the genuine stamps, but he discovered variations in the sizes, due perhaps to the difficulty of reproduction to the exact size of the original, or even caused by a shrinkage in the paper after the image had been printed, a slight difference in the class of the paper causing an appreciable difference in the size of the stamps.

The case was adjourned till this Saturday (May 15th).

Editor's Letter Box

Publishing Offices.—1, AMEN CORNER, LONDON, E.C.

Editorial Address.—FRED J. MELVILLE, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

Articles, Contributions and Correspondence. should be addressed to the Editor, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the correspondent. *Articles, etc., not accepted, will be returned when postage is prepaid.*

Business Communications should be addressed to the Manager, and Advertisements to the Advertisement Manager, 1, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

THE POSTAGE STAMP may be obtained through *Newspapers* or will be forwarded from the publishing office to any address at the following rates of prepayment: Yearly, 6s. 6d.; Half-Yearly, 3s. 3d.; Quarterly, 1s. 8d.; Single Copy, 1d.

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Answers to Correspondents.

P. B. (Ipswich).—The Hong Kong postmark is of no special value, as a postal agency has been maintained at Wei-hei-wei for some years. *R. Natal* SG No. 125 has a normal H in HALF, while No. 126 has the left leg of the H lengthened at the base.

C. C. L. (Cambridge).—1. All up to, but not including the Jubilee issue of 1887. 2. There is already a new edition of the U.S. book. *Mr. Peckitt*, 47, Strand, W.C., will give you particulars. Your other matters have been referred to *Mr. Wrinkle* as desired.

"What's On" Next Week.

Every Day (except Sundays) from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Golden West Stamp Exhibition at Earl's Court.

Saturday, May 15. Stamp Prosecution. Resumed hearing at Bow Street. Junior Philatelic Society, 17, Fleet Street. 6 p.m., Bourse; 8 p.m., Later Issues of France (S. R. Turner); 8.30, Surcharged Stamps of China (C. L. Harte-Lovelace).

Monday, May 17. London Auction (Glen-dining).

Tuesday, May 18. London Auction (Glen-dining).

Leeds Philatelic Society, Annual Meeting.

Saturday, May 22. Junior Philatelic Society. Tenth Season Celebration Dinner, Florence Restaurant, Rupert Street, W., 7 for 7.30. Tickets 5s. each, from H. F. Johnson, 44, Fleet Street. Evening dress optional.

Have You Tried Us?

Approval sheets, containing large assortments to select from, sent to reliable collectors. References required. Prices low and condition a speciality. Write for selection of your pet country to H. E. HAWORTH & CO., LTD., 4/5 Aldgate High Street, London, E.C. Telephone No. 10361 Central.

A BONUS

of 25 per cent. will be paid to the purchaser of the largest number of stamps from my sheets during May, 1909.

A. H. HARRIS,
44, Charlwood St., Belgrave Road, S.W.

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

Prepaid Advertisements are inserted in THE POSTAGE STAMP at the following rates:—12 words, 1s.; and 1d. for every additional word.

Advertisements can be received up to 5 o'clock THURSDAY for insertion in the following week's issue.

NEW HEBRIDES on Fiji now in stock. singles, blocks, panes and sheets. For prices see Ewen's Weekly Stamp News, Norwood, S.E.

BARGAINS! For real bargains, all kinds of stamps, send for specimen, "Appleton's Weekly."—T. C. Appleton, Ben-Rhydding, England.

FOREIGN and Colonial, 66 to 80% under catalogue; Mulreadies; approval.—Rev. G. Bell, Lisburn, Ireland.

EIGHT PERSIAN, 1908. 1 to 10 shahi, and 1 and 2 krans (postally used) 1/1.—Craig, Clenstone, Blandford.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, 1908. 1d. unused 3/- per 100, cash buyers. Wholesale parcels, King's Head, etc. Prompt settlement.—William Stamp Company, 120, Leadenhall Street, London.

PERHAPS YOU HAVE NEVER TRIED an advertisement in our columns. Perhaps it has not occurred to you to send your "Offers" along to THE POSTAGE STAMPS. The next time you want anything why not use our columns? For particulars and price, see above.

The POSTAGE STAMP

An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors

Founded by
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.
Edited by
FRED. J. MELVILLE.

No. 8. Vol. 4.
Whole Number 86.

22 MAY, 1909.

Price 1d.

Gossip of the Week

BY CORNELIUS WRINKLE

"Tercentenaries" in Parliament.



A MEMBER of the Canadian House of Commons has been making some enquiries as to the sales of the Tercentenary issue. I read in *Mekeel's* that the questions were; 1. What was the total amount received by the Post Office Department from the sale of the special Tercentenary stamps? 2. What part of this sum would probably have been received as

ordinary revenue if there had been no special issue of stamps?

The Quantities Printed.

To these questions the Hon Rodolphe Lemieux, Postmaster-General responded: The following was the issue to postmasters of the Tercentenary postage stamps:—

Denominations.	Quantities.	Value.
1/2 cent	2,000,000	\$10,000
1 "	22,530,000	225,300
2 "	35,100,000	702,000
5 "	1,200,000	60,000
7 "	700,000	49,000
10 "	500,000	50,000
15 "	300,000	45,000
20 "	304,200	60,840
Totals	62,634,200	\$1,202,140

A week or two ago our market contributor, Mr. O. R. G., prophesied that the 15c. value would be the scarcest in the set, and these figures show that he was correct in that view. If you see it in the P.S., it is so!

No Separate Account Kept.

The department has no knowledge whether the stamps in question have all been sold, as during their issue the ordinary postage stamps were also on sale, both issues being in use as preferred by the public. The proceeds

derived from the sale of stamps of the two issues were not kept separately, but treated as arising from a common source. It is, therefore, impossible to state to what extent the issue of the Tercentenary postage stamps may have affected the ordinary revenue. At the ordinary period fixed by the department for squaring these accounts, it may be possible to give the approximate value.

Royal and Imperial Stamp Dealers.

Mr. Castle acknowledges receipt in the *London Philatelist* of a circular from the Royal and Imperial Post Office at Vienna, dated March 29th, in which it is stated that a large number of obsolete stamps and reprints will be on sale to collectors at face value. The additional advantage of having the stamps obliterated will also entail no extra charge. The stamps will be on sale at Vienna (Hauptpostamt 10 Post-gasse).

The Stamps Offered for Sale.

The stamps included in the offer are:—

- Austria.*
- 1908 Jubilee issue. 1 heller to 10 krone.
- 1908. 1 heller to 10 krone. Unpaid letter stamps, newspaper stamps, postcards and other entires.
- Levant and Crete.*
- 1867 to 1896. Originals.
- 1900. 10 paras to 20 piastres.
- 1903 to 1907. Various values.
- 1900 to 1907. Postcards and entires.
- 1908. Jubilee Issue.
- Austria Entires.*
- 1860 to 1863. Post and telegraph entires, envelopes reprints.
- 1867 to 1890. Envelopes, originals.
- 1868 to 1904. Postcards, etc., originals and reprints.
- Lombardy.*
- 1850 to 1863. Reprints.
- 1863 to 1864. Originals and reprints.
- 1860 to 1867. Envelopes, reprints.
- 1867. Envelopes, originals.
- 1886 to 1900. Post and letter cards, originals and reprints.
- 1850 to 1873. Post and telegraph stamps, reprints and originals.

Retail and Wholesale.

So the Royal and Imperial Austrian Post Office has entered the stamp trade in earnest, and has set up a retail as well as a wholesale trade. Unlike most stamp dealers they will not advertise that they have nothing to do with reprints—on the contrary they have reprints as well as originals to offer. From Mr. Castle's editorial we gather that there are no fewer than seven hundred varieties listed which the R. & I.P.O. is ready to sell to collector or dealer alike. "In one important respect the Austrian Post Office 'absolutely defies competition,' as the price of its wares is either face-value, or very slightly in excess thereof, despite the fact that some of the stamps and envelopes have already been out of issue for over forty years. As was to be expected, however, there are no accepted scarce varieties on offer, and beyond affecting dealers who happen to hold stocks of the offered values, no serious harm will accrue to philately."

Losses of 1908-9.

The 1908-9 season has been in one respect a sad one. I refer to the ravages of the grim Reaper. English philately has lost Sir William Avery and Edward J. Nankivell. American philately has lost William Moser, C. C. Johnson, and several other of its best-known collectors. European philately is the loser by the death of Rudolf Kraseman. Now Indian philately has a gap which will not readily be refilled, by the death at the early age of 36 of Mr. C. S. F. Crofton.

The Late C. S. F. Crofton.

Mr. Crofton was best known to our readers as the writer of some highly interesting articles in the *Philatelic Journal of India*, of which he was until lately the editor. He was also a *collaborateur* with Messrs. C. Stewart-Wilson and L. L. R. Hansburg in the authorship of the important work on "The Postage and Telegraph Stamps of British India," issued in 1907 under the auspices of the Philatelic Society of India.

A Philatelic Stalwart.

That important Society, which represents philately in the Colonies at its best, has produced some stalwarts in philatelic prowess. And Mr. Crofton was one of the most vigorous writers and close students in the circle of able collectors forming the backbone of the Indian Society. Like many of his fellow collectors in India, he took a keen interest in fiscals and in telegraph stamps.

The Nankivell Collections.

No doubt many friends of the late Mr. Nankivell will be interested to learn that the first portion of his fine collection is included in Messrs. Glendining's sale this week. The catalogue reached us too late to give earlier intimation of the sale in these columns, but we note that a further portion including the fine Transvaals will be in the Glendining sale on June 15th & 16th. Among the countries in the first portion are: British South Africa, Egypt, Natal, Southern Nigeria, including an interesting set of proofs of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in various colours, and the 10/- violet, and perhaps the most interesting of all, the splendid collection of China (not Sèvres!).

A Stamp with a History.

It is not often that I intrude upon Mr. O. R. Gum's special preserves, but the Ventom, Bull & Cooper sale on Friday, May 14th had a very interesting termination. Near the end of the sale a King Edward VII. Land 1d. carmine on entire was offered. "It was posted" said Mr. Auctioneer, "on the tug which went out with the

vessel [the *Nimrod*] and the gentleman who sent this—Mr. Wood—was one of the four who hoisted the flag at the most southern point." A voice: "Was this the only one he sent?" The Auctioneer: "I don't know, but it was the only one sent to his sister."

Record Prices for Philatelic Books.

But the chief interest at the close of this sale was found among the lots of old philatelic literature, some of which fetched sensationally high prices. A fine set of the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* in 12 vols, 1863-74, which were presentation copies given to "Fentonia" (a Miss Fenton who attained considerable note in her contributions to early philatelic periodicals) fetched the remarkable sum of £32, being knocked down to Mr. Hadlow at that figure.

Interesting Associations.

The bidding started at £5, which has always been considered a moderate figure for a set of this classic. From the start there was a duel of guineas against pounds up to £20, one bidder dropping out at that figure and another Richmond entered the field. The interest in the set attached very largely to some interesting autograph letters amongst which appeared the names of Mount Brown, Pearson Hill, E. L. Pemberton, W. Atlee, and others.

£10 for "The Philatelist."

A similar set of *The Philatelist* in 10 vols. 1867-76 also containing autograph letters fetched £10. A mixed parcel which was described as containing *The Stamp Collectors' Magazine* in 2 vols, 1863-64 and 1865-66, together with *Mount Brown's Catalogue*, 5th edition, and *A. Smith's Catalogues* for 1867, '68, '69 and '70, and "a quantity of interesting data" reached the remarkable figure of £15.

Other Big Prices.

Other notable prices realised were—

The Philatelist, Vol. I.; *Stafford Smith's Priced Catalogue*, 1866; *Monthly Advertiser 1862-64*; *Philatelic Price Catalogue*, Grant & Co., 1873; and *W. Lincoln's Catalogue*, 1873—£17 10s. Od.

Volume of early Stamp Catalogues including *Postage Stamp Forgeries* by J. M. Stourton, 1865; *Lincoln's Catalogue*, 1873; *Bellars & Davie's Catalogue 1864*; *Dr. Gray's Catalogues*, 3rd, 4th and 5th edition—£7 0s. Od.

Mount Brown's Catalogue, 3rd edition—£2 17s. 6d.

Bellars & Davie's Standard Guide, 1864—£5 5s. Od.

Gray's Catalogue, 5th edition—£2 15s. Od.

J. W. Palmer's Catalogue, 1876—15s.

The "Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The Postage Stamp is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:

Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C.

F. C. Ginn, 143, Strand, London, W.C.

Lewis May & Co., 15, King William St., Strand, W.C.

W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.

James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.

Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.

The Court Stamp Co., 10, Marriott's Court,

Manchester

Golden West—Second Article.

Our second (illustrated) article on the Faris Court stamp exhibition is held over this week.

Colonial Reminders

BY W. WARD.

WHAT a number of collectors there are, who shrug their shoulders and turn away when "Reminders" are mentioned.

"Once give a dog a bad name, and it always sticks to him" may well apply to stamps.

The reminders—the notorious reminders of the German and Italian States, Mexico, Costa Rica, the American Confederacy, all helped in the building up of a philatelic apathy against all stamps that are unfortunate in becoming "left-overs" or postal outcasts.

From this came the assumption that all reminders must necessarily be demonetized. Unfortunately, as far as foreign countries are concerned, this is often the case. Not so, however, with all our own Colonial emissions. Taking our British issues all round, the demonetization of any is far between and seldom.

A common fallacy is, that reminders are always sold to dealers *under* face value.

There are many instances of reminders being sold by the respective Colonial Agencies for *much more* than their facial value.

The famous West Indian reminders are a good example of official stamp dealing. The whole remaining stocks of the islands of Antigua, Montserrat and Nevis, whose post offices had been amalgamated into the Leeward Islands Federation, were sold in 1891 to Mr. T. H. Thompson. The total face value of these stamps was £4,788, but the purchaser paid no less than £5,800! These stamps have still a postal currency, though literally their face value has been raised.

The whole of the Leeward Island reminders were as follows:—

Antigua.—½d. green, 2½d. blue, 4d. brown, and 1s. mauve.

Dominica.—½d. green, 1d. red, 2½d. blue, 4d. grey, 6d. orange-yellow, 1s. mauve.

Montserrat.—½d. green, 4d. mauve.

Nevis.—½d. green, 1d. carmine, 2½d. blue, 4d. grey.

St. Christopher.—½d. green, 1d. red, 2½d. blue, 4d. grey, 6d. olive, 1s. mauve.

Virgins.—6d. carmine (perf. 12 x 15), 4d. brown, 1s. single-line border, 1s. red border, ½d. yellow, 1d. green, ½d. green, 1d. red, 2½d. blue, 4d. brown, 6d. mauve, 1s. brown.

A Mr. F. F. Empson, of Birmingham, purchased the Leeward Revenue reminders—those of the islands of Nevis, St. Christopher, Dominica, Montserrat, and Antigua, these being the only Leeward stamps ever demonetized.

The British West Indies are notorious for their stamp-dealing. The 1899 issue of the Virgin Islands were offered in London by the Colonial Agents in 1905, but as no remunerative offer was advanced, they were returned to their mother soil of the Virgins, and replaced upon sale in the post office.

The surcharged Leewards "Sexagenary" Jubilee stamps of 1897 were disposed of at the end of that year, their "remaining quantities" being:—

½d. ...	15,600	6d. ...	3,480
1d. ...	15,600	7d. ...	3,480
2½d. ...	15,000	1s. ...	1,800
4d. ...	6,000	5s. ...	900

The reminders of Fiji were also bought up in 1890 by Mr. Thompson.

The Dark Continent has seen many reminders. The

Light and Liberty ("when it was dark") stamps of the British East Africa Company were purchased by Messrs. Hilckes & Co. about 1895. Other East African reminders were bought eleven years afterwards by Messrs. H. L. Ewen, Ltd., in the shape of the Somaliland officials. The first issues of the B.S.A. Company of Rhodesia (1891-94) were sold as reminders; whilst the large 1896 and 1897 issues may be still purchased, together with that of the Victoria Falls, 1905, at the London headquarters.

An attempt was made to dispose of the embossed Gambia, but they were eventually replaced on sale with the 1896 issue. The same occurred with the Queen's Head issues of Lagos, though these are said to have afterwards been destroyed because the Colonial Government refused to accept tenders under face value.

The 1895 Madagascar (Inland Mail) stamps were sold in London, as were the 1858-61 Mauritius, and the two stamps in red and blue respectively, that were never issued. Messrs. Gibbons also bought the Queen's Head Pence Mauritius, but these were overprinted with the word "CANCELLED"—a "dog-in-the-manger" course on the part of the vendors, since all the pence issues had been superseded by the rupee currency, and therefore were not available for postage.

It may be news to some to know that there were no Heligoland reminders! But something worse happened—the plates themselves being sold to a German buyer.

As evidently this gentleman could not turn out the "reprints" fast enough, he had several of the plates reproduced, and printed from these as well as the originals.

The South Australian Government found themselves with a good stock of high values from half-a-crown to twenty pounds on hand. To clear, they overprinted with the word "SPECIMEN," and sold at great reductions at the General Post Office in Adelaide in 1896.

Ceylon taking up the Indian rupee and a decimal currency, found herself with large quantities of the ½d., 2d. yellow, 5d. green, 1d. blue and 3d. rose stamps. These were ordered to be destroyed, but it is fairly common knowledge that there were leakages.

The Cook Islands type-set stamps of 1892 were "taken over" by a trading firm, but there is little doubt that the quantity was very small as far as the quantities of reminders go.

Whilst the 1886 issue of Gibraltar were destroyed, and the 1889 set surcharged, the higher values of the pesetas and centimos issues were bought up in Gibraltar at something like the rate of 5d. per peseta.

The Victoria Coronation types of Grenada were also sold as reminders—the purchaser being an American dealer.

The reminders of the 1s., 2s., and 5s. Jamaica, CC watermark stamps were given over to the island's Law Department and overprinted for Court Dues—a most admirable end for a reminder.

The Labuan Queen's head stamps of 1893, were sold in London cancelled to order if desired. These must not be confused with the cancelled to order stamps of the Borneo Company. The former were genuine reminders, whilst the latter obliterated their current issues as desired.

The early Cyprus surcharged on British, as is well-known, were purchased by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons.

The dollar currency reminders of New Brunswick, with, of course, the exception of the 5 cents brown, were sold to English and Canadian dealers. The 5c sap-green

was among this lot, though some people question. Few of the New Brunswick remainders are found with full gum. The stamps, upon becoming superseded by the Dominion issues, were consigned to a Government building in Halifax. As they were treated of no value, they were thrown into a cellar, which, being damp, caused the whole to stick together—the sheets having to be soaked apart by the purchasers.

The remainders of the 1866 issue of Newfoundland were discovered as late as 1890, during the re-building of the post office at St. Johns, but were placed on sale and thus used up legitimately. The values found were as follows:—

1866, 2c., 10c. and 24c.
1870, 6c.
1880, 1c. brown
1887, $\frac{1}{2}$ c. rose-red

The remainders of Nova Scotia were, like those of New Brunswick, consigned to a store room, but this time completely forgotten. A Government spring cleaning in the middle nineties brought these remainders to light. They were sold to three firms, Messrs. The Scott Stamp and Coin Co., of New York, Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, of London, and Mr. Bartlett, of Nova Scotia (who was probably the means of their not being destroyed). The whole were sold for \$18,000, or about £3,750. At the time of discovery the quantities were given as follows:—

1c. ...	52,000	} Face value \$10,490.
2c. ...	54,000	
8 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. ...	54,000	
10c. ...	28,000	
12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. ...	12,000	

But it afterwards leaked out that the quantity was about ten times as great—roughly to the face value of £20,000.

The New South Wales Government Departments had large quantities of the 1888 Centenary type overprinted "O.S." To get rid of it at a sacrifice, they were obliterated with a cancellation consisting of three ovals enclosing the letters "N.S.W." They were sold at the Post Office in Sydney.

The 1892 Oil Rivers surcharged upon Great Britain were bought up by a London dealer, and sent back to the Niger Coast to be obliterated in sheets. These were evidently cancelled upon pads of blotting paper, for most of the stamps show particles of the pink blotting adhering to the impression of the hand stamp. The same dealer bought up the 1884 and 1890 sets of St. Helena. These were, however, cancelled with a triangular (probably rubber) hand stamp in violet ink.

The remainders of the Orange Free State were for the most part surcharged "v.r.i." but when the British

column invaded the State large quantities of stamps were looted by our soldiers.

The officers of a Lancashire Regiment who seized the Head Post Office at Bloemfontein helped themselves, giving also many stamps to their men or favourite soldier servants. After that orders were issued that postal supplies must not be touched. Nevertheless, a non-com. and three privates managed to lift a very large quantity of 1s., 2s. 6d., 5s., and 10s. values at Pretoria. The O.F.S. stamps looted at Bloemfontein were, in addition to all telegraph surcharges, as follows:—

1868—6d.
1878—4d. blue, 5s. green.
1883—2d. mauve, 3d. blue.
1892—2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 3d. blue.
1894—1d. purple.
1897— $\frac{1}{2}$ d. yellow and 1s. brown.
1900—6d. blue.

The Swazilands and Stellalands were looked upon as legitimate perquisites by the Boer officials, who privately disposed of them. A gentleman on the West Coast of Africa bought up the whole of the Sierra Leone revenue stamps.

The Prince Edward Islands stamps were "discovered" and sold in the nineties, probably to the same firm that purchased the New Brunswicks. These consisted of a large quantity of pence as well as dollar issues.

1903 saw the burning of no less than 12,000 Queen's head St. Vincent's—a martyrdom for the cause of philately.

The 1898 issue of Zanzibar were sold both mint and cancelled to order to several native speculators in Zanzibar town.

The same was "tried on" with the adjacent colony of East Africa's anna issues of King's Head, but the Treasury ordered them to be destroyed.

Some say that remainders enable many collectors to fill up blanks, but how many people burn their fingers?

Those who buy up remainders must get something back for their speculation—and the consumer pays!

If remainders are ordered to be destroyed, the chances of leakages are great.

Why cannot, at least our Colonies, follow the course of the mother country and let old issues be sold up in the ordinary course at the Post Office. This is done by such countries as Great Britain, France, Belgium, Holland, United States and one or two other enlightened countries who do not recognise philately.

But even remainders have their use. Many a variety, position and number has been discovered through sheets finding their way into the philatelic market. As the Scriptures say, "even the creeping things have their uses," but a few more philatelic Joan d'Arcs are preferred.

Great Britain, "Perf. 12."

A day or two ago we were asked by an English specialist, how it is that copies of some of the 1884 issue are found with the above perforation.

Baron de Worms' collection contains copies of nine of the values—1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2d., 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 1s., and 5s.—of the 1884 issue, perforated 12, unused, but overprinted "SPECIMEN." Even in this condition the stamps are scarce, but are almost unknown without the overprint. The late Mr. Hastings Wright once shewed us five of the pence values, which he and his *collaborateur* unearthed from a small collection belonging to a gentleman at Somerset House; they were absolutely mint, without

overprint. Shortly afterwards they found their way, at a figure which positively shocked us, to a famous Parisian collection, which they presumably still adorn.

The *raison d'être* of this unusual perforation, so far as British stamps are concerned, is this—Somerset House, being in want of "specimen" copies of the 1884 issue, obtained from the contractors certain portions of waste, or imperfect, sheets. Naturally they were perforated before being delivered; but, as anything less than an entire sheet could not be perforated by the ordinary 14-gauge machine, these pieces were passed under a treadle-machine, the pins in which were so spaced as to gauge 12 to the usual space of two centimetres.

—The British Philatelist.

Philately in the Courts

Stamp Collector's Action—Claim for Damages

ON May 7th, in the Salford County Court, before His Honour Judge Shiress Will, Mr. Richard Hollins Murray, Accountant, of Tib Lane, Manchester, sued Miss M. Sharp, of Stretford Road, in connection with the sale of a collection of foreign stamps. Plaintiff claimed £35 damages for breach of contract and fraudulent misrepresentation. Mr. R. Bellis appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Ray for the defendant.

Mr. Bellis stated that the plaintiff became acquainted with the defendant through the medium of a newspaper advertisement in 1906. After some delay a purchase was arrived at, the lady giving a written guarantee that the value, according to the Stanley Gibbons' catalogue, was at least £350. The purchase price was £80, and the plaintiff agreed that if, on the collection being catalogued, it should show a total value of £900, he would pay her an extra £10.

Mr. Murray took the collection home, relying on Miss Sharp's guarantee. When, however, he came to catalogue the collection he found, according to the Stanley Gibbons' standard, that it only catalogued out at £419, and that a great number of the stamps were reprints, others were forgeries, and others were so hopelessly damaged as to be worthless. Plaintiff wrote asking Miss Sharp to return him £15 of the purchase money in view of this breach of warranty, but she refused it. He then

offered to return the collection in exchange for the purchase money, but she declined, and he had no alternative but to bring this action.

Plaintiff gave evidence in support of counsel's statement, and said that defendant had over-estimated the Stanley Gibbons' total value of the collection by £400. Over one hundred of the stamps had been skilfully repaired or "faked."

Cross-examined by Mr. Ray, witness said he had been a stamp collector for twelve years, and he occasionally sold stamps. He would be able to detect a forgery quickly, and he admitted that he went carefully through the collection in 1906.

Mr. Harold Rhodes, a philatelic expert, estimated the value of the collection on the Stanley Gibbons' standard at £450.

Mr. I. J. Bernstein, President of the Manchester Junior Philatelic Society, said the reprints and forgeries in the collection were of no value whatever.

Miss Fanny Bust Sharp, the defendant, said that before first offering the stamps for sale she went carefully through the collection in the Stanley Gibbons' catalogue, and on that basis she calculated their face value at something over £800.

The Judge held that there had been no fraudulent misrepresentation or breach of contract, and found for the defendant with costs.—*Manchester Courier*.

Australian Stamp Printing

Transfer of Machinery to Melbourne

From the "Adelaide Observer," April 3rd, 1909

IN conformity with the decision of the Postal Department to locate the stamp-printing for the Commonwealth in Melbourne—with the exception, for the present, of the New South Wales and Queensland stamps—arrangements are now being proceeded with for the transfer of the stamp-printing plant from the crypt of the Adelaide General Post Office to the Victorian capital. The Wharfedale machine was packed up on Friday, and the dismantling of the remainder of the plant will follow in due course. It is not intended to send to Melbourne the small Minerva machine, and probably other apparatus not required in the new quarters will be sold in Adelaide. Mr. Cooke, formerly head of the local department, has been appointed to the charge of the Commonwealth Stamp-printing Department—a fact which is regarded by the Adelaide staff as a high compliment to the manner in which the work in South Australia has been conducted. The Deputy Postmaster-General (Mr. R. W. M. Waddy) said on Friday:—"I am sorry to lose Mr. Cooke, for he was an exceedingly good officer, and a man who could always be relied on to help in a push of business." Mr. Cooke has already been in Melbourne two months, and two more members of the staff will follow during the next fortnight. It is probable that when the administrative officers have been located

on the Federal capital site the stamp-printing will also be done there.

History of Postage Stamps in South Australia.

Postage Stamps were not adopted by the South Australian Post Office till January 1st, 1855. The notification of their introduction, published in *The Register* of that date, was as follows:—"On and after this day postage stamps may be obtained of all postmasters within the province, and it will also be needful to affix them in all cases where letters are prepaid. When the system of postage stamps was first published in England it was optional either to pay in coin or by means of the stamps; but it was afterwards found expedient to require that the stamps should be invariably used, and that in default thereof letters should go unpaid, and be subject to double postage. We doubt not that the adoption of postage stamps will be a very acceptable New Year's gift to all mercantile men and to letter writers generally throughout the province." On the following day *The Register* said:—"The new postage stamps were issued yesterday. They bear a close resemblance to those in England, where, of course, ours have been prepared. Each stamp exhibits a medallion head of the Queen, surmounted by the words, "South Australia." On the extreme margin of the

stamps, top and bottom, are printed respectively "Postage" and "Two Pence." They are of a rather deeper red than the English stamps, and are gummed on the back. . . . If the stamps are only wetted on the gummed side, the side moistened will expand, while the other will not, causing the stamp to curl up at the corners, and perhaps come off altogether." The disability thus noted was afterwards overcome by the use of a superior and thinner gum, into the composition of which dextrine largely entered. Penny and 6d. stamps were the next to be issued in South Australia, and *The Register* of October 27th, 1855, said:—"In addition to the red twopenny tickets, there were issued yesterday penny and sixpenny stamps, the same in size and appearance, but the former green and the latter blue. The penny stamp is required for letters via India and Marseilles, and for newspapers deliverable in town or posted for some colony via England. The sixpenny stamps will be convenient for foreign letters, which at present in some instances, scarcely afford space for the numerous 'twopenny Queen's heads' required by their weight."

Later Stamps.

The following is an epitome of most of the subsequent issues of stamps:—Halfpenny—surcharged on 1d., December, 1881; new half-size brown stamp, March 1st, 1888; green full size, December, 1889. Penny—Green, 1855, 1859, and 1868; red, August, 1899. Twopenny—September, 1899. Twopenny Halfpenny—Surcharged on

a green of higher value, January, 1891; blue, 2½d., March, 1894; ditto, new design, November, 1899. Threepenny—Surcharged in red on 4d. blue, August, 1870; ditto in black, ditto 1871; pale olive green, 3d., 1886; bright green, December 3rd, 1886; present stamp, November 27th, 1902. Fourpenny—Purple, January 24th, 1867, 1869, 1882; mauve, March, 1890; present stamp, November 27th, 1902. Fivepenny—Surcharged in red on 6d. brown, January, 1891; dark purple, 5d. stamp, March 1st, 1894. Sixpenny—Blue, 1855, 1862, 1863, 1869; new design in blue, April 6th, 1887; present stamp, November 27th, 1902. Eightpenny—Surcharged on 9d. grey-brown, December, 1860; ditto on 9d. light brown, September, 1876, 1882; present stamp, October 28th, 1902. Ninepenny—Grey-brown, December, 1860; cerise, 1872; present stamp, November 5th, 1902. Tenpenny—Surcharged in blue on 9d. brown, July, 1866; on ditto yellow, 1867-8-9, 1874; present stamp, November 27th, 1902. Shilling—Blue, July, 1857, 1859; brown, July, 1862; red, 1869; present stamp, November 27th, 1902. Two Shillings—Cerise, January 24th, 1867, 1869. Half-crown and five shillings, September 10th, 1902. Ten shillings, March 2nd, 1903. One pound, October 28th, 1902.

Revenue stamps were issued from G.P.O. press in 1886 for 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s., 15s., 20s., £2, 50s., £3, £4, £5, £10, £15 and £20; in 1895 for £5; in 1902, for 3d., 4d., 6d., 8d., 9d., 10d., 1s., 2s. 6d., 5s. and £1; and in 1903, for 10s.

The Alaska Exposition Stamp

The Iceberg Design changed—Portrait of Secretary of State Seward substituted

AT the last moment almost, the design for the stamp to be issued in connection with the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition has been changed. It will be remembered, from a description already published in *The Postage Stamp*, that the design originally approved for this stamp included an iceberg, and the good folk of Seattle, taking a cue from our Canadian cousins, who have so often expressed their objection to poetical term for the Dominion of "Our Lady of the Snows," protested that they did not want the world to think of Alaska as a mere iceberg-producing territory.

So the picturesque but cold iceberg has melted away, and we are to have in its place a portrait of William Henry Seward. Seward was one of the great statesmen of the United States (b. May 16th, 1801, d. October 10th, 1872), and was Lincoln's choice as Secretary of State, in which capacity he conducted the negotiations for the purchase of Alaska.

Seward has already figured on some of the American postage stamps, and indeed has the honour of appearing on what are probably the most handsome stamps the United States have produced, the high values of the State Department. There is a fine bronze statue of Seward by Randolph Rogers (the sculptor who did the bas-reliefs of scenes from Columbus' life on the doors of the Capitol at Washington), in Madison Square, New York, and it is probably from this bust that the portrait on the State high values was taken. If the U.S. Post Office are going to give us anything to equal the \$5 State on the Seattle stamp we shall not grudge paying our nimble dime for a block of four, the more particularly as

the high value States do not often come our way.

The following is the Post Office notice respecting the new stamp:—

POSTAL NOTICE.

1. Postmasters are notified that the Department is now preparing a new postage stamp of special design, which will be ready for issue about June 1st, to commemorate the development of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific territory.

2. This stamp will be rectangular in shape 49-64 by 13-64 inches in size, and of 2 cent denomination only; color, red. At the top and bottom are panels containing respectively the words "U.S. Postage" and "Two Cents." In the center the larger part of a circle rests on the lower panel and incloses a ribbon bearing the words "Alaska-Yukon-Pacific 1900," and in the center of the circle appears a portrait of William H. Seward, who as Secretary of State, conducted the negotiations for the purchase of Alaska from Russia. The name "William H. Seward" appears under the portrait. On either side is an ellipse containing the Arabic numeral 2 with laurel branches as a background.

3. The new stamp will not be issued in book form.

4. There will be no commemorative issue of stamped envelopes, newspaper wrappers or postal cards.

5. The stamps of the Alaska commemorative issue are not to be sold exclusively in place of stamps of the regular series. A supply of the latter must be carried in stock by all postmasters. Stamps of the commemorative or of the regular issue will be supplied according to the preference of the purchaser.

Stray Notes on Holland

BY B. B. KIRBY

Continued from page 77.

During the minority of the young Queen, the Queen Dowager Emma had been acting as Regent. In order to commemorate the Coronation of Queen Wilhelmina and also to signalise the event of her becoming Queen *de facto* as well as *de jure*, it was decided that a fresh issue should be made.

Accordingly the current 1 gulden stamp was issued on September 6th, 1898. The portrait on this stamp was engraved in *taille douce* by M. J. Vurtheim of Rotterdam, after a photograph by Professor R. Staag, while the frame was the work of W. Steelink of Amsterdam. They were printed in sheets of 25 stamps (5 rows of 5) and were perforated either (a) $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ or (b) 11×11 .

The new issue consisted of three types. The first which was intended for printed matter was engraved at the printing works at Haarlem and was printed typographically. In this type there is a variety in the 1c. rose red with a stop after the word cent. In the second the portrait was engraved by Mons. E. Mouchon of Paris and the frame at Haarlem. Details have been given of the third in describing the coronation stamp.

The majority of the values in the first two sets, as well as the 2½ and 5 gulden stamps, were issued on 1st August, 1899.

There are two types of the 1 gulden. In the first issued on September 6th, 1898, the distance between the frame and the figure "one" is less than in the second type, and also the words 1 gulden are thicker than in the second issue of 1899. The first two types are all perforated, perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$ by $12\frac{1}{2}$.

- ½c. bright lilac.
- 1c. rose red.
- 1½c. blue (1908).
- 2c. brown.
- 2½c. green.
- 3c. orange
- 3c. green (1901).
- 5c. rose red.
- 7½c. deep brown.
- 10c. grey lilac.
- 17½c. blue.
- 17½c. mauve (1906).
- 20c. green.
- 20c. grey and yellow green (1908).
- 22½c. bronze green and brown.
- 25c. blue and rose.
- 50c. lake and bronze-green.
- 1g. blue green. Perf. a, b.
- 2½g. dull lilac " a, b.
- 5g. lake " a, b.
- 10g. orange red " - b.

We now come to the two blots on the philatelic escutcheon of Holland. I mean the two commemorative issues. No doubt they were issued for worthy objects, but they were unnecessary.

In 1906 there were issued three stamps, 1 cent red, 3 cents sage green, and 5 cents slate violet, which were in use from 23rd December, 1906, to 3rd January, 1907. They were sold at double face value, the extra money realised being given to the Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis.

- 1c. red.
- 3c. sage green.
- 5c. slate violet.

The next issue was to commemorate the tercentenary of the birth of Admiral Michael Adrian de Ruyter. Admiral Ruyter was born in 1607, at Flushing, and was one of the most gallant sailors that ever trod a Dutch quarter-deck. His career as a sailor had many vicissitudes. In 1652 he was defeated by Blake off the Kentish coast; and in November of the same year, together with Von Tromp, he beat Blake off the Ness. In 1665 the Duke of York again defeated him off Lowestoft. In 1666, however, he had his revenge, as he sailed up the Medway and destroyed several English men-of-war. He died at Syracuse, in 1676, in consequence of a wound received in an engagement with the French fleet off Messina.

The stamps, perforated $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, were issued in 1907, and consist of three values—½ cent blue, 1 cent claret, and 2½ cents vermilion.

The Postmarks.

Before the issue of stamps a cancelling obliteration consisting of the word "FRANCO" without a frame was used, and specimens showing this obliteration are known. There was in use from 1852 to 1866, a postmark consisting of a segment of a circle, containing the date with the word "FRANCO" at the base.

The rather common obliteration "FRANCO" within a frame was introduced in 1860 and was in vogue till 1891. After this there appears the well-known dotted postmark with a figure in the centre. This first appeared in 1869 and was discarded in 1893, upon the introduction of the present style of obliterations.

Postage Due Stamps.

The issue of postage due stamps was announced by a ministerial circular dated 23rd April, 1870. The first issue, which appeared on 15th May, 1870, was engraved on wood and printed in colour on coloured paper, in sheets of 200 stamps in two panes of 100 (10 rows of 10). The values were 5c. brown on orange and 10c. violet on blue, and were perforated 13, 13½, and in the case of the 10c. only $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$. In addition, there are two varieties of the type of the 5c., varying in the shading of the ball of the "5."

Design.

Ornamental figure on a white ground within a linked circle, having in the corners a small conventional design, enclosed in a square frame, and bearing at the top "Te Betalen" (to pay), and "Post" at the bottom. The whole is enclosed in a rectangular frame.

- Perf. 13, 13½.
- 5c. brown on yellow.
- 5c. " buff.
- 5c. " orange.
- 10c. violet on blue.

- Perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$.
- 10c. violet on blue.

Owing to the need for additional values, a ministerial decree of the 4th March, 1881, authorised a new issue of

postage due stamps. Stamps to the value of 1c., 1½c., 2½c., 12½c., 15c., 20c., 25c., and 1 gulden therefore were issued on 1st April, 1881, whilst the 5c. and 10c. values appeared in June, 1887. The frame is in blue and the figures in the lower values in black, whilst in the 1 gulden it is in red. In this set there are four types, differing chiefly in the number of loops in the chain round the figure of value.

Type I., modelled on 15c. of Dutch Indies,	34 loops.
" II., " " 20c. "	33 "
" III., " " 10c. of Holland "	32 "
" IV., " " 5c. "	37 "

It seems strange that these different types should have been used, but it may perhaps be explained by the fact that the plates were required in a great hurry and the old dies had to be utilised.

They were engraved in wood and printed typographically at Haarlem, the frame first, and then the values. The stamps of this issue were printed with a plate consisting of 200 single clichés. This accounts for the fact that the varieties do not always have the same position on the sheets, as damaged or worn dies were continually being replaced.

For example, Plate A, used for the printing of the 1c., 1½c., 2½c., 12½c., 15c., 20c., 25c., and 1 gulden, consisted of—

Variety I.	-	-	44 clichés.
" II.	-	-	48 "
" III.	-	-	99 "
" IV.	-	-	14 "

Plate D (2½c., 5c., 10c., 12½c.):—

Variety I.	-	-	38 clichés.
" II.	-	-	19 "
" III.	-	-	130 "
" IV.	-	-	13 "

Plate F (2½c., 5c., 10c., 12½c.):—

Variety I.	-	-	36 clichés.
" II.	-	-	21 "
" III.	-	-	143 "
" IV.	-	-	—

Numerous minor varieties of these stamps can be found, mainly owing to defects in the clichés, &c.

In this issue the following perforations can be found:—
(a) 13, 18½, (b) 12½ × 12, (c) 11½ × 12, (d) 12½ × 12½.

1c. blue and black, perms.	a, b, c, d.
1½c. " " " "	a, b, c, d.
2½c. " " " "	a, b, c, d.
5c. " " " "	—, b, —, d.
10c. " " " "	—, b, —, d.
12½c. " " " "	a, b, c, d.
15c. " " " "	a, b, c, d.
20c. " " " "	a, b, c, d.
25c. " " " "	a, b, c, d.
1 gulden, blue and red, "	—, b, c, d.

In September, 1894, the colour was changed to ultramarine, and all the values were issued in this colour (Types I. and II. only), and were perforated 12½ × 12½. A trial printing was made, however, from a plate with Types I., II., and III., but the stamps were first issued from a plate consisting of entirely Type II., and subsequently from a plate of Type I.

Additional values, ¼c., ½c., and 7½c. were issued in 1902, 1903, and 1904 respectively; while in 1906 two provisional issues appeared, 50c. on 1 gulden (Type III.), and 6½c. on 20c. (Type I.).

¼c. ultramarine.

1c.	"
1½c.	"
2½c.	"
5c.	"
6½c.	"
7½c.	"
10c.	"
12½c.	"
15c.	"
20c.	"
25c.	"
50c. in black (diagonally) on 1 gulden blue and red.	
6½c. in red (horizontally) on 20c. ultramarine.	

In 1907 the De Ruyter Commemorative stamps were surcharged in black—"Post Zegel" at the top, "cent" at the bottom, and the value between these—and used as postage due stamps. There are two varieties of the overprint, differing in the spacing between the figure and the fraction: (a) figure and fraction wide apart; (b) figure and fraction close.

¼c. on 1c. claret, a, b.
1c. " " " a, —.
1½c. " " " a, —.
2½c. " " " a, b.
5c. on 2½c. vermilion, a, —.
6½c. " " " a, b.
7½c. on ½c. blue, a, b.
10c. " " " a, —.
12½c. " " " a, b.
15c. on 2½c. vermilion, a, —.
25c. on ¼c. blue, a, —.
50c. " " " a, —.
1 gulden on ¼c. blue, a, —.

THE END.

The Postage Stamp Binding Covers.

Handsome dark blue covers in buckram, gilt lettered side and back, may be had from our Publishers, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Amen Corner, London. Price 1s. 6d.

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

Antigua.—(Vol. II. p. 165).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the ½d. stamp of the current design on paper with the multiple watermark and printed all in green. The list of varieties on the new paper is now as follows:—

Wmk. Multiple Cr. C.A. Perf. 14.		s.	d.
½d. green ...	...	0	1
2½d. blue ...	...	0	4
1s. purple and blue ...	...	1	3

Argentine Republic.—(Vol. IV. p. 20).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co send us the 4c. in the new type, and

we find its colour is pale purple, and not violet-brown as previously recorded. We therefore revise our list of varieties as follows:—

New design. Wmk. Sun. Perf. 13, 13½.

2c. chocolate	...	...	...	s.	d.
3c. green	...	...	...	0	1
4c. pale purple	...	...	...	0	2
5c. dull carmine	...	...	...	0	2
10c. slate green	...	...	...	—	—
12c. pale orange brown...	...	...	...	1	6
12c. dull blue	...	...	...	0	4
15c. yellow-green	...	...	...	0	5
30c. claret	...	...	...	0	9

Bolivia.—(Vol. III. p. 166).—On the authority of a foreign contemporary *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* states that a special issue is to be made here this month to commemorate the Centenary of the War of Independence. The stamps will be in use for about two years, and the portraits on them are to be 1c. Miguel Betanzos; 2c. Ignacio Warnes; 5c. Pedro Domingo Murillo; 10c. Bernardo Monteagudo; 20c. Esteban Arze; 50c. José Antonio Sucre; and 1 bol. Simon Bolivar. All the stamps will be inscribed "Centenario de la Guerra de Independencia."

Canada.—(Vol. III. p. 154).—It is rumoured that a 6 cents stamp will be added to the current set before long.

Crete.—(Vol. IV. p. 82).—We gather from *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* that the 20 lepta rose of 1900 has been surcharged 5 lepta in the same manner as the orange stamp of 1901, so that we now have to record the following 5 l. provisionals:—

Surcharged "ΕΑΑΑΣ" in fancy capitals,

"ΗΠΟΣΩΡΙΝΟΝ," and new value.

	s.	d.
5 on 20 lepta rose
5 on 20 lepta orange	0 6

Gold Coast.—(Vol. IV. p. 44).—The 2d. in grey, referred to on page 44, has now been issued, so that the complete list of values on the paper with multiple watermark is as follows:—

Wmk. Multiple Cr. C.A. Perf. 14.

	s.	d.
½d. purple and green...	...	0 3
½d. green	0 1
1d. purple and carmine	0 3
1d. carmine	0 2
2d. purple and orange red	0 4
2d. grey	—
2½d. purple and blue	0 5
2½d. blue	0 4
3d. purple and orange	0 5
6d. purple and violet	1 0
6d. purple	0 8
2s. 6d. green and yellow	3 3

Jhind.—(Vol. II. p. 176).—We learn from *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* that the current Indian 2½a. stamp has been suitably overprinted for use in this State, so that the list of King's head stamps now stands as follows:—

Wmk. Star. Perf. 14.

Inscribed "POSTAGE."

	s.	d.
3p. grey	0 1
½a. green	0 2
1a. carmine	0 3
2a. mauve	0 4
2½a. blue	—
3a. orange brown	0 5
4a. olive green	0 6
6a. bistre	0 9
8a. magenta...	...	1 0
12a. purple on red	1 6
1r. green and carmine...	...	2 0
Inscribed "POSTAGE & REVENUE."		
½a. green	0 1
1a. carmine	0 2

Levant (Austrian).—(Vol. II. p. 286).—Mr. W. Ward informs us that he has the current 1 piastre stamp, in a similar design to the Austrian stamp shown below, but inscribed with Turkish currency at the base, on white paper. From all accounts the paper seems to have been changed some time ago, but no one noticed it until recently. The list of varieties is now as follows:—

No wmk. Perf. 13½.

	s.	d.
10 pa. green on yellow	0 1
20 pa. vermilion on pink	0 2
30 pa. chocolate on buff	0 3
60 pa. purple on bluish	0 6
1 pia. deep blue on blue	0 6
1 pia. deep blue	—
2 pia. red on yellow	0 7
5 pia. deep brown on greyish	1 4
10 pia. green on purple	2 6
20 pia. dull blue on greyish	5 0

Morocco Agencies.—(Vol. IV. p. 56).—The 5c. on ½d with control letter G8 is now reported by *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*, making our list as follows:—

5c. on ½d. F6, G7, G8.
10c. on 1d. F6, G7, G8, H9.
½d. F6.
1d. F6.

Nicaragua.—(Vol. III. p. 178).—An interesting perforation variety is reported in *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*—the 5c. of 1899, perf. 6 x 12. From the same journal we learn that some of the 10c. and 50c. provisionals of 1907 exist with a broken "d" in place of the "o" in the surcharge.

Roumania.—(Vol. IV. p. 45).—We understand that the design of the current 5 bani stamp is to be slightly modified so as to be similar to the 1 and 3 bani, in which the portrait is a little larger than on the other values.

Turkey.—(Vol. III. p. 287).—A correspondent has shown *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* the 5 par., 2½ pia. and 5 pia. of 1905, perf. 13½, and the 5 par. of the same issue with compound perf., so the lists of these stamps need revising as follows:—

1905. No wmk. Perf. 13½.

5 par. yellow buff.
10 " grey green
20 " rose
1 pia. blue
2 " deep green
2½ " purple
5 " brown
10 " dull orange

Perf. Compound of 12 and 13½.

5 par. yellow buff
10 " grey green
20 " rose
1 pia. blue
2 " deep green

United States.—(Vol. III. p. 312).—A correspondent has shown us the current 1c. and 2c. stamps on a distinctly bluish paper. We understand this paper is the result of an experiment on the part of the postal authorities to find a paper less liable to be influenced by the hot weather, and thus stamps printed on it are not likely to stick together. As this paper costs considerably more than that previously in use it has not been decided yet whether it will be permanently adopted or not.

Bluish paper. Perf. 12.

1c. green
2c. carmine

NOTE.

The Prices affixed are those at which Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. will supply any of the stamps chronicled that may be in stock.

The stamps are supplied at lower rates to subscribers to their New Issue Service, particulars of which can be had on application to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich.

The Prices quoted are for unused.

Philatelic Dictionary

BY B. W. H. POOLE

(Continued from page 53).

Nouvelle Calédonie.—The French equivalent for New Caledonia as shown upon the current stamps of that Colony.

Nouvelles-Hebrides.—The French equivalent for New Hebrides as shown upon the New Caledonian stamps surcharged for use there.

Novic.—The value in which the stamps of Montenegro are expressed. A hundred novica are equal to a florin, and a novic is, roughly, worth about $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in English money.

Nova Scotia.—The most easterly province of the Dominion of Canada, originally known as Acadia. It consists of a long, narrow peninsula, and the island of Cape Breton. Its total area is 20,600 square miles, and it has a population of about 500,000. Nova Scotia was first visited by the Cabots. In 1621 Sir W. Alexander (afterwards Earl of Stirling) obtained a charter of a country to be called Nova Scotia, which he made several attempts to colonize; but the settlements were a shuttlecock between Britain and France until the Treaty of Utrecht (1713) left it finally British. The French settlers (Acadians) proved troublesome, however, and they were deported in 1755—an episode immortalized by Longfellow in "Evangeline." Meanwhile Cape Breton remained in the hands of the French; but Louisburg was taken and dismantled by General Wolfe in 1758. Five years later the island was annexed to Nova Scotia, but in 1780 it was erected into a separate Colony, and it was not until 1820 it was finally joined to Nova Scotia. The arrival of a large number of loyalists in 1784 led to the separation of the Colony of New Brunswick in 1784. Postage stamps were first issued in 1851, and these were superseded by the general stamps for the Dominion of Canada in 1868, Nova Scotia having joined the Canadian Confederation in the previous year.

Nowanugger.—A feudatory State in Kathiawar, Bombay, India. It has an area of 3,393 square miles and a population of about 54,000. The chief town, Nawanager, is a flourishing seaport, 310 miles north-west of Bombay. Postage stamps were first issued in 1877, but since 1895 this State has ceased to issue special stamps of its own.

N.S.B.—These letters are found surcharged upon various stamps of the French Colonial general types for use in Nossi-Bé.

N.S.W.—These letters are found watermarked in many of the stamps of New South Wales, generally in conjunction with a Crown. They may also be found punched through certain stamps used for franking official correspondence in New South Wales. The letters "NSW" are also the only inscription shown upon the postage due stamps of New South Wales.

N.T.—A surcharge found upon certain South Australian stamps used during the period 1868-74 upon the official correspondence of the department dealing with the Northern Territory. These stamps were superseded in 1874 by the general official issue (surcharged "O S") for use in all the Government departments.

Numerals.—The design of the first stamps for Brazil consists of numerals without any inscription whatsoever.

The postage due stamps of Switzerland show only numerals surrounded by 22 stars, the latter referring to the number of cantons in the republic.

Nusser, J.—An engraver of Dusseldorf, who engraved the die for the 1867 stamps of Holland and drew the design for the succeeding issue.

NZ.—These letters by themselves or in conjunction with a star form the watermark in many of the stamps of New Zealand. They are also shown upon the Express Delivery and Life Insurance Department stamps of that Colony.

O.A.—A surcharge found upon certain South Australian stamps used between 1868 and 1874 on the correspondence from the department of the Official Assignee. These stamps were superseded in 1874 by the general issue, for all the official departments, surcharged "OS."

O.B.—A surcharge which may be met with on most of the stamps of the Philippine Islands issued since 1903. Some of the surcharges are handstamped and others are printed, the letters meaning "Official Business." These overprinted stamps are not kept on sale at the Post Offices, nor are they kept on hand in the Bureau of Posts for distribution to the Government officials. The Bureau of Printing is authorized by the Director of Posts to overprint stamps for other Bureaus, at the latter's expense, whenever requested to do so. The overprinted stamps are then delivered direct to the Bureau for which they are intended. Occasionally the Bureaus apply the surcharge themselves, so there is no uniformity in the type employed or in the colour of the ink used.

Obliteration.—Any mark employed for cancelling stamps, and thus rendering them unfit for further use. The term may be said to cover any mark made by means of a metal, rubber, or other stamp whether for postal or fiscal use, though with regard to post marks the term should more properly be applied to the special cancellers kept for the purpose, and not to the date marks which are also at times applied to the stamps for purposes of obliteration. The term does not necessarily imply that a stamp has been used, for the remainders of the Spanish stamps cancelled with horizontal bars are undoubtedly obliterated.

Obock.—Part of the French Somali Coast Protectorate which was at one time administered as a separate Colony. The seaport of Obock was acquired by the French in 1855, but since 1896 it has been superseded by the more important port of Djibouti. Postage stamps were first issued in February, 1892, and since 1901 the special issues have been superseded by the general set for the whole of French Somali Coast.

Obsolete.—A philatelic term generally applied to any stamps that are no longer on sale at a post office owing to the fact that they have been replaced by a new issue. Correctly speaking the term should only be used in reference to those stamps which can no longer be used for postage and which have therefore, been demonetised, but by common usage it now covers all old issues, whether still available for postage or not.

To be continued.

In the Stamp Market

BY O. REGINALD GUM

Catalogue Eccentricities.

The catalogue of the Mirabaud sale is full of photographs of gems in wonderful condition. The listing, however, does not seem to have been over-carefully done. We find that the numbers of the illustrations do not always tally with those of the lots, and the Gibbons numbers in some cases are given incorrectly. For example, the Victoria 6d orange with beaded oval was given as Gibbons No 64. It is, of course, No. 84. Then it is in the sale catalogue as Lot 2489 and in the illustrations as Lot 2488. To make matters still worse, it is included among the illustrations of Queensland, nine plates distant from the rest of its Victorian colleagues.

A Record Price.

Record prices have been prevailing at the sale, in spite of such deficiencies in the catalogue. The stamp we have referred to—the 6d. orange beaded oval—fetched the record for this stamp, viz., £136, at which sum it was secured by Mr. Peckitt. M. Mirabaud's collection must have been a wonderful treasure-house of old Colonials, and every stamp has margins enough to drive a four-in-hand round—or should that now hackneyed phrase be modernised to “steering a 50 h p. Darraq round?”

The Lion Tamer's Luck.

Mr. George Robey shewed us the other day a 10 gr. 1859 Hannover, which he took off a penny packet of stamps out of a stationer's shop in Manchester. Considering its extremely fine condition, one can only concur that the maker of the “lucky bag” knew very little of philately. Mention of this great comedian reminds us of something else we saw in his collection of United States stamps—and a pick up too! Verily, gadsooks, ye tarrydillers are keen-eyed varlets!

Killing the Golden Goose.

To those conversant with the postal methods of Liberia, the new issue must cause a deal of rude insinuations about Postmaster Barclay. Up to a couple of months ago at the time of writing, no less than four different series of stamps were on sale, and in concurrent use in the Liberia Post Offices.

The writer has the good fortune of a West Africa connection, and hears sordid news from this tract, nominally the first United States Colony. Doubtless there was ample occasion for the U.S. Commission to enquire into the state of the Republic. As far as philately goes, Liberia is carrying the pitcher to the well far too often.

Business Expectant at Amsterdam.

The Editor specially sets aside this column for the filthy lucre side of our hobby, and says I must give my best advice and business tips for the benefit of the readers. Here goes one for those who intend visiting the Dutch City in Whit-week. Take as many duplicates as you can with you. There will be numerous opportunities to exchange for things you have not. And if you do, don't place them in your bags or traps—sort them over your body in various packets—at least until you are well over the Orange Border. The customs are very strict in the Netherlands. The “swopper” will find that Herr Hans is very like the rest of Continental philatelists—he has a very great preference for British Colonials.

Dutchotunities.

The prospective traveller in the Land of the Dykes will be able to pick up such things as 2½d. Transvaal, Orange Colony, and Capes at very much less rate than he can in his own country. U.S.A. and Dutch Colonials may also be seen cheap, but, on the other hand, such current stamps as the 17½ cents and gulden values of Holland will be much dearer than in this country. However, altogether, the Dutch dealers are among the most reasonable of the world. Language is no serious handicap as far as stamps are concerned; but let visitors remember that only five Dutch cents are equal to a penny English—often confusing in comparison with other countries in Europe.

The Best Foreign Catalogues.

A correspondent asks me to name the best catalogue for all-round merit, outside our English ones. From my knowledge of such matters I should plump for Scott and Yvert & Tellier (pronounced E-vert, and not a struggle with a “y,” as we so often hear here). One can hardly recommend a German one, for they are noted for their “jumpeyness” in quotations. I know of two stamps in one of this year's German catalogues that are priced much too high and absurdly low respectively. These are not errors, either, as I have seen firstly a “Want” list and secondly a “Special Bargain” list. This is a little game that would not appeal here, and the firm that attempted it would have our pressdom on it like “a load of coals,” as the hackneyed phrase goes. But why should the home philatelist stray from his Gibbons, Bright, or King?

Our Advertisers' Offers.

Messrs. Mabie Todd & Co. want to sell you a “Long-short” stylo pen, which has the advantage for philatelic work of not leaking, no matter in what position it is held.

Messrs. Bridger & Kay make several interesting special offers including Grenada 1869 ½d. on 2s., and a set of B.S.A. on Caps.

Mr. Oswald Marsh advertises his well-known speciality of Great Britain stamps of which he is prepared to send selections on approval.

Messrs. P. L. Pemberton & Co. offer an interesting little collection of 67 different Greek stamps for 5s., which will enable us to fill up quite a number of gaps in our albums.

Mr. James Rhodes offers a fine variety of bargains in used and unused single stamps and sets.

Bargains in Stamps.

If you want real bargains in Postage Stamps read the advertisement pages of *The Postage Stamp* every week. Every week there is something new, and many special bargains. If you miss a week you may miss the very stamp you want to complete a series.

Back Nos. of “The Postage Stamp.”

Those of our friends who are lacking any back numbers of the present vol. will do well to write direct to our Publishers, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, 1 Amen Corner, London, E.C., for what they require. Many newsagents do not care to bother about back numbers. Any number still on sale may be had for the published price and postage, i.e., 1½d.

Stop Press News

BORNEO STAMPS.

MORE ABOUT THE ALLEGED SPURIOUS ISSUES SOLD TO COLLECTORS.

Further remarkable evidence has been given at Bow Street in the case in which John Stewart Lowden, of Villiers Street, Strand, and Henry Harmer, of Preston Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, stamp dealers, were charged at Bow Street with conspiring to obtain money by fraud, and further with conspiracy under the Post Office Act. It was alleged by the prosecution that the prisoners had obtained from a man in Paris a large number of forged British North Borneo stamps for the purpose of selling them to collectors. Mr. Bodkin again prosecuted on behalf of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr. H. H. Curtis Bennett appeared for Lowden, and Mr. Walter Frampton for Harmer; Mr. Charles Mackintosh watched the case on behalf of the British North Borneo Company, and Mr. C. V. Young for the Stamp Dealers' Association.

Mr. William Aokland said he lived at Hove, and was a dealer in stamps under the name of the London and Brighton Stamp Co. He recognised both prisoners. He first got to know Lowden in April, 1908, as a stamp dealer trading at Villiers Street, Strand. Two months after that he got to know Harmer in the Villiers Street office. He knew them both as managing directors of the West End Stamp Co. Witness had had transactions with that company in buying and exchanging stamps. In all he bought some thousands to the value of nearly £300.

Counsel: What did you do with some of those 1887 issue stamps you then bought?—I sold some of them to Mr. Brown, of Salisbury, a stamp dealer, to the value of about £60. He paid me by exchange. Do you afterwards remember receiving a communication from Mr. Brown after the deal with Lowden?—Yes. The date was October 17, and in consequence I came to London and saw Lowden. I told Lowden that I had heard from a correspondent that the 1887 issues were not genuine. Lowden said they were all right, that he got them from Borneo along with the others, excepting a few he had obtained here and there—broken sets. He also said that when he received some of them they were not perforated, and might be reprints or printers' waste. I said I could not send them out to my customers, because they would not be genuine,

and he advised me to send them out without comment, and said that any of the Borneo stamps might be reprints for all he knew.

Was any allowance made or adjustment made for the stamps he sold to you? No; at that time I thought they were genuine. Afterwards I got some further information, and made an allowance to Mr. Brown for the stamps of which he was complaining.

The hearing was again adjourned.
—*Weekly Dispatch.*

Editor's Letter Box

Publishing Offices:—1, AMEN CORNER, LONDON, E.C.

Editorial Address:—FRED J. MELVILLE, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

Articles, Contributions and Correspondence, should be addressed to the Editor, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the correspondent. Articles, etc., not accepted, will be returned when postage is prepaid.

Business Communications should be addressed to the Manager, and Advertisements to the Advertisement Manager, 1, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

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Our Publishing Day and Advertisers.

In order to meet the requirements of the publishing trade our publishers now distribute copies to the Newsagents on Wednesdays instead of Thursdays as before. This compels us to go to press on Saturday morning. Hence it is absolutely necessary for our printers to have all advertisements at latest on Friday morning; consequently, copy must be in the Advertisement Manager's hands not later than Wednesday, 5 o'clock p.m.

Advertisers' Proofs.

We are anxious to consult our Advertisers' convenience to the greatest possible extent, but where proofs have to be supplied and returned our printers must have the "copy" by Thursday morning at the latest, as we now have to print off a portion of our issue on Saturday morning.

Examination of Stamps.

So many of our readers have asked us to undertake the examination and identification of their stamps that we have made arrangements to accede to their wishes.

We shall be pleased to express an opinion as to the genuineness or otherwise of any stamps submitted to us, or identify them according to any catalogue at a charge of 6d. per stamp (minimum 1/-). All fees must be paid in advance with sufficient added to pay for return postage and registration.

Stamps upon which an opinion is desired should be mounted on a separate sheet from the letter accompanying them and addressed to "The Expert," c/o The Editor of *The Postage Stamp*, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

"What's On"

Every Day (except Sundays) from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Golden West Stamp Exhibition at Earl's Court

Saturday, May 22nd. Junior Philatelic Society, Tenth Season Celebration Dinner, Florence Restaurant, Rupert Street, W., 7 for 7.30. Tickets 5s. each, from H. F. Johnson, 44, Fleet Street. Evening dress optional.

Monday, May 24th. London, Auction (Hallow).

Tuesday, May 25th. London, Auction (Hallow).

London, Auction (Puttick & Simpson).
Wednesday, May 26th. Bath Philatelic Society, Annual Meeting.

London, Auction (Puttick & Simpson).
Thursday, May 27th. London, Auction (Ventom, Bull & Cooper).

Friday, May 28th. London, Auction (Ventom, Bull & Cooper).

Saturday, May 29th to June 1st. J.P.S. Whit-week celebrations at Margate (Queen's and High Cliffe Hotel) and Broadstairs (Llanadern, *en Pension*).

Monday, May 31st. Bank Holiday in England and Ireland.

Thursday, June 3rd. Amsterdam Philatelic Exhibition opens.

WANTS.

MOROCCO AGENCIES. Wanted. 50c. 1 and 2 p. King, Single CA, Mint, state price.—C. Baldwin, "Ivy Dene," Wilberforce Road, Wisbech.

PAPUA SHEETS, TYPE II. 6d. catalogued £7 10s.; 2d. catalogued £15, offers wanted. U.S.A., Egypt wanted, exchange for other countries' stamps or new £1 Colonial Album.—F. 62, Middleborough Road, Coventry.

STAMPS.—Straits on Labuan, 1907. Unused whole sheets of 100, 4 cents on 18, 8 cents, 10 cents, being Gibbons' Nos. 137, 138, 139, offers wanted per sheet.—Orr, 74, George Street, Edinburgh.

AFRICANS, &c., a few thousands at bargain.—JAQUES, 54, Antill Road, Tottenham.

APPROVAL SHEETS, Foreign and Colonial, References required.—K. Foster, 25, Grenville Place, Brighton.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, 1908. 3d. unused 3/- per 100, cash buyers. Wholesale parcels, King's Head, etc. Prompt settlement.—William Stamp Company, 120, Leadenhall Street, London.

The POSTAGE STAMP

*An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors*

Founded by
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.
Edited by
FRED. J. MELVILLE.

No. 9. Vol. 4.
Whole Number 87.

29 MAY, 1909.

Price 1d.

Gossip of the Week

BY CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Specialised Collectors' Catalogues.



MR. L. HARALD
KJELLSTEDT, the
International
Secretary of the
American Phil-

atelic Society, has pro-
pounded a very interest-
ing idea to the leading
society in the United
States. He advocates the
publication by the Society
of a specialised priced
catalogue of United States
stamps. I am glad to see
that the idea is being
taken up and that Secretary
Adair is rousing his

members to concern themselves to bring about this excellent thing. "If for no other reason," says Mr. Adair, "it would serve to show our English cousins who say we are 'non-productive' that we are capable of producing as good as the best."

Are American Philatelists "Non-Productive"?

Now I just wonder who the daring bare-faced scoundrel is who has been calling the American philatelists "non-productive." He surely must have forgotten—whatever he was—that the land of Stars and Stripes has given us *Meekel's Weekly Stamp News* these twenty-three volumes past, and has at this moment three weeklies, and has made two brave attempts at establishing daily papers for stamp collectors. But certainly in the matter of higher class work much has been allowed to run to waste in American scientific philately.

Signs of the Times.

But there are signs of a revival. The good old American Journal of Philately is dead, but the spirit of philatelic research is abroad, and the true student must communicate his information in order to increase it. Colson's book a short time back, though somewhat inaptly titled *Postage Stamps and their Collection*, was something new in American publications. Now we have this week Mr. Crocker's book on Hawaiian Numerals,

which doubtless represents the high watermark of philatelic study. The current Year Book of the American Philatelic Society, too, is a testimony to the desire on the part of its leaders to "buck up" in the "productive" field of literature.

British Societies Please Copy.

Why not an English specialised priced catalogue? If the American venture succeeds no doubt some of the English societies may follow the lead. We cannot claim to share our late chief's belief in the feasibility of a general priced catalogue by collectors for collectors. In specialised works, however, the case is somewhat different, though even here it is very doubtful whether the pricing would have much real value except in a comparative sense. But to possess a specialised catalogue (regardless of the pricing) by a committee of specialists would in itself be a thing worth striving for.

The American Writers' Disadvantage.

Whoever has been "chipping" our good friend Adair ought of course to remember that our American cousins labour under one very serious disadvantage. As in Great Britain one would expect the study of British stamps to be at its highest pitch—so in America one would expect to find, and one does find the study of U.S. stamps at the top. But unluckily for the American collector the student of U.S. issues is not permitted by the authorities to illustrate the results of his researches. This is a very serious handicap as no matter how lucid one may be in describing a philatelic difference of detail it can never be so firmly fixed in your reader's mind as when you show an actual facsimile.

The Hairdressers' Weekly or The Hosiery Review?

In a specialised article on Chili in the columns of a contemporary the author is favouring his readers with some rare examples of the literary style in philately. But for sublime elegance of expression commend us to the description of the "new and very handsome issue" of 1901-2. "The immortal Christopher again adorns the stamp, but appears to have somewhat modified his appearance, as we now see him supplied with a new hat, and, also, his beard has been relegated to realms unknown. Unfortunately, he did not complete his facial

garb, for we notice him wearing, still, the old collar as when last he sat for the photographer. The stamps are very beautiful, and look splendid when well arranged, as the three lower values are in single colours and the three higher in two colours."

Columbus Up-to-Date.

It was of course not in quite the best of good taste for Christopher (if I, too, may call him by his Christian name) not to have changed his collar. But even old Whiskerandos on the previous issue wouldn't have liked to think that he had relegated his beard to realms unknown. We shall have to have an article by Mr. Frank Richardson on Whiskers on Postage Stamps, and give some of these bare-faced specimens a rest. But who would ever have thought of Columbus sitting for his photograph? There are great possibilities in so original an idea. The telescope of St. Kitts should be outdone. Salvador should at once issue a new set of stamps showing Columbus on a Dreadnought, and the United States might very well bring out a revised edition of the Columbus set. The designs could all be taken from photographs as follows:—

- 1 cent, deep sea blue (Columbus breed of bull pup)
- 2 cents, violet (Columbus landed—after being chased by 200 chorus ladies in New York).
- 3 cents, green (Flagship of Columbus in full steam).
- 4 cents, royalmarine (Columbus visiting Admiralty—*Daily Mirror* photo).
- 5 cents, chocolate (Columbus Benefit Matinee at the Alhambra).
- 6 cents, purple (Mafficking in Barcelona).
- 8 cents, magenta (Columbus pays a flying visit to Wilbur Wright).
- 30 cents, orange brown (Columbus radiotelephoto graphed from La Rabida by the Korn apparatus).
- \$1 salmon (Isabella borrows money on her stamp collection).
- \$2 brown red (Isabella Chained to Railings in Downing Street).
- \$3 yellow green (Columbus describing third voyage—Edison-Bell Record).
- \$4 crimson lake (Portraits: Carrie Nation and Columbus).
- \$5 black (Natives presenting Petition to Columbus to change his collar).

Hawaiian Numerals

Mr. Henry J. Crocker's notable book on the early issues of Hawaiian Stamps

First Notice

AS was to be expected Mr. Crocker's long promised work on Hawaiian Numerals is a volume of goodly proportions and it is clothed in a sumptuous garb. It is printed on a heavy art paper and adorned with numerous illustrations in half-tone, and the half morocco binding is both handsome and substantial. In a case provided within the front cover is a set of nineteen plates which are additional to the illustrations in the body of the book. We could have wished for but one improvement in the matter of illustrations. The half-tone process is not from the scientific philatelist's point of view so good for stamp reproduction as either colotype or photogravure. For the purposes of study either of these latter processes allows of the use of a magnifier, while the half-tone process is apt to have all its finer lines completely cut up by the "screen" of minute dots of which the reproduction is composed.

Monument to a Monumental Collection.

The book itself is a record of a life work. It is a scientific treatise on one of philately's most difficult problems and at the same time it is a monument to a monumental collection. The frontispiece is appropriately a British tribute to the high position of this great American collection in the world of philately—the Gold Championship Cup awarded for this collection at the International Philatelic Exhibition in London in 1906.

Early Disciples of Rowland Hill.

There have been few stamps printed, says Mr. Crocker, that have excited so much interest, and an interest that has never languished, equal to these very plain and common looking efforts of a small printing office situated, as Mark Twain has recently expressed it, "On the loveliest fleet of islands ever anchored in any ocean." Hawaii, a Kingdom, was an early disciple of Sir Rowland Hill, and as early as 1851, issued stamps locally printed, and known to collectors as the "Missionary" stamps.

Value of the "Missionaries" and "Numerals."

The 2c Missionary has brought \$3,750, and the others, the 5c. and 13c. bring from \$1,200 to \$700 respectively at private and public sales. The Numerals catalogue as high as \$100, and some of them are worth much more.

The Term Missionary.

The popular term "Missionary" by which the "fancy border" numerals are commonly known, arose from the fact that nearly all the copies which have been found were on the correspondence from the Missionaries in the Hawaiian Islands to their relatives and friends in the New England States and California. To the custom of preserving the letters in the envelopes and keeping them as cherished remembrances from the absent ones, we owe the few specimens that are known of this rare issue.

A Bit of History.

Vancouver who arrived in Hawaii with Cook and returned in 1792 and again in 1794 made sincere attempts to enlighten the natives, and the King and his chiefs requested Vancouver to send out religious teachers from England; but the first missionaries that visited the islands came from America in 1820, and in less than forty years they taught the whole Hawaiian people to read and write, to cypher and sew. The first printing in the islands was a school book in 1822, and two years later 2,000 natives, including the King and his chiefs were able to read.

Postal Service Instituted 1851.

Kamehameha II. and his Queen visited England and both died in London in 1824, and Kam III. succeeded. Prior to 1838 the government was a despotism, but in 1840 this King granted a constitution consisting of King, Assembly of Nobles and a representative Council. This constitution, based on that of Great Britain, was in later times much matured and improved. In 1845 the inde-

pendence of the Hawaiian Kingdom was formally declared by the French and English Governments. Kamehameha III. also instituted postal arrangements and the first stamps were issued in 1851, being printed in Honolulu.

From P.M.G. to King.

In 1854 Kamehameha IV. acceded to the throne, and after a brief but useful reign died in 1863, and was succeeded by his brother Kamehameha V. On his death Lunalilo was elected King in January, 1873; he reigned thirteen months, then the choice fell on Kalakaua, who had been Postmaster-General from February, 1863 to March, 31, 1865. It was during his administration as P.M.G. that the 5c. and 13c. stamps were ordered which have caused so much discussion in philatelic papers and amongst collectors.

"Missionaries," 1st Printing.

The first printing of the Missionary stamps was, according to Mr. Crocker, issued October 1st, 1851, comprising the following:—

- 2c. pale blue on thin bluish white paper.
- 5c. pale blue on thin bluish white paper.
- 13c. pale blue on thin bluish white paper.

The use for these rates particularly the 13c. has puzzled collectors. An Act of the Privy Council of 1850 ratified by the Legislature in 1851 established a 5c. per 4oz. rate for letters (Inter-island postage) and a 2c. rate for newspapers, of which there were the *Friend*, the *Polynesian*, and the *Commercial Advertiser*, published in the islands. The 13c. stamp was evidently required for a composite rate to include:—

Hawaiian rate of	- - -	5 cents.
Ship toll of	- - -	2 "
United States rate of	- - -	6 "
		13 cents.

How they were Printed.

The "Missionaries" proper were printed in the *Polynesian* or Government Printing Office during the term of Mr. H. M. Whitney's office as Postmaster-General. The plate consisted of two type set formes or clichés set side by side, and shewing slight variety in the make-up. They were printed with a space of about 2mm. between them, or about the space usually found between the perforated stamps of to-day.

Pleasing to the Eye of their Owner.

While they are crude in their make-up, the general effect, says Mr. Crocker, is pleasing to the eye, perhaps more so to those who can view a copy reposing on a leaf of their album. Here indeed is a truism from out of the mouth of one who has the experience of possession!

The Two Types.

It is well-known, being described in most catalogues, that there are the two types of each denomination caused by the arrangement of what Mr. Crocker calls the two "clichés" side by side. Type I. shews the "P" of "POSTAGE" directly under the centre of the letter "H" of "HAWAIIAN."

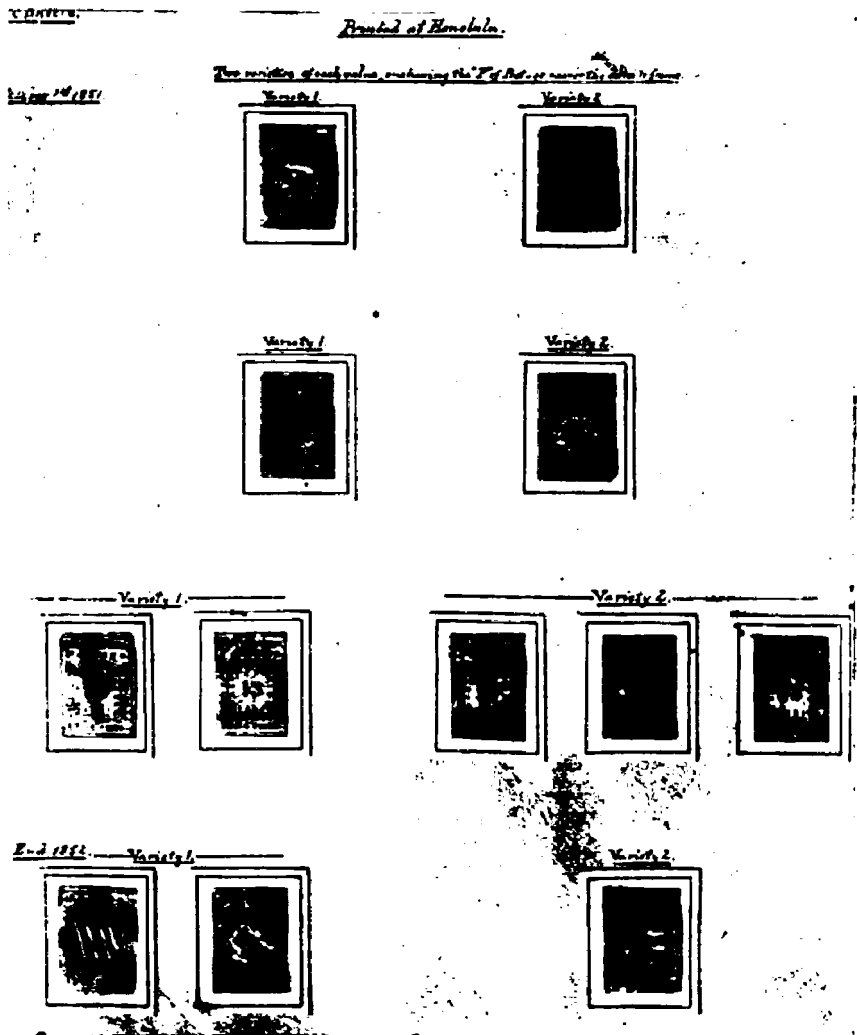
Type II. shows the word "POSTAGE" further to the left so that the upright stroke of the "P" is directly under the first upright stroke of the "H" of "HAWAIIAN."

The Taping "Missionaries."

Mr. Crocker possesses a copy of what he gives as type I. There is a copy of Mr. Crocker's type II. in the Taping collection at the British Museum, though hitherto the positions of the two types had been reversed. The British Museum "Missionaries" are very well worth a visit. The page of these stamps in the Taping collection was considered to be the most valuable in the collection. I illustrate the page as it was before the two top stamps—shewing both types of the 2c.—were removed to be placed in the safe in the Cracherode room. It will be seen that Mr. Taping had no fewer than twelve of the Missionaries.

The 5c. and First 13c. Stamps.

The 5c. stamp was made by changing the numeral in the centre, and the word two to FIVE. Mr. Crocker has both types. This stamp he says is much rarer than the 13c., although both were used for foreign postage. The 13c. was issued at the same period as the 5c. The same frame was used, with the central numeral 13 replacing the central 5, and the figures 13 replacing the word FIVE in the lower panel. A small additional scroll is added between 13 and cents to fill the space. These stamps



The Hawaiian "Missionaries" in the Taping Collection at the British Museum.

Mr. Crocker adds are not common, but are more frequently found than the 5c.

The Second Printing of 13c.

The second printing of the Missionaries was issued in November, 1852, and comprised only the new type of the 13c. inscribed "H.I. & U.S." indicating "Hawaiian Islands and United States," and would go to prove even at this early date some arrangement must have existed by which the 13 cents stamps paid not only the 5 cents rate of Hawaiian postage, but a 6 cents rate of the United States and a ship's toll of 2 cents. The ornament in the lower panel, between the figures 13 and the word cents,

has also been changed from the two upright loops to a square containing four dots.

These stamps are of considerable rarity being second only to the 2c. in that respect.

The Plain Border Numerals.

Mr. Crocker's work having only just reached us as we go to press we are only able to give a brief notice of one section this week. Next week we hope to continue our review by discussing the section on the Plain Border Numerals, which is the strongest part of Mr. Crocker's work, representing, as it does, practically a life-time of study specially directed to these very plain-looking postal issues.

From other Magazines

Faked Great Britain Officials.

There are, unfortunately, numerous forgeries of the scarcer, and even of some of the comparatively common, varieties of the various official stamps in use from 1882 to 1902, writes the Editor of *The British Philatelist*.

A certain overprint, viz.: "Govt. Parcels," has been so accurately copied that it is impossible to give details for its detection; and it is even said, on the authority of the forgers themselves, that blocks were made from impressions taken from the original dies! But—what is it that, unseen, watches over Philately, and compels the forger to dig the proverbial pit for himself?—this overprint, so accurately printed, was applied to three stamps, and to three stamps only, selected, not from those known to have been officially overprinted, but from others which have never existed as Government Parcels stamps.

Overprinting the Wrong Stamps.

The three stamps selected by the forgers were the 3d. lilac and the 1s. green of the 1884 issue, and the 3d. lilac on yellow of the 1887 "Jubilee" set. None of these stamps were ever issued with the Government Parcels overprint. Why then were they selected—through ignorance or through some difficulty in obtaining the normal stamps? Possibly so; but we incline to the opinion that the forgers had seen or heard of certain essays of this overprint made on the stamps above mentioned, and, believing them to be regular issued varieties, acted accordingly.



The £5 I.R.

Another somewhat similar instance is known. When it was decided to have stamps overprinted "I.R. Official," copies of the then current 5s., 10s., £1, and £5, with the added words in heavy Roman capitals, were submitted for approval; but it was thought better to have the higher values (up to £1 only) overprinted in type similar to, but larger than that in use on the low values. The £5 never got beyond the essay stage.

However, the forgers have produced a £5 "I.R. Official"; but, being ignorant of the facts, all their attempts shew, not the Roman type of the essay, but the "block," or *sans serif*, lettering used for the 5s., 10s. and £1, and never printed on the highest value at all, not even as an experiment.

A PIOUS Deception.

The following, though there was never the slightest intention to defraud, may interest our readers.

When the negatives of the plates for *British Isles* were being brought up to date, shortly before the publication of that work, an unused copy of the One Penny lilac, with inverted "Govt. Parcels" overprint was unknown, and the services of a well-known wood-engraver were enlisted. He cut a boxwood block of the overprint sufficiently accurate to pass muster in a photograph, and from this were printed, under personal supervision, six copies only—four singles, all inverted; and one pair with a *tête-bêche* overprint. One of the "angles" was photographed, but, before the plates were printed off, a genuine unused copy was forthcoming, and the necessity for a pious deception was obviated.

Each of the four single copies was marked, by pen and ink, with the word "Forgery," and they were eventually all destroyed, as was the wood-block.

Fate of the Tete-beche pair.

The *tête-bêche* pair met with a more worthy fate. Its "forger" lent it to a well-known dealer somewhere down the Strand; he shewed it to an equally well-known collector (from Paris), who vainly offered fabulous sums in exchange. It now reposes, so we are told, in a wonderful collection of forgeries and reprints.

This particular error, of which probably only one sheet ever existed, can be to some extent expertised by noting the perforation, which did not fall in the proper place, so that the stamps are somewhat "badly centred"—see the excellent illustration (No. 154a) in Wright & Creek's work.

Of the genuine unused copies which are known, nine reached the writer in a registered letter; this was opened, in his presence, by the late Mr. Gordon Smith, who placed a secret mark on each stamp, both he and the writer adding their respective initials on a piece of "margin" adhering to one of them.

Zululand on 6d. Natal.

Zululand was included in the Postal Union late in 1892, (says B. W. H. Poole in the *West End Philatelist*) this fact being recorded in the *Natal Government Gazette* for September 27th, 1892, in the following paragraph: "By virtue of its postal agreement with the colony of

Natal, dated the 25th April, 1888, the territory of Zululand is included with Natal in the Universal Postal Union." Apparently no change was made in the postal rates at this period, and, as the Colony already possessed stamps of the usual Postal Union values, no new varieties were necessary.

The overprinted 6d. stamps of Great Britain evidently ran out of stock towards the end of 1893, and in January a new supply of stamps of this value was received in



Zululand, and at once put on sale. For some reason this supply consisted of the then current 6d. stamp of Natal overprinted "ZULULAND," in the same type as that appearing upon the stamps of Great Britain. Why the change was made, I cannot say, for no official intimation seems to have been made of this issue, and in "*Africa: Part III*" only the bare record of its existence is given.

The Quantity sold.

The overprint, continues Mr. Poole, was applied in London by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., Limited, but how

many stamps were surcharged at a time there is no evidence to prove.

The surcharge was so adjusted as to print just above the value, as shown in our illustration.

According to the *London Philatelist*, this variety is said to have been withdrawn from use directly the stamps of the "permanent" type appeared (April, 1894), but it is more probable that it remained on sale until the whole supply was exhausted, or until all the overprinted stamps were withdrawn.

It is stated that 6325 of these stamps were sold altogether, and, as these particular labels were inscribed "POSTAGE" only, it is to be presumed that all these were used for postal purposes.

The "Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The *Postage Stamp* is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:

Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C.

F. C. Ginn, 148, Strand, London, W.C.

Lewis May & Co., 15, King William St., Strand, W.C.

W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.

James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.

Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.

The Court Stamp Co., 10, Marriott's Court,

Manchester.

The Trade at the Exhibition

THIS week we have made a round of the stamp dealers' stalls at the Golden West Exhibition, and our special photographer has taken some views which will be of interest, particularly to those who are not able to visit the Exhibition themselves.

The stalls, it should be stated, have been let on two arrangements. One allows the holder of the stall to conduct regular business on the spot with full powers to sell stamps and accessories. The other arrangement is for a non-selling exhibit which, while not allowing of the sale of goods on the premises, permits of the holder of the stall having a representative present to book orders for delivery from his headquarters.

The first stall, No. 1 on the plan which was first published in *The Postage Stamp* of 1st May, is held by the enterprising house of Peckitt, and as befits one of the leading houses in the Stamp Trade it is one of the handsomest exhibits in the section. There is in the counter cases a good show of new issues, of



W. H. Peckitt's Stall at the Golden West Exhibition.

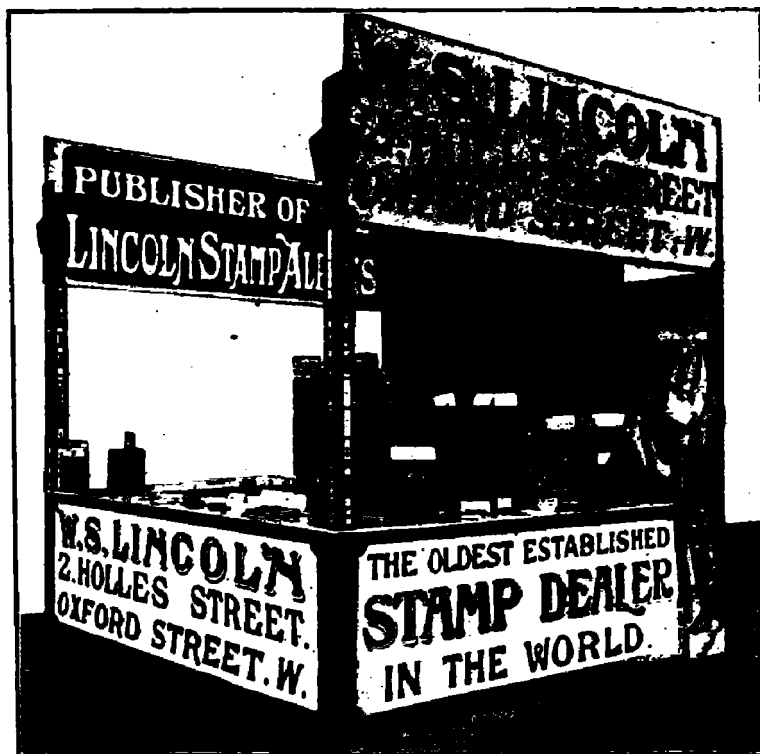
which Mr. Peckitt makes a speciality, and the visitor can walk in to the back of the stall and examine the fine selection of older stamps in the frames on the wall. A letter box in Post Office vermilion is provided, and orders which are dropped in this box are collected daily and executed from No. 47, Strand, this stall being on the non-selling basis.

Our photograph of Stall No. 2 shows one of the selling stalls; this particular one belonging to our old friends Whitfield King & Co., of Ipswich. Mr. C. Whitfield King, Jun., whom our photographer found at the Exhibition is included in the picture. The exhibits here are mostly of the excellent albums for which this firm is deservedly renowned. All the various styles and bindings of the favourite Standard and Paragon and Acme albums are on view here and may be inspected and purchased on the spot. A number of cheap sets and single stamps are also displayed for sale and the current issue of *The Postage Stamp* can be purchased here at the usual price of 1d.

The old established firm of W. S. Lincoln has a double stall (Nos. 3 and 4 on the plan) with a lavish display of stamps of all grades, and of the



Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. are selling their popular English-made Albums at their Stall.



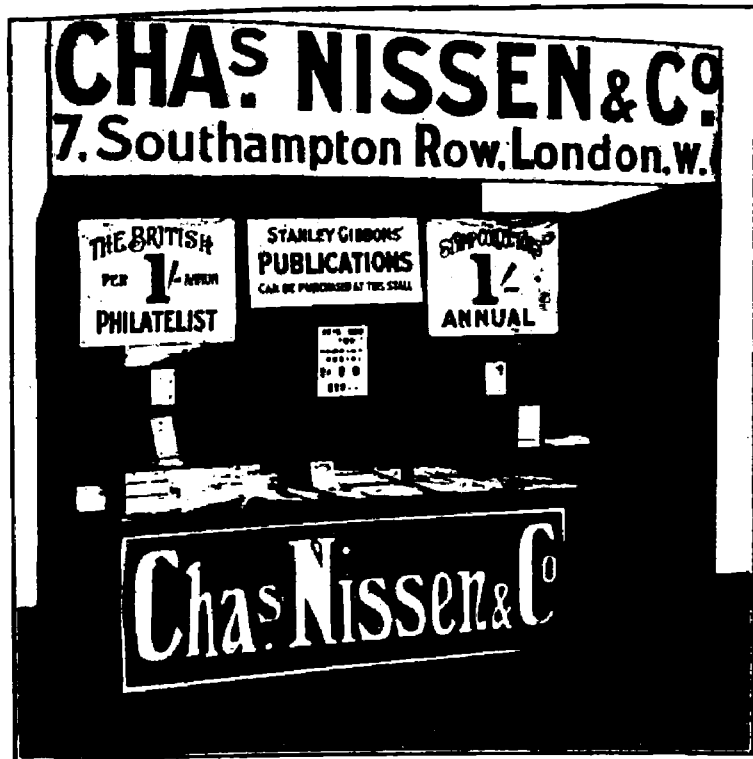
The "Lincoln" Stall is one of the brightest Exhibits in the Stamp Section.

famous Lincoln albums, which have, during the many years during which they have been published got scattered into all corners of the globe. The stamps on this stall are very effectively displayed under glass and make quite an interesting little exhibition by themselves. The effigy of an old gentleman who has been in the habit of carrying his postage stamps in his hat causes a good deal of amusement to the visitors to Earl's Court. He is holding a letter in his mouth and is vainly searching for the stamp in his hat. It has, however, affixed itself to his bald pate. He is supposed to be saying "I thought I had a stamp about me." Picture postcards of this semi-philatelic cartoon can be purchased at the stall for a penny. This double stall is on the selling basis and a staff is permanently in attendance.

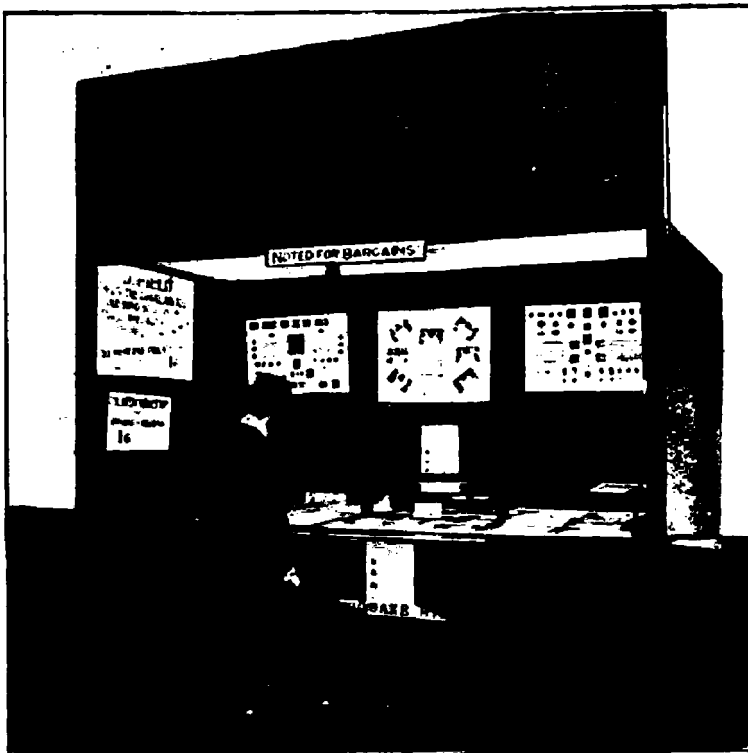
Messrs. Charles Nissen & Co. are regular supporters of most stamp exhibitions, and at Earl's Court they have quite an interesting if small display. The firm is well known to specialise in the stamps of Great Britain, and there are some extremely

curious items in Great Britain and British used abroad. The firm of course does not limit itself to Great Britain stamps, and has cheap sets, packets, albums and handbooks on sale; the publications including the *British Philatelist*, the *Stamp Collector's Annual*, the Melville books, and the Gibbons publications. The head of the firm, Mr. Nissen, himself is one of the exhibitors, who is shewing a fine collection of U.S. revenues in the general display. This stall is on the selling basis, and goods may be purchased on the premises.

Mr. D. Field has a very attractive and well-arranged selling stall with a representative in charge all the time the Exhibition is open. Here we see that the popular Bond Street dealer is "Noted for Bargains," which however will be no news to the readers of *The Postage Stamp*, who have had many opportunities of availing themselves of Mr. Field's special offers in our advertisement pages. Some of the stock books have been transferred from the Royal Arcade, and there is much to make it worth the collector's while to make a prolonged call at this stall. The *West End Philatelist* can be purchased here, as also can the earthquake stamps which were



Messrs. Charles Nissen & Co. have an interesting variety of stamps and publications on sale.



Mr. D. Field's Stall is very attractively arranged, and numbers of bargains may be purchased from this stall.

issued for the non-philatelic but highly philanthropic purpose of assisting the sufferers from the Italian earthquake.

There are still two stalls in the stamp section which are available for hire by any enterprising dealers who may be on the look out for good summer business, and the opportunity is an exceptional one for meeting, greeting and trading with the numbers of American visitors who are expected to exceed all previous records this year. In spite of other attractions practically every American visitor will go to Earl's Court as the exhibition there has a very definite appeal to the visitor from the States, being devoted, as it is, entirely to American industries.



New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.
After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

Argentine Republic.—(Vol. IV. p. 92).—A copy of the ½c on 12c. of 1890, with surcharge in red, has been found with a double impression of the overprint according to *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*.

Ceylon.—(Vol. III. p. 238).—The following interesting paragraph relating to a new issue of stamps for this Colony is from *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*:—"Our readers will be interested to learn that so far back as December, last year, designs were completed by the local Post Office authorities and sent to England to the stamp manufacturers, Messrs. De la Rue & Co., to be officially approved and passed. They include the introduction of new 10c., 50c., R1, R2.50, R5 and R10 stamps, the present 4c., 75c., R1.50 and R2.25 being abolished. If the designs are passed by August of this year, we learn that the new issue of stamps will be available for circulation from January 1st, 1909 [1910?], August being the month in which the annual requisition for stamps is made from the manufacturers by the local postal department. It is on the cards, however, that even the designs officially approved locally may be found subject to criticism by the manufacturers, even while the plates are being prepared, and if any such delay, entailing the designs not being passed till after August next, occurs, the new issue will be delayed until 1911."

Charkari.—(Vol. IV. p. 56).—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us the new 1 pice stamp, and we find its colour is not chestnut as previously reported, but corresponds exactly with what Mr. Warburton calls "turquoise-green" in his new Colour Chart. We therefore revise our list as follows:—



Lithographed. Wave paper. Perf. 11.		s.	d.
1 pice turquoise green	...	0	1
½ anna scarlet...	...	0	1
1 " sage green	...	0	2
2 annas blue	...	0	4
4 " deep green	...	0	6
8 " brick red	...	0	10
1 rupee chestnut	...	1	8

Congo.—(Vol. III. p. 238).—We understand from several of our contemporaries that the hand-stamp used to surcharge a limited number of the Congo State stamps at Brussels has been sent out to Belgian Congo to be



applied to the large stocks on hand there. Thus, unless ink of a different colour is used—a somewhat unlikely contingency—there will be no means of distinguishing between the Congo and Belgian printings, and the numbers given on page 238 of our last volume will have to be considerably increased.

Costa Rica.—(Vol. II. p. 201).—A correspondent has shown *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* a copy of the 5c. of the current type, perf. 11½ × 14. We understand that 14 is the regular perforation for this issue, but that, for a short time, a machine gauging 11½ was used in perforating the horizontal rows.

1900. No. wmk. Perf. 11½ × 14.
5c. orange buff and indigo.

Dutch Indies.—(Vol. III. p. 238).—Several of our contemporaries state that a 4c. stamp, in the same design as the other low values, has been added to the current set. The list of varieties in the numeral design is, thus, now as follows:—

Numeral design. No wmk. Perf. 12½.		s.	d.
½c. bright lilac	...	0	0½
1c. olive green	...	0	0½
2c. brown	...	0	1
2½c. green	...	0	1
3c. orange	...	0	1
4c. dark blue...	...	—	—
5c. rose	...	0	2
7½c. slate	...	0	6

Gold Coast.—(Vol. IV. p. 93).—Messrs. Lewis May and Co. report having received the 3d., printed in purple on yellow paper, to which we referred on page 44. This makes the list of varieties on the paper with multiple watermark as follows:—

Wmk. Multiple Cr. C.A. Perf. 14.		s.	d.
½d. purple and green	...	0	3
½d. green	...	0	1
1d. purple and carmine	...	0	3
1d. carmine	...	0	2
2d. purple and orange red	...	0	4
2d. grey	...	—	—
2½d. purple and blue	...	0	6
2½d. blue	...	0	4
3d. purple and orange	...	0	6
3d. purple on yellow	...	—	—
5d. purple and violet	...	1	0
6d. purple	...	0	8
2s. 6d. green and yellow	...	3	3

Honduras.—(Vol. IV. p. 44).—Some few weeks ago the 1c. of the current type was reported lithographed instead of engraved. We now understand that the 5c., 10c. and 20c. have also appeared, so possibly the whole set will be printed by lithography in due course.

Lithographed. No wmk. Perf. 14.

- 1c. green
- 5c. blue
- 10c. sepia
- 20c. bright blue

New Zealand.—(Vol. IV. p. 20).—From a note in *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* we think there is little doubt that the 5d. chronicled on page 20 as perf. 14 × 15 does not exist. Our contemporary states that the 2½d. has been issued with an undoubted comb perforation, very clean cut, gauging exactly 14½ all round, and it is very evident that the 5d. previously recorded was also perforated on this new machine. We, therefore, now have to list the following:—

Wmk. Single-lined "N.Z." and Star.
Perf. 14½ (comb machine).
 2½d. deep blue.
 5d. black brown

Norway.—(Vol. III. p. 93).—On the authority of a Continental journal *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* states that the current 2 kr. stamp has been re-engraved. In the new variety the portrait of the King has the brow shaded with points, the background is darker at the left, and the engine-turned frame is filled with lines instead of dots. The paper, too, is said to be more transparent, though it is no thinner than before.

Sierra Leone.—(Vol. IV. p. 9).—A correspondent has shown *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* the 6d., 1/- and 5/- stamps in the colours conforming to the Crown Agents' new colour scheme. The complete list of values now issued in the colours scheduled in the official list is as follows:—



Wmk. Multiple Cr. C.A. Perf. 14.

	s.	d.
¼d. green	0	1
¼d. carmine	0	2
2½d. ultramarine	0	4
6d. purple and bright purple	0	8
1s. black on green	—	—
2s. purple and blue on blue	—	—
5s. green and red on yellow	—	—

Victoria.—(Vol. II. p. 285).—From various sources we learn that the 2½d. stamp on Crown A paper has been issued perf 11. It is stated that only two sheets have been found and these were on sale at the G.P.O., Melbourne. One sheet was in a very incomplete state when the discovery was made, and, unless more are found, the stamp should prove a rarity. The values now known with this perforation are as follows:—

Wmk. Crown A. Perf. 11.

	s.	d.
¼d. green	0	2
¼d. rose red	—	—
2d. mauve	—	—
2½d. deep blue	—	—
3d. orange brown	—	—
1s. orange	—	—
5s. carmine and blue	6	6
£1 carmine	—	—
£2 deep blue	—	—

Western Australia.—(Vol. III. p. 105).—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* states that towards the end of 1908 the 4d. stamp, perf. 12, was issued in a distinct shade of yellow brown.

NOTE.

The Prices affixed are those at which Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. will supply any of the stamps chronicled that may be in stock.

The stamps are supplied at lower rates to subscribers to their New Issue Service, particulars of which can be had on application to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich.

The Prices quoted are for unused.

The Alleged Stamp Frauds

Dealers at Bow Street

AT the Bow Street Police Court on May 17th John Stewart Lowden, of Villiers Street, Strand, and Henry Harmer, of Westcliff-on-sea, stamp dealers, were charged on remand, before Mr. Curtis-Bennett, with conspiring to obtain money by fraud. They were further charged with conspiracy under the Post Office Act.

It was alleged that the prisoners had sold to collectors a large number of stamps purporting to have been issued by the British North Borneo Company, but which were, in point of fact, forged in Paris.

Mr. Bodkin conducted the case on behalf of the Director of Public Prosecutions; Mr H. H. Curtis-Bennett appeared for Lowden, and Mr. Walter Frampton and Mr. J. D. Cassels for Harmer; Mr. C. Mackintosh watched the case for the British North Borneo Company; and Mr. C. V. Young for the Stamp Dealers' Association.

Mr. Frederick R. Parker, a stamp dealer, of Stamford Hill, gave evidence as to having bought a large number of stamps from the British North Borneo Company. Some of them were cancelled, and many of them had not been perforated. A few had two impressions on them, and he regarded them as proof sheets. By the end of 1907 he had accumulated a large number of these stamps, and he still had some in hand.

Mr. Bodkin—By taking them in large quantities did you get them at preferential rates?

The Witness:—I might have done.

But did you in fact?—I had a monopoly for a short time.

The witness went on to say that, under an agreement entered into in 1907 he had sold some of the stamps to the West End Stamp Co. at the rate of £2,000 worth a year. The whole of the stamps specified in the agreement had been delivered and paid for up to date, with the exception of £300 worth. Altogether the witness had received £3,500 under this contract from the West End Stamp Company. This sum included a deposit of £80.

The witness was questioned about a supplementary agreement he had since entered into with the Company. He said he did not care to reply, because there was a clause in the agreement by which, if he said anything which might do the buyers harm, the agreement might be cancelled.

Mr. H. H. Curtis-Bennett.—The witness need have no fear of the defendants, because if he does not answer you I shall ask him about it.

The witness explained that the only difference in the supplementary agreement was that in the event of payments being in default he was to be paid interest on the amount owing at the rate of five per cent. He had never supplied any stamps to the prisoners except those which he had received from the British North Borneo Company.

At this stage the witness left the box to obtain some books likely to throw light on the case.

Mr. Henry N. Burgess, managing clerk to Messrs. Bright & Sons, stamp dealers, of the Strand, gave evidence as to having purchased £9 worth of British North Borneo stamps from Herbert Mack & Co. (Limited), Villiers Street, Strand.

In cross-examination, he said that the company issued a monthly magazine, in which attacks were made from time to time upon certain members of the Stamp Trade Protection Association for selling forged stamps.

Miss Ethel Frances Pix, a lady clerk in the employment of Herbert Mack & Co. (Limited), was called to identify certain approval sheets of stamps which she had made up to send to customers.

In reply to Mr. Cassells, she said that Harmer was not at the office every day. He travelled a great deal, and spent some of his time on the Continent. He severed his connection with the company last autumn.

Miss Ella Neumann, also in the employment of Herbert Mack & Co., stated that Harmer joined Lowden in business in Villiers Street in May, 1906. She produced the account books of the firm, and referred to certain entries showing payments made to a printer in Paris, from whom, it was alleged, forged stamps had been obtained. Mr. Lowden once asked her to accept four shares in the company. She consented, but had not yet received the shares.

Mr. Bodkin.—Have you had any dividends?

The Witness.—No, I am waiting.—(Laughter.)

Monopolies in Stamps.

After the luncheon interval Mr. Parker produced an agreement between himself and the West End Stamp Company, dated September 25th, 1907. It was signed by both prisoners against the seal of the company. He also produced a supplementary agreement, executed on June 4th, 1908, and a list of payments he had received from the company. Up to the end of last year he had received £3,400, and for the February delivery £100. The interest due to him under the agreement had not been paid.

Mr. H. H. Curtis-Bennett (cross-examining).—Do I understand that you had a monopoly to purchase stamps from the North British Borneo Company?

The Witness.—I have had monopolies for certain transactions at different times, but not the entire monopoly. I think I had a monopoly for about 12 months with respect to the 1887-90 issue, but I am not quite sure. I may have had something in writing from the company,

but I am not sure. My dealings with the company commenced in 1885.

Were these cancelled stamps sold to you at very considerably under face value?—Yes.

They were sold to you for the purpose of re-selling to collectors and dealers?—Yes.

Were the company printing these stamps specially to your order?—To my knowledge, no.

I put it to you that you know, or have heard, that the company were printing these stamps specially for you?—I have had so many transactions with the company, I cannot remember all of them. It is so long ago.

If the company printed stamps specially to your order and sent them to you in a cancelled state, they would be of no use for postal revenue purpose?—No.

They would simply be cancelled for the purpose of selling them to you, and from you to collectors?—Yes.

In October last were you unable to supply Lowden with some stamps?—Yes, of the 1897 issue.

And were they specially printed to your order?—I asked the company to print them, and they were supplied to me.

In answer to further questions, the witness stated that the fact that he was selling cancelled stamps to the defendant was known to one of the clerks in the employment of the British North Borneo Company. The witness added that his memory was getting bad.—(Laughter.)

Mr. H. H. Curtis-Bennett.—Surely you do not mean that?

The Witness.—Oh, yes I do. I am getting on.

Mr. Curtis Bennett.—But you do not look very old.

The Witness.—(stroking his beard).—I should like to get rid of these grey hairs.—(Laughter.)

Mr. Curtis-Bennett.—There is a remedy for that.

The Witness.—If you mention it it will be a good advertisement for someone.

Mr. Bodkin.—If this is relevant we will go on.—(Laughter.)

The witness proceeded to say that he sometimes saw *Mack's Stamp Review*, which was said to be edited by Lowden. He believed articles had been published denouncing stamp forgeries. He had some recollection of having read in the publication referred to a statement to the effect that some members of the Stamp Trade Protection Association had been dealing in these forgeries. The witness had sold altogether some hundreds of thousands of British North Borneo stamps.

The prisoners were remanded on the same bail as before.—*Morning Advertiser, May 18th.*

Siam: Notes on the Recent Discovery

BY BERTRAM W. H. POOLE

SPECIALISTS in the stamps of Siam should be more than ordinarily interested to read of Mr. W. Hadlow's recent discovery regarding the two varieties of the 1 att of 1900 as recorded in *The Postage Stamp* for April 24th.

For many years I have specialised and studied and written about Siamese stamps, so that I was personally exceptionally interested, but I must confess that on studying the enlarged illustrations and the accompanying explanation of the main points of difference it seemed to me that it had hardly been conclusively proved that there were two dies.

Let me recapitulate the main points of difference as shown and illustrated on page 39.

Die I.

The hair is distinctly curly.

The native character in the left hand tablet is broad.

The spandrels in the top corners are quite different in the two stamps.

Now of these points of difference there is only one that refers to the die from which the head-plate was prepared, if these stamps were produced in the same manner as the other Siamese stamps manufactured by Messrs. De la

Die II.

The hair is much straighter and shows far more light shading.

The native character is narrower.

Rue & Co., Ltd., i.e., the one relating to the hair. It is obvious that the spandrels and value tablets are very different, and from this it seemed, at first sight, more probable that there were two distinct duty-plates for the 1 att stamps rather than that there were two separate dies.

It should be understood that with the single exception of the 1 att of 1890, for which a special plate was made, all the Siamese stamps printed by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., Ltd. were produced at two operations, there being one head-plate for all the values in the same design and a separate duty-plate for each value. From these duty-plates the value tablets in English and Siamese and the spandrels in the upper corners of the stamps were printed.

This method was the one adopted in producing the stamps of the 1900 issue, with profile portrait of King Chulalongkorn, even in the case of the 1a., 2a., 4a. and 10a. values printed in single colours. This can be easily proved by examining a number of the stamps, for it will be found that the position of the spandrels and value tablets varies on different specimens.

It is worthy of notice that the same duty-plates were employed for the 1a., 2a., 3a., 4a., and 10a. stamps as had been used in printing the corresponding values of the so-called rejected type of 1899.

Mr Hadlow's die I. belongs to this series for it is evident that this variety is the product of two-plate printing.

Now to account for the other variety, either a new duty-plate was made for this 1 att stamp or an entirely new plate was constructed by means of which the whole stamp could be produced at one printing. After examining a number of these 1 att stamps I soon came to the conclusion that the latter inference is the correct one and following these researches a little further it soon became evident that Mr Hadlow's die II. belongs properly to the 1904 series. This set it will be remembered consisted of three changes of colour and three new values due to the depreciation of the value of the tical, which are catalogued as follows:—

- 2a. scarlet and pale blue
- 3a. deep green
- 4a. chocolate and pink
- 6a. carmine
- 14a. dull blue
- 28a. chocolate and blue

It will be seen that in this set there are three mono-coloured stamps—the 3a., 6a. and 14a.—and I find that all these were produced in exactly the same manner as the 1 att just referred to i.e., a separate plate was constructed

for each of these values. Moreover, the spandrels in the upper corners are exactly similar to those on the 1 att. and in the case of the 3 atts the value tablets differ from those of the corresponding denomination of 1900.

The 28a. for which, of course, a new duty-plate had to be made, also has spandrels like the 1 att and thus the 4 atts is the only value of the set in which the design of the stamp as a whole is like that of the 1900 series.

There can thus be little doubt that Mr. Hadlow's die II. must be classed with the 1904 set, but as it is the only value included in both series in the same colour it is the only one the discovery directly affects.

The next point to consider is "Was there a new die?" Mr. Hadlow's test of curly or straight hair is not a very satisfying one. To start with the so-called "curly" hair is really every bit as straight as on the other variety though it is very apparent that one shows much more uncoloured shading than the other. But there are other differences which seem to point to the fact that the original die was certainly retouched before the plates from which the mono-coloured stamps were printed were made. The chief points of difference are as follows:—

Die I.
Original.

The hair shows very little light shading.

The line dividing the neck from the collar is very fine.

The points of the white collar are finely shaded.

The lines of shading on the uniform are all very light.

There is a line of shading at the back of the jewel on the epaulette.

The ornamentation on the uniform is clearly defined.

Die II.
Retouch.

The hair is shaded with a number of coarse uncoloured lines.

The line dividing the neck from the collar is much thicker.

The points of the white collar are quite unshaded.

The lines of shading on the uniform are much heavier.

The small space behind the jewel is unshaded

The ornamentation is all blurred and anything but clearly outlined.

Speaking generally the whole appearance of the original die is more delicate and vastly superior to that of the retouch.

From the above I think it is abundantly clear that Mr Hadlow has made a discovery of two distinct types equalling if not surpassing in importance those of the now well-known De la Rue "general" colonial types.

The Postage Stamp Handbooks

Important Announcement regarding the continuation of "Nankivell's Philatelic Handbooks"

Arrangements are now being made for the continuation of the series of small handbooks on the postage stamps of popular countries, which were initiated as "Nankivell's Philatelic Handbooks." Only one has been issued under this title (*Jamaica and Cayman Islands*). In future the series will be styled "The Postage Stamp Handbooks," and while they will be under the general editorship of Mr. Fred J. Melville, they will not be restricted to the writings of any one author.

Among the authors whose works are at present in preparation for this series are the late Mr. Edward J. Nankivell, Mr. Fred J. Melville, and Mr. Bertram W. H.

Poole. The first two booklets are both from the pen of our late Editor, and one of them will deal with the popular Cape of Good Hope stamps.

The work of other writers will be included in the series as opportunity affords, but the series will continue the policy projected for the Nankivell Philatelic Handbooks of reprinting serial articles from *The Postage Stamp*, so that readers may have the more important articles in convenient and separate form.

A further announcement regarding these booklets will appear shortly.

Stop Press News

JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

10TH SEASON CELEBRATION
DINNER.

A BRILLIANT ASSEMBLY.

In every way, the 10th Season Celebration Dinner of the J.P.S., held at the Florence Restaurant, on Saturday, was an emphatic success. Over seventy Juniors and their friends, including a large number of ladies, sat down to enjoy the excellent fare provided, the trade and the Philatelic Press being well represented. The occasion served to demonstrate the extraordinary growth of philately in recent years, both from the point of view of the young collector and the trader, and tended to show—as many of the speeches indicated—the high position the science of stamps had attained, and the influence of the J.P.S. on that science.

Mr. C. B. Purdom, in proposing the toast of the J.P.S., said that ten years ago stamp collecting was associated with either very small boys or old fogies, but that now, thanks largely to the strenuous efforts of the J.P.S., it was regarded in a different light, even by the layman. He referred in warmest terms to the work of the Society, and to the speculation that existed in the early days as to whether or no it would survive from meeting to meeting, a state of affairs which was now happily past.

Mr. President Melville, in his reply, gave some interesting statistics and a brief account of the origin of the J.P.S., which he had founded, he said, because the big stamp societies of the time refused to admit him to their ranks because he was not old enough. He referred to the presence of Mr. Mount Brown, the publisher of the pioneer catalogue of postage stamps in 1862.

The toast of "The Ladies and Visitors," proposed by Mr. E. M. Gilbert-Lodge, was wittily responded to by Mrs. Field, who was largely responsible for the arrangements for the evening, and by Mr. Terry, who returned thanks on behalf of the Visitors.

Mr. W. S. Lincoln, in response to Mr. J. Feeney, on behalf of the Stamp Trade, gave a very interesting account of his own career both as a collector and a dealer. He had found, only that day, a little book inscribed in schoolboy handwriting, "Collection of stamps started by W. Lincoln, 1854, 210 varieties," which increased in 1866, and when he had found one other enthusiast with whom he could

exchange, to 600 varieties. How he wished he had some of those 600 now.

Mr. F. D. Lloyd, proposing the Philatelic Press, urged two points which might be included in the future propaganda of the *philatelic editas*, (a) the desire for a National and Imperial collection, and (b) that strenuous measures should be taken to eliminate the forgeries that now and then were a blot on the philatelic landscape.

Mr. F. C. Bishop, in reply, accepted the hint, but at the same time reminded Mr. Lloyd that the hand of the Editor was in a great measure checked by the absurd libel law that threatened civil proceedings for the merest trifle. He gave a very interesting account of his own experiences when starting a philatelic paper as a schoolboy, and said that he was afraid that the printer was the only one who ever obtained any benefit from the exploiting of that journal. He sold it, he said, when the craving for the cigarette took the place of the stamps, for the modest sum of 15s. which, bye the bye, he had never received.

During the evening an interesting Entertainment was given by Mr. Douglas Beaufort, the toast of "The Chairman," proposed by Mr. D. Field, and accorded with musical honours, bringing a highly successful evening to a close.

Editor's Letter Box

Publishing Offices.—1, AMEN CORNER, LONDON, E.C.

Editorial Address.—FRED J. MELVILLE, 14, Sudbourne Road, Br. xton, London, S.W.

Articles, Contributions and Correspondence, should be addressed to the Editor, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the correspondent. *Articles, etc.*, not accepted, will be returned when postage is prepaid.

Business Communications should be addressed to the Manager, and *Advertisements* to the Advertisement Manager, 1, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

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Our Advertisers' Offers.

Mr. W. H. Peckitt makes a bold appeal for new adherents to his excellent new issue service, which has proved a wonderfully good investment for his clients in the past. The Morocco 1 and 2 pesetas, various Brunei and Straits, Caymans and the set of Fiji Condominiums have been supplied at 10 per cent. over face.

Mr. D. Field adds another to his long list of special bargains offered to readers of *The Postage Stamp* in the Greece 1901 5 lepta green with shaded border for 1s. 6d.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co make a series of special offers covering Bulgaria, Belgian Congo, Gambia, Indore, etc.

Messrs. Charles Nissen & Co. publish a list of rarities in stock including the 9d. hair line and 10d. plate 2d. and other Great Britains, and the 2d. and 1s. scarlet vermilion Newfoundland.

Mr. E. Burnet-Ginn offers a number of bargains in early issues of Antigua, Bahamas and Barbados.

"What's On"

Saturday, May 29th to June 1st. J.P.S. Whit-week celebrations at Margate (Queen's and High Cliffe Hotel) and Broadstairs (Llanadern, *en Pension*).

Monday, May 31st. Bank Holiday in England and Ireland.

Thursday, June 3rd. Amsterdam Philatelic Exhibition opens.

FREE. STAMPS catalogued 21s. to all applicants for approval selections. (Prices $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ catalogue). The LONDON PHILATELIC Co., Apsley, Hemel-Hempstead.

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

Prepaid Advertisements are inserted in THE POSTAGE STAMP at the following rates—12 words, 1s.; and 1d. for every additional word.

Advertisements can be received up to 5 o'clock THURSDAY for insertion in the following week's issue.

NEW HEBRIDES on Fiji now in stock, singles, blocks, panes and sheets. For prices see Ewen's Weekly Stamp News, Norwood, S.E.

BARGAINS! For real bargains, all kinds of stamps, send for specimen, "Appleton's Weekly."—T. C. Appleton, Ben-Rhydding, England.

FOREIGN and Colonial, 66 to 80% under catalogue; Mulreadies; approval.—Rev. G. Bell, Lisburn, Ireland.

EIGHT PERSIAN, 1908. 1 to 10 shahi, and 1 and 2 kras (postally used) 1/1.—Craig, Clenstone, Blandford.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, 1908. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. unused $\frac{3}{4}$ -per 100, cash buyers. Wholesale parcels, King's Head, etc. Prompt settlement.—William Stamp Company, 120, Leadenhall Street, London.

AFRICANS, &c., a few thousands at $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. each, great bargains.—JAQUES, 54, Antill Road, Tottenham.

PERHAPS YOU HAVE NEVER TRIED an advertisement in our columns. Perhaps it has not occurred to you to send your "Offers" along to THE POSTAGE STAMPS. The next time you want anything why not use our columns? For particulars and price, see above.

The POSTAGE STAMP

An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors

Founded by
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.
Edited by
FRED. J. MELVILLE.

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5 JUNE, 1909.

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Gossip of the Week

BY CORNELIUS WRINKLE

To the Zuyder Zee!



THE Amsterdam Exhibition opens this week. May good luck and hosts of visitors attend it.

I have just received the neat little brochure issued by the Committee, detailing the programme of festivities during the week. I was hoping to go to Amsterdam, but your poor old Wrinkle's digestion is not so good as it was, and the tremendous menus brought visions of sleepless nights. And the vins,

well, except for the well known blue ribbon influence of philately I should be finding retouches where there were none, and every P.O. Mauritius would be an unsevered pair.

Programme of Jollifications.

Courage, Cornelius! Yes, I will take courage, but in quoting the programme I will leave out the menus. Here then is the skeleton programme:

- Thursday, June 3.** Opening of the Exhibition, 3 p.m.
Banquet at the "Bible Hotel,"
6.30 p.m. (Price fl. 9.)
- Friday, June 4** - Visit to the Grand Theatre van Lier
at 8 p.m.
- Saturday, June 5.** Banquet at the Zoological Gardens
at 6.30 p.m. (Price fl. 7.50).
During dessert the Jury will announce the awards.
- Sunday, June 6** - Exhibition open 2 to 4 and 7 to 10
p.m.
- Monday, June 7** - Steamer Excursion to the Isle of
Marken. Starting 9.15 a.m., re-
turning to Amsterdam by 5 p.m.
Tickets including Luncheon, fl 5.

Tuesday, June 8 - Day of rest.

Wednesday, June 9. Visit to the National Museum at
10 a.m., followed by visit to the
Zoological Gardens and luncheon.
Prices of admission and luncheon,
fl. 4 inclusive. Meet at the Ex-
hibition at 9.30 a.m.

Thursday, June 10. Exhibition closes at 4.30 p.m.
Meeting at 4.30 p.m. at the Ameri-
can Hotel.

A Record Enrolment.

I notice in the report of the J.P.S. dinner in our Stop Press columns last week Mr. Printer tried to make the words "philatelic editors" into something that looked very learned and classical. The representatives of *The Postage Stamp*, *Gibbons' Weekly*, *The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* and *The West End Philatelist* would feel pleased at seeing their learned chiefs italicised as *philatelic editas*. The dinner, by the way, was quite a success, and if there was one thing that seemed to please the Juniors more than another on the occasion of their tenth anniversary dinner it was the news that 403 new members had joined in the season now closing. A record—I should think—even for this go-ahead Society.

Two Veteran "Juniors."

Mr. Mount Brown was quite one of the most interesting personalities in the room. He is no junior in years having started collecting stamps about 1860. His special claim to our interest is that he was one of the earliest publishers of a catalogue of postage stamps, his first edition appearing in 1862. Mr. W. S. Lincoln who replied to the toast of the Stamp trade was another old-timer who could spin many a thrilling yarn of the early days of our hobby. He told the company that he still possessed a book in which was written in a boyish handwriting, "Collection of stamps made by W. Lincoln, 1864." A note shews that in that year there were "210 varieties." In 1855 there were "310 varieties." He first met a fellow-collector with whom he could exchange in 1856. Mr. Lincoln was followed with the closest interest when he quoted some extracts from his earliest trade catalogue.

He had offered in those days 20 varieties of 1d. Sydney views at 4s. each and 14 varieties of 2d. views at 4s. 6d. each.

A Swedish Specialised Catalogue.

I see that in *Mekeel's* for May 15 Mr. Kjellstedt returns to his U.S. specialised priced catalogue proposition to which I referred last week. He says that the Philatelic Society of Sweden is already doing something of the kind by preparing such a catalogue of Swedish issues, and he details the interesting methods they are adopting. The entire membership of the Swedish society has been invited to co-operate in the work, and six series of competitions have been arranged. The first series covers the issues of 1855, 1858, 1862-67 and the local stamps. Nine prizes are offered in this series to members furnishing the most valuable material in the form of information or loan of stamps of interest. The "first series" competition closed March 15, and the sixth and final series competition will close November 15, and it is proposed to have the catalogue issued in two languages, Swedish and German, during the spring of 1910. The prizes offered total to over £100 value and have been donated by leading members.

New Features of Swedish Specialism.

There is a catalogue committee of fifteen members (collectors and dealers) who have the compilation in hand, and they propose to give special attention to the following matters which have hitherto been neglected by writers on Swedish stamps:

Colour shades.

Errors of perforation and scarce imperforates.

Thin and thick paper varieties.

Double impressions, and stamps with additional impressions on the reverse.

Early cancellations, and dated postmarks shewing the sequence of the colour shades, and unusual cancellations.

Curiosities.

Forgeries.

Maldives again.

So the Maldives which have been quiet for so long have erupted again. Mr. Peckitt shewed me the other day a set of four of the stamps which look not unlike certain Chinese locals in design. The central device is a minaret standing opposite the Mohammedan mosque at Male the Maldivian capital, but it might equally well be said to represent a Lancashire smoke stack. The minaret is said to be 50 feet in height and eight centuries in age. The stamps are printed on quatrefoil paper. Fuller details will no doubt appear in the new issue columns.

A New Zealand Correspondent.

My good friend Mr. James Boulden, of Timaru, New Zealand, writes me a most interesting letter which I quote in full.

"I notice in *The Postage Stamp* that it is stated the new 1d. surface printed stamps of N.Z. overprinted are unwatermarked. This is not so, as both the official and general issue 1d. stamps are all watermarked with single-lined NZ and Star.

"In none of the philatelic journals that I have read have I come across the news that there is a 20s. Official stamp. Such is the case, I have one used, and I have seen several others. The overprint is on the 20s. rose, Queen's head, S.G. 499b, perf. 14.

"I came across last week a copy of the ½d. of the 1907 issue, error of colour, being a clear pale blue, but unfortunately the copy had the top right hand corner torn off.

"I also yesterday got hold of an Official 6d. of the reduced size series—Gibbons 312—and I expect the 3d. and

1s. values of the reduced size will soon be seen also, as the larger size stamps are getting used up.

"Hoping this little bit of news will be welcome to you for your interesting and valuable journal.

"P.S.—The ½d. blue stamp I have was one of a pair taken off an envelope last year addressed to Timaru. It is pure blue, no trace of green whatever."

Australians With and Without Numerals.

The Editor of *The Australian Philatelist* has given some interesting statistics in answer to a correspondent.

The Postal Conference at Rome, having decided that all new stamps shall bear Arabic numerals of value, a correspondent is anxious to have some information on the subject.

Our confrère does not think any changes in this direction will be made until a commonwealth issue appears.

There are 101 current stamps of different values throughout the Commonwealth and Papua. Of these 54 have Arabic numerals and 47 have not.

There are 14 Commonwealth dues; all have numerals of value.

With Numerals.	Without Numerals.
New South Wales, ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 2/6, 10/-.	3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 8d., 10d., 1/-, 5/-, 20/-.
Queensland, ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 9d., 1/-, 2/-, 2/6, 5/-, 10/-, 20/-.	None.
South Australia, ½d.	1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 8d., 9d., 10d., 1/-, 2/6, 5/-, 10/-, 20/-.
Tasmania, ½d., 1d., 1½d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 10d., 1/-, 2/6, 5/-, 10/-.	8d., 9d.
Victoria, ½d., 1d., 3d., 6d., £1, £2.	2d., 2½d., 4d., 5d., 9d., 1/-, 5/-.
West Australia, 2/-, 2/6, £1.	½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 8d., 9d., 10d., 1/-, 5/-, 10/-.
Papua, ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 4d., 6d., 1/-, 2/6.	None.

Presentation and Dinner to Mr. Fred Hagen.

I learn from the same journal that a Complimentary Dinner was lately given to Mr. Fred Hagen, of F. Hagen, Ltd., the well-known Australian stamp firm. The occasion was an opportunity to convey the best wishes of local philatelists to Mr. Hagen for a safe and successful trip to the home country and a return to Australia in the best of health. A presentation was made at the same time of a handsome solid silver cigar case, suitably inscribed, also a fine sample of the latest patent safety razor, with monogram in gold on the case, for use on board ship.

The "Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The Postage Stamp is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:

Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C.

F. C. Ginn, 143, Strand, London, W.C.

Lewis May & Co., 15, King William St., Strand, W.C.

W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.

James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.

Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.

The Court Stamp Co., 10, Marriott's Court, Manchester.

Herts Philatelic Society

Annual Meeting—The Committee on the Second British Congress

THE Annual Meeting was held at No. 4, Southampton Row, on Tuesday, May 18th, 1909, at 6 p.m.

Present:—Messrs. Franz Reichenheim, H. L. Hayman, T. H. Harvey, W. G. Cool, W. A. Boyes, P. Ashley, L. E. Bradbury, C. R. Sutherland, W. T. Standen, A. H. L. Giles, J. C. Sidebotham, A. G. Wane, E. W. Arnold, F. Read, D. H. Jackson, R. H. Newton, Baron Anthony de Worms, W. H. Eastwood, E. Bounds, M. Weinberg, J. A. Leon, and H. A. Slade.

Before the election of officers, Mr. Sidebotham took the Chair.

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on May 19th, 1908, were read and signed as correct.

Reports were read by the Honorary Secretary, the Honorary Treasurer, the Honorary Librarian, and the Honorary Curators of the Society's Collections.

Officers.

The Officers for the Session 1909-1910 were elected as follows:—

President—Franz Reichenheim; *Vice-President*—Harry L. Hayman; *Honorary Vice-Presidents*—M. P. Castle, J.P., Herbert R. Oldfield; *Committee*—W. Archibald Boyes, Louis E. Bradbury, W. G. Cool, R. Frentzel, A. H. L. Giles, R.N., T. Hargrave Harvey, C. R. Sutherland, W. T. Standen; *Honorary Librarian*—J. C. Sidebotham, 28, Great Ormond Street, London, W.C.; *Honorary Lecturer*—Percy Ashley, M.A.; *Honorary Auditors*—F. Read, A. G. Wane; *Honorary Secretary and Treasurer*—H. A. Slade.

No alteration was made in the Rules of the Society.

It was carried that the sum of £20 be granted from the funds of the Society towards the cost of printing the *Monthly Report* and that the sincere thanks of the Society

be recorded to the President for the great ability he had shown in carrying out the arduous duties of Editor. The President in returning thanks agreed to continue his duties next season.

The Second British Congress.

A Committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements for the Second Philatelic Congress of Great Britain to be held in London in 1910, under the auspices of the Herts Philatelic Society. The Committee to consist of the President, Franz Reichenheim; the Vice-President, H. L. Hayman; Baron Anthony de Worms, C. R. Sutherland, and the Honorary Secretary.

Stamps for the Society's Collection were presented by the President and the Vice-President. The latter also presented proofs of the New Zealand and Ceylon stamps used on the Dinner Cards, copies of the Menu and Invitation Cards, etc., etc., and promised a Scrap Book to the Society to contain these and similar objects interesting to the Herts Philatelic Society.

The Library.

Philatelic Literature was presented to the Library by Mr. E. F. Lawrence, The Melville Stamp Books (Mr. W. H. Peckitt), Oestreichischer Philatelisten-Klub "Vindobona," Internationaler Postwerzeichen-Händler-Verein zu Berlin and the Newcastle Philatelic Society.

All these donations were acknowledged with thanks, and the Vice-President was specially thanked for the part taken by him in promoting the success of the Annual Dinner.

It was resolved that No. 4, Southampton Row continue as the Meeting Place of the Society.

The Meeting terminated at 7.45 p.m.

Philatelic Dictionary

BY B. W. H. POOLE

(Continued from page 94).

Oceanic Settlements.—The general name by which the French possessions in Oceania, using a set of stamps common to all, are known. At the present time this group includes the Society Islands (Tahiti, Moorea, &c.), the Low Archipelago or Tuamotu, the Marquesas, the Austral Isles or Tubuai and the Gambier Islands. The total area of these possessions is 1400 square miles, and the population numbers about 20,000. A set of stamps, inscribed "Etablissements de L'Océanie," was issued in November, 1892 for use in these islands. Until 1908 Tahiti had its own special stamps.

Oesterr.—A contraction for "Oesterreich" (Austria), shown upon all Austrian stamps used between 1883 and 1906.

Oesterreichische Post.—The inscription shown upon the current stamps of Austria meaning "Austrian Post."

Official.—A surcharge found upon some of the current stamps of New Zealand intended for use upon official communications.

Official Imitations.—These are a class of stamps sometimes erroneously termed reprints. But while reprints are actually printed from the same dies or plates as were employed in the production of the original stamps, official imitations most certainly were not. They owe their being to the fact that on one or two occasions a Government has wanted to reprint some of its old stamps, and as the original dies and plates had been lost or destroyed, fresh ones had to be constructed. But, although these were skilfully copied from the originals, they generally differ in some small particulars. The official imitations of the first 5c. and 10c. stamps of the United States, which were made in 1875, are a case in point.

Official Stamps.—These are stamps of special design or bearing special overprints to confine their use to the correspondence from certain Government departments.

Official.—The Spanish rendering of the word official as shown upon the stamps of such countries as Costa Rica, Ecuador, Uruguay, Mexico, &c.

To be continued.

Plain Border Numerals of Hawaii

A further notice of Mr. Crocker's monumental work on the early postal issues of the Sandwich Islands

THIS week I return to my review of Mr. Crocker's notable work on Hawaiian Numerals. In my earlier article I dealt more particularly with the "Missionaries," or as they are sometimes called, the "fancy border numerals" of Hawaii. But Mr. Crocker's forte is his great study of the plain border numerals, which were issued under a postal law of 1859. The section of his work dealing with these stamps calls for our attention this week.



Fascination of the Numerals.

Mr. Crocker tells us that there are no known records of the post office regarding this law of 1859, nor are there any post office records of the printing, distribution, or quantity of these stamps, or of the order in which they appeared. It is this very fact, says our author, that has caused so much interest; and the controversies that have arisen over this and the other early issues of Hawaii have been so keen that they have drawn the attention of advanced collectors to their fascination and study.

Rarity.

The great rarity of many of these printings has been another great attraction, for what collector, asks Mr. Crocker, is ever satisfied with merely collecting one or two of these stamps? The collector learns that there are ten clichés in a plate, and by patience and keen application he may gather in the set. Then comes the plating. The difficulty of getting many of these stamps and the absence, until quite lately, of blocks or pairs with sufficient margin to locate their position, made the plating of these issues an extremely uncertain and difficult task.

The Importance of a Block of Six.

Mr. Crocker tells of his purchase about six years ago of a block of six of the first printing (August, 1859) of the 2 cents blue on bluish, one of the finest pieces in his collection. From this block he has been able to draw a fund of information, and this wonderful piece has, in a sense, provided the basis of most of the theories propounded regarding these stamps in the volume under review. For example, it proved that the first issues of these stamps were printed in two vertical rows of five clichés each and separated by a space 4mm. wide. It proved also the location of clichés 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, and with marginal stamps for clichés 1 and 2, the deduction of the location of the two clichés 3 and 4 was a simple proposition, although as these two clichés have been so moved about in later printings, Mr. Crocker says he can only hope he has them exactly right in the plate of the first printing.

Earliest Known Date of Use.

The first printing of these plain border numerals appears to have been made early in 1859, the year the law requiring their issue was passed. They were not, however, put into use until August 1st, being delivered to the various representatives of the post office in the Islands some considerable time prior to that date. Mr. Crocker has seen a cancelled pair which were sent on a letter from Honolulu to Lahaina on April 27th, 1859, as evidenced by a letter contained in the envelope dated at that time.

The first printing was evidently of a very small number of stamps, for there are some of Postmaster Jackson's letters extant which shew that some of the chief offices received only ten and twenty sheets of 25 stamps to the sheet or from 250 to 500 in all.

Arrangement of the Plates.

The clichés are 20 x 30 mm., and there was no variation in the size of the plates excepting where the two vertical rows were separated by one piece of furniture or strips about 4 mm. wide, or by two pieces of furniture which separated the two vertical rows to twice the distance or 8½ mm. The only reason Mr. Crocker offers for this variation is that the stamps, being imperforate, probably tore into each other, and the wider space was deemed more satisfactory. The horizontal stamps were separated by a space of 2 mm. throughout all the printings.

Postmaster's Correspondence.

Some interesting letters are quoted from which we may give a few extracts.

July 5th, 1859, Postmaster-General Jackson sent to Kohala Post Office 20 sheets of 25 each or 500 2-cent stamps "to commence with," noting in the letter the "1 cent paper stamps are not yet ready for distribution, and will not be much used."

On the same day he sent 20 sheets of 25 to Kawaihae Post Office, and would have sent more but that the "supply is limited"; and 20 sheets of 25 were also sent to Laupahoehoe Post Office "to begin with." July 8th, 1859, a similar supply was sent to Hilo "to be used after August 1st on all Inter-Island letters, and from that date you will please decline receiving any letter for the mail that are unpaid."

The Printings.

Mr. Crocker lists the printings in the following order:—
1st printing. Issued August 1st, 1859, by P.M.G. Joseph Jackson and printed by H. M. Witney. (Small quantity, soon exhausted).

- 1c. light blue on bluish white.
- 2c. " " " "
- 2c. black on greyish. "

2nd printing. Issued October (?), 1859, by P.M.G. Alva K. Clark and printed by H. M. Witney. (Larger quantity).

- 2c. light blue on bluish white.
- 1c. " " " "
- 2c. black on greyish. "
- 2c. black on grey white.

3rd printing. Issued February (?), 1860. Printed at the Government Printing Office. (Large quantity).

- 1c. black on greyish.
- 2c. black on greenish.
- 2c. black on greyish.
- 2c. black on grey white.

The Return to Numerals 1862.

The lithographed 2c., bearing the portrait of Kamehameha IV., came in 1861 to supersede the numerals. They were ordered and supplied from Boston, Mass., in 1861, and a second order in 1862 was destroyed necessitating a return to the numerals which brought about the

4th printing. Issued October (?), 1862.

- 1c. black on white wove.
- 2c. " " " "
- 2c. black on deep grey blue.

5th printing. Issued January (?), 1863.

- 2c. dark blue on bluish.

6th printing. Issued April (?), 1864, by P.M.G. David Kalakaua.

- 1c. black on yellowish white laid.
- 2c. " " " "

And again in 1865-6.

Next we have the engraved stamps from the factory of the American Bank Note Co. with the portrait of Kamehameha IV. of which 250,000 were ordered. The next printing of numerals is for a 5c. value.

7th printing. Issued February, 1865.

- 5c. blue on blue grey (provisional).
- 5c. black on white wove.

8th printing. Issued June, 1865, by P.M.G. A. P. Brickwood.

- 2c. blue on white wove (provisional).
- 1c. blue on white wove (regular issue).

9th printing. Issued 1865-66.

5c. blue on blue grey (Inter-Island).

Inter-Island 5c. an Error.

With regard to the last "Provisional and error of word INTERISLAND instead of HAWAIIAN POSTAGE," Mr. Crocker says it is a provisional without doubt, and proves to his mind that something happened to side-track the order placed by Kalakaua for the engraved 5c. and 13c. 1859 issue, or the post office was waiting for the new 5c. to be engraved, perforated and sent out from New York. The plate from which Kalakaua had ordered the first type set 5c. stamp had been used afterward by Brickwood (with necessary changes) to print the 1c. and 2c. numerals, 8th printing. Haste was evidently a factor, for the printer committed an error by not changing the word INTERISLAND in the left side panel to the words HAWAIIAN POSTAGE which was requisite for this stamp. We thus have not only an error, the only one ever issued by this monarchy, but a provisional in every sense of the term as well.

A necessity for the Philatelist's Library.

We have given extracts from but a small portion of Mr. Crocker's extensive and valuable work, but we have quoted sufficient to show the importance of his evidential matter and the value of many of his conclusions. He has devoted considerable space to details which are essential to the specialist who sets about plating these interesting stamps, but we must leave the student here to delve into Mr. Crocker's book for himself. The philatelist's bookshelf will be without one of its best ornaments if it is lacking in this book, the price of which is very moderate for so sumptuously produced a work, being 20/- (or 21/- post free). It can be had in England from H. F. Johnson, 44, Fleet Street, London; or from the author direct, Henry J. Crocker, Pine Street, San Francisco, California.

Post Office Lotteries Act

A BILL to confer on the Postmaster-General further powers to prevent the use of the Post for the conduct of Lotteries or traffic in Obscene Matter

THIS parliamentary paper just to hand follows speedily upon Mr. Buxton's brilliant speech on the Post Office Vote (27th April). One incident he mentioned may be recalled in this connection. He said: "I am glad to think that, in spite of our limitations and restrictions, I made a good haul the other day, when something like 150,000 circulars of a particular description were stamped for postage, representing to the Post Office something like £600, and I was able to confiscate every one of those 150,000 letters, to get £600 for postage, and to see that the morals of the community were protected. I am not going to say how I was able to bring that about. In the first place, I hope it will be a warning to those gentry; and in the second place, if it is not, I hope to get some more hauls of the same kind."

The new bill which is to give the Postmaster General fuller authority in respect to lottery circulars and obscene matter—to make him in fact a recognised Censor of Mails—reads as follows:—

1. Where it is made to appear to the satisfaction of the Postmaster General, by advertisements, letters, circulars, or other documentary evidence, that any person is conducting or is assisting as agent or otherwise in conducting a lottery or is dealing in obscene matter and is using the post for the purpose, the Postmaster General may

open, detain, and delay all postal packets addressed to such person, and all such postal packets may be returned to the senders thereof or otherwise disposed of as to the Postmaster General may seem fit.

2. In this Act "obscene matter" means—

- (a) any indecent or obscene print, painting, picture, photograph, lithograph, engraving, book, pamphlet, paper, or printed or written matter;
- (b) any indecent or obscene article or thing (whether similar to the above or not) and any article or thing designed for any indecent or obscene use;
- (c) any advertisement of any article or thing mentioned in this section and any written or printed communication having for its object to promote the sale or traffic in any such article or thing.

3. The provisions of section four of the Post Office (Protection) Act, 1884, shall apply to any person who sends or attempts to send by post any obscene matter as defined by this Act.

4. This Act shall extend to the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, and the Royal Courts of the Channel Islands shall register the same accordingly.

5. This Act may be cited as the Post Office (Lotteries and Obscene Matter) Act, 1909.

Special Printings of the Official Stamps of the United States

BY L. W. CROUCH

AS is well known, during the years 1875 to 1884, the United States Postal Authorities put on sale to the public at face value reprints of all their obsolete postal issues, and even special printings of their current series.

The official stamps, issued for use by the various Government Departments, were never allowed to be sold to the public. Therefore, in the circular of the third Assistant Postmaster-General announcing the placing on sale of these reprints, etc., it was stated that "all the specimens furnished will be ungummed; and the official stamps will have printed across the face the word 'SPECIMEN' in small type. It will be useless to apply for gummed stamps, or for official stamps with the word 'SPECIMEN' omitted."

In 1875, 10,000 of each value of each Department were received from the Continental Bank Note Company, except in the case of the dollar values of the State Department, of which only 1,000 of each were printed. On January 3rd, 1876, a further 10,000 copies each of the 1 cent Agriculture, 1 cent Executive, 1 cent Justice, and 1 cent State were received. On August 12th, 1881, a still further printing, this time by the American Bank Note Company, and therefore on the soft porous paper, of 5,000 copies of the 1 cent State Department was delivered. Besides the 1 cent State Department, the 1 cent Executive, 1 cent Navy, and 7 cents State may also be found on soft paper, but there is no record of their receipt.

All these stamps of the special printings were overprinted "SPECIMEN" in small block capitals, in carmine on the stamps of the Agriculture, Navy, Post Office, and State Departments, and in blue on the rest.

The plates for all these stamps, except the high values of the State Department, contained 100 stamps in 10 rows of 10. An error of the overprint exists, reading "SEPCIMEN"; this occurs on the first stamp in the third row, but the peculiar thing about it is that all values are not known with the error, and entire sheets are known which do not contain the error. It is therefore of some considerable rarity.

I have recently been shown the 1 cent Agriculture with the error overprint, a stamp not chronicled by Mr. Luff.

The list of values now known with the error is as follows:—

Department of Agriculture, 1c., 2c. and 15c.

" " the Interior, 2c.

" " Justice, 1c. and 2c.

Navy Department, 2c., 7c. and 12c.

Post Office Department, 1c., 2c. and 10c.

Department of State, 1c., 2c., 3c., 7c. and 24c.

War Department, 1c., 2c., 3c., 7c., 24c., 30c. and 90c.

Apparently collectors did not appreciate paying face value for stamps overprinted "SPECIMEN," as except for the 1 cent and 2 cents values and for the set of the Executive, the sales were very small, and except as above, these stamps are quite difficult to meet with.

Sunday Label Stamps of Belgium

BY F. E. WILSON

(Continued from page 58)

We now come to the colour changes of the two designs of the 1893 issue. Already in 1894 it became necessary to change the 2c. yellow (owing to the difficulty of distinguishing same by artificial light) to deep violet brown for the first printings which gradually became paler with a reddish tinge introduced, until about 1904 we get a distinct rosy brown which endured up to the last printing of 1907, which gives us the two types of 7 in "dépôt 1907" as previously described in the 5c.

In September, 1897 the colour of the 50c. was changed from bistre brown to grey, dark for the first printing and then gradually paler. An early intermediate printing of this stamp was in an intense deep grey black (almost true black) and this is by far the rarest shade in any value of the series so it is well worth looking for—this distinct variety was chronicled in *Le Timbre Poste* of 1898 with considerable detail as it was at first announced that only one sheet was printed in error. The last printing of this stamp (dépôt, 1895) is again entirely distinct and a very pale bluish grey on the highly surfaced paper used for all the later printings of the series.

On January 25th, 1900 the 10c. (previously in red brown) appeared in bright rose to conform to the Postal Union regulation that all stamps of the face value of 1d. or its equivalent must be in a shade of red. As would be expected with the commonest value considerable varia-

tion of shade may be found from very bright to pale rose, the last printing of 1905 being pale carmine on the highly surfaced paper. This value exists with "ZONDAS" for "ZONDAG" in the Sunday label.

The appearance of a red stamp made it necessary to alter the colour of the 1fr. carmine on green which is said to have been accidentally sold by the P.O. clerks as the 10c. stamp, so in April, 1900 the 1fr. appeared in bright orange, an absolutely distinct first printing worthy of catalogue rank. The second printing was in yellow orange and the last one (dépôt 1905) a marked pale yellow orange.

At the same time (April, 1900) the 2fr. lilac appeared on white paper (instead of as previously on rose), pale and bright lilac may be distinguished, but this high value was not used much and the last printing was in 1902.

In 1905, the 75th anniversary of Belgian national independence, a new issue was decided upon. The designs for all values were supplied by the Belgian engraver, M. Henri Meunier, who must be congratulated on the results of his workmanship, the whole series forming undoubtedly one of the most successful sets of modern stamps ever issued. They show a striking recent portrait of King Leopold II. with a different framework for each value. The simplicity of the designs contrasts very favourably with the issue they replace.

The Sunday label is still retained but on the new issue it is not connected by ornamentation with the upper portion of the stamp nor has it the ornamental band at foot of the label, the extra space thus gained enabling the label inscriptions to be in larger and clearer type. All values therefore with the Sunday label taken off are complete stamps and look very effective thus, which of course is not the case with the previous issue.

The 7 values appeared in the following order, 20c., 25c., and 35c. May 1st, 10c. June 1st, 50c., 1fr., and 2fr July 21st, 1905. The marginal inscriptions remain practically the same as on the 1893 issue except where noted below. Some marked shades can already be recorded as follows: 20c. deep olive green for the first printings became very much paler in the printings of 1906, 1907 and 1908. 25c. blue and deep blue in the first printings and pale blue for the printings of 1906 and 1907. The 35c. purple brown shows practically no variation up to date but we find both types of 7 in the *millésime* of "dépôt 1907." 10c. deep rose red for the first printing which became carmine and pale carmine in the 1906-07 printings, in 1908 a deep claret shade appeared and now pale claret (*dépôt 1909*) for the very latest printing. The 50c. grey is now pale grey (*dépôt, 1908*) but does not vary much; the first printing of this value (1905) has the inscription "Timbres Poste de 50c." etc. applied horizontally across the top margin of the pane, but in the subsequent printings of 1906 and 1907 it is applied vertically down the right margin as on the lower values.

There have so far been three printings of the 1fr. dull orange, 1905, 1906 and 1907, but the shades do not vary appreciably, and the same applies to the 2fr. violet of which we have so far two printings only, in 1905 and 1906. Both these high values have the inscription "Timbres Poste de" etc. applied horizontally on the top margins of the panes and in the case of the 1fr. also reversed on the bottom margins.

In 1907 the three lowest values were brought into line with the new issue by having the Sunday labels redrawn exactly as described above, the first value to appear thus being the 5c. yellow green, subsequent printings of which were pale, and 1908 yellow green; next came the 1c. in bluish grey, and on this value only, a singular error of spacing occurred on the Sunday label, the words "PASLIVERER" being continuous instead of correctly spaced thus "PAS LIVERER." The note in Messrs. Gibbons' 1909 catalogue under this issue applies therefore only to the 1c. value and not to all three as stated. There are also other trifling differences in the erroneous label inscription notably in the "G" of "ZONDAG." The error was promptly corrected, and in 1908 appeared the 1c. bluish grey with inscription as on the 5c., the newest 1909 printing of the 1c. is in a deeper shade on very white paper.

The redrawn 2c. dull claret although printed in 1907 was not put into circulation until 1908 as there was a very large stock of the old 2c. to be used up first. I have a very curious error in the marginal inscription of this value (2c.), the first and only one of any kind I have ever seen on any of the Sunday label stamps, viz., a block of 16 (4 x 4) with the right margin attached, on the back of which is the inscription of the 5c. stamps! thus, "Timbres Poste de 5cmes. No. 296821" the whole having been barred out by 3 lines in the same colour as the inscription (carmine lake). Being at the back of the sheet this evidently escaped the vigilant control or possibly it was let pass as not affecting the stamps themselves, but all the same it is highly interesting to the philatelist. The 1908 printing of the 2c. is in a distinct bright claret.

Official Booklets containing 20 5c. (1907 redrawn type) and 10 10c. stamps were put on sale in September, 1907 at 5c. over the face value; the public evidently thought this too much to pay so they are now being sold at only

2c. premium, they are very crude being made up of horizontal strips of 5 stamps, with the left margin, torn from the ordinary panes and not specially printed for the purpose as in the case of our British booklets.

Special Issues.

In connection with the International Exhibition held at Antwerp in 1894, it was decided to issue a special set of three stamps to commemorate and advertise the event, and these duly appeared, from the designs of M. Hendrickson, in the usual shape, and with the Sunday Label. They show the well-known arms of the city of Antwerp. The 5c. appeared on Feb. 20th and the 10c. and 25c. on March 20th, and they ceased to be available for postage after Dec. 31st, 1894. Concurrently with the ordinary issue they were obtainable and available all over the kingdom, and, of course, also for foreign postage. The sheets were the same size as the ordinary 1893 issue and the marginal inscriptions similar, reading: "Timbres" "Anvers" à 5 cmes. (respectively 10c. or 25c.) No....." in vermilion, as on the first printings of the 1893 set. The 5c. green on rose varies greatly in colour, from deep green on rose, to green on very bright rose, and finally, pale green on the very palest rose-tinted paper. The 10c. varies from carmine to deep carmine on grey blue. There are two distinct printings of the 25c., the scarcer one being steel blue on pale rose and the commoner one pale blue or blue on bright rose.

The second special issue was for the Brussels Exhibition of 1897, and the designs for same were made the subject of a public competition. Mr. A. van Nest obtaining the first prize, his design was selected for the 10c. stamp, which represents St. Michael, the patron saint of Brussels, encountering Satan, and in the background are views of the Town Hall and Law Courts on the left and the Bourse, or Exchange, on the right. The usual Sunday Label is attached and the die was engraved by the well-known Frenchman, M. Mouchon, who is said to have drawn the Flemish word "POSTERIJEN" as "POSTERUEN," the mistake being rectified by the simple expedient of dividing the left limb of the U and making a short I out of it!

The 5c. is the work of an Antwerp artist, and shows a quite different representation of St. Michael and Satan, but it is a very cumbersome design. There is a very striking essay of the 10c., showing the national lion on a large scale with a view of the Exhibition buildings beneath, the whole forming a very effective *tout ensemble* incomparably better than either of the adopted designs. Owing to the large size of the stamps they were issued in sheets of 25 only (5 x 5) with the usual marginal inscriptions and "Timbres Bruxelles à 5 cmes. (respectively 10c.) No." in vermilion, applied sometimes horizontally along the top margin or vertically down right margin; sheets may also be found without the vermilion inscription. The 10c. appeared in orange-brown on Oct. 15th, 1896, which colour in its pristine condition is a most dangerous and penetrative one, as it will make its way through many album pages, marking and spoiling any stamps it touches. A trifling flaw is found on the 25th stamp of certain of the sheets, viz.: a speck on the nose of St. Michael, which therefore appears à la Cyrano de Bergerac! The 5c. violet on toned appeared on Nov. 15th, 1896, and pale and dark shades may be differentiated. Complaints poured in on the subject of the horrible colour of the 10c., which was accordingly changed to violet-brown on toned, on Jan. 11th, 1897. All three values ceased to be available for postage after June 30th, 1898.

In conclusion, I desire to express my indebtedness to the article "Die Marken des Königreichs Belgien," by Herr Carl Wagner, in the "Illustrirtes Briefmarken Journal," and to the excellent French Journal "L'Echo de la Timbrologie," which is always very well informed on the subject of Belgian stamps.

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.
After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

Argentine Republic.—(Vol. IV. p. 104).—It is rumoured that the present "San Martin" set will be withdrawn from use early next year. It is certainly one of the most miserable looking set of stamps we have seen, and we shall not be sorry to see the last of it.

Canada.—(Vol. IV. p. 93).—Our Canadian friends seem to use up a good many plates in the production of the 1c. and 2c. stamps of the current series, and as many of our readers are interested in marginal varieties we give a list of all the numbers known to date as compiled by *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*.

1c. Plate Nos. 1 to 10, 13, 14, 18, 19, 22, 24, 25, 34, 47, 48.
2c. " " 1 to 30, 35 to 40, 47, 53 to 58, 62.
5c. " " 1, 2.
7c. " " 1.
10c. " " 1, 2.
20c. " " 1.
50c. " " 1.

Cayman Islands.—(Vol. IV. p. 32).—The 1s. stamp has appeared on the paper with multiple watermark according to several of our contemporaries, so that the complete list of varieties in the type inscribed "POSTAGE & REVENUE" now stands as follows:—



Inscribed "POSTAGE & REVENUE."

Wmk. Cr. C.A. Perf. 14.

	s.	d.
1s. black on green ...	2	6
10s. green and red on green ...	12	6
Wmk. Multiple Crown G.A. Perf. 14.		
½d. green ...	0	1
1d. carmine ...	0	2
2½d. ultramarine ...	0	4
3d. purple on yellow ...	0	5
4d. black and red on yellow ...	—	—
6d. purple ...	0	9
1s. black on green ...	1	6
5s. green and red on yellow ...	6	3

Crete.—(Vol. IV. p. 93).—We gather from *Champion's Bulletin* that the 25l., 50l., 2 dr. and 3 dr. have been issued with the overprint "ΕΑΛΛΑΣ" in fancy Greek capitals. There are three types in all—one for the ordinary sized stamps and the tall 2 drachmai; a larger one for the other drachmai values, and a still larger one for the 25 lepta stamp. Our list of these is now as follows:—

Surcharged "ΕΑΛΛΑΣ" in fancy capitals.

	s.	d.
10l. carmine (Hermes) ...	0	2
20l. blue-green ...	0	3
25l. blue and black ...	—	—
50l. brown ...	—	—
1 dr. green and black (of 1907) ...	1	3
2 dr. brown ...	—	—
3 dr. orange and black ...	—	—
5 dr. olive green and black ...	6	0

Crete (Italian).—(Vol. IV. p. 66).—We learn from *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* that the current 50c. stamp of Italy has been surcharged "LA CANEA," in black, for use in the Italian Post Offices maintained in Crete. The list of varieties is now as follows:—

Contemporary Stamps of Italy.
Overprinted "LA CANEA."

	s.	d.
5c. green ...	0	1
10c. rose ...	0	2
25c. blue ...	—	—
50c. mauve ...	—	—

Maldives.—(Vol. II. p. 188).—Mr. W. H. Peckitt has shown us the four new stamps for these Islands. They are engraved in *taille-douce*, printed on the paper with multiple "quatrefoil" watermark, and perforated 14. The central design shows an old stone tower and underneath is an inscription in Arabic. In the side borders are "MALDIVES," and the value in words on the left and right respectively, while at the top and bottom are inscriptions in Arabic characters. Numerals of value are shown in each corner.

Wmk. Multiple Quatrefoils. Perf. 14.

2c. brown ...	} 7d. per set.
3c. green ...	
5c. rosy mauve ...	
10c. red ...	

Somaland Protectorate.—(Vol. IV. p. 45).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 1 anna stamp printed entirely in red, to which we referred on page 45. The complete list of varieties on the paper with multiple watermark is now as follows:—

Wmk. Multiple Cr. C.A. Perf. 14.

	s.	d.
½a. green ...	6	1
1a. carmine and black ...	0	3
1a. carmine ...	0	2
2a. purple ...	0	3
2½a. bright blue ...	0	4
3a. grey-green and chocolate ...	0	5
4a. black and green ...	0	6
6a. violet and green ...	0	8
8a. pale blue and black ...	0	10
12a. orange brown and black ...	1	3

Straits Settlements.—(Vol. IV. p. 45).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the current 5c. stamp printed in orange instead of purple. It will be remembered "specimen" copies of this stamp were distributed nearly three months ago. The complete list of varieties on the paper with multiple watermark now stands as follows:—

Wmk. Multiple Cr. C.A. Perf. 14.

	a.	d.
1c. green	0	1
3c. purple	0	2
3c. plum	0	2
3c. rose	0	2
4c. purple on red	0	2
4c. carmine	0	2
4c. purple	0	2
5c. dull purple	0	2
5c. orange	0	2
8c. purple on blue	0	8
8c. ultramarine	0	4
10c. purple and black on yellow	0	9
10c. purple on yellow	0	5
25c. purple and green	1	0
30c. grey and carmine	1	2
50c. green and carmine	1	9
\$1 green and black	3	3
\$2 purple and black	6	6
\$5 green and brown orange	15	3
\$25 green and black	75	0

United States.—(Vol. IV. p. 98).—*Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* points out that while several of the values of the current set are on white paper others are on toned, and as we have not made these distinctions in our previous chronicle (though they are very marked) we now revise our list as follows:—



Wmk. "U.S.P.S." Perf. 12.

	a.	d.
1c. deep green on toned	0	1
1c. green on bluish	0	3
2c. carmine on toned	0	2
2c. carmine on bluish	0	4
3c. deep violet	0	3
4c. yellow brown	0	3
5c. deep blue on toned	0	4
6c. reddish orange	0	5
8c. sage green on toned	0	6
10c. lemon yellow on toned	0	7
13c. blue green on toned	0	9
15c. ultramarine	0	10
50c. pale violet	2	6
\$1 purplish black	5	0

Victoria.—(Vol. IV. p. 105).—The 3d. of the current type, perf. 11, is reported in orange-buff instead of orange-brown by *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*. From the same journal we learn that recent printings of the 5d., perf. 12½, are in pale chocolate, a shade quite distinct from that hitherto in use.

NOTE.

The Prices affixed are those at which Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. will supply any of the stamps chronicled that may be in stock.

The stamps are supplied at lower rates to subscribers to their New Issue Service, particulars of which can be had on application to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich.

The Prices quoted are for unused.

British Samoa or Plain Samoa, Which?

From a letter to the Editor of the "Australian Philatelist"

Is it right to list the Samoan stamps issued during the years of the tripartite Condominium under the headline British Samoa?

The partition of the Samoan group of islands marked the close of a long-standing source of international controversy. On November 8, 1899, an agreement, subject to the approval of the United States, was reached between Great Britain and Germany by virtue of which the Samoan Act which had established the Condominium of the three Powers—Great Britain, the United States, and Germany—over the islands was repealed. On November 14, 1899, the Convention's resolutions were ratified, and on December 2, 1899, the Exchange of Rati- fications took place. Germany took official possession of the islands of Upolu (Apia), Apolima, Manono and Savaii, lying west of the 171deg. W. long. of Greenwich, on March 1, 1900. The United States flag was hoisted at Pago Pago, (Tutuila) on April 17, 1900, and possession taken officially of the islands of Tutuila, Manua, and adjacent islets, and also of Rose Islands all lying east of the 171deg. west longitude Greenwich.

Mr. P. Malone, in a short article which appeared on page 146 of *The Australian Philatelist* of August 1, 1906, intended to break a lance in favour of the retention of Samoa in the British portion, "Part I" of Stanley Gibbons' catalogue.

Heligoland has never had any special issue of stamps except while a British colony. Not being a German colony, but part and parcel of the German Empire since August 10, 1890, the ordinary German stamps have been used there ever since. The series from 1867-1879 were issued by the British Colonial Government, hence the difference. Similarly, the Ionian Islands (1859) are rightly included among the British colonies, although Greece has had possession of that Group since May 30, 1864. In both cases the stamps were issued by the British Government, hence their place is legitimately among the British colonial issues. But, who issued the Samoan stamps while the Condominium existed?

The "editor's note" says:—"The question might be raised, are these stamps entitled to a space at all, even among foreign countries?" While Samoa remained under the Condominium of the three Powers it was neither British, nor American, nor German. I might remark here that the Samoan Condominium was very different from the present arrangement between Great Britain and France concerning the status of the New Hebrides Group.

The first issue of Samoan stamps, known as the "Express" series (1877-1882), was a lithographed set issued by W. E. Agar, who opened a post office at Apia. "They constituted a private issue," as Mr. P. Malone correctly remarks. That post office was discontinued in 1882.

Several years ago, while at Lyons, France, I had an opportunity for perusing a large number of letters from residents in the Samoan group, written between the years 1840 and 1886. From numerous references made to the despatch of letters it appears that any available ship was then used for that purpose. Most of these letters had been sent to Europe by way of Sydney, New South Wales, some by way of French Oceania, and some by way of Panama. It is a well-known fact that during the period from 1882 to 1887 letters were prepaid by the stamps of Great Britain, Germany, or the United States, and even of France, according to the nationality of the vessel that carried the mail, or possibly according to what section of the group the letters originated in. It is also known that letters despatched by the Agar post, or, later on, by the Davis post, bore stamps of Samoa and stamps of one of the three treaty Powers, in the case of Great Britain, mostly New South Wales stamps, in order to ensure their delivery abroad, without the addressees having to pay extra postage, Samoa not being then a member of the Postal Union, the mail was handled by special contracts with the three Powers named.

In the summer of 1886 it was thought advisable to re-establish the Samoan Post Office. The Municipality of Apia had been formed, and the Condominium established which recognised Malietoa Laupepa as King of Samoa.

Mr. John Davis, a photographer, who had resided at Apia since 1878, had been chosen to establish a post office. Meanwhile the Imperial German Government opened an agency for postal business in connection with the establishment of the North German Lloyd line from Sydney to Tongatabu and Apia. That agency was opened on September 21, 1886, and raised to the rank of an Imperial postal agency (Postagentur) on July 28, 1887. It is now a regular post office (Postamt) since July 1, 1900.

Owing to some delays Mr. Davis did not receive his royal commission as postmaster for the nominal Kingdom of Samoa until December 20, 1886. It may be remarked here that said commission was possibly never changed, despite political changes and upheavals in the kingdom, until the time of the session of the High Commissioners at Apia in 1899. A reproduction from a photograph of the original document issued to Mr. Davis by King Malietoa was printed in Vol. 2, No. 14, p. 111, of the "Beitrag zur Postwertzeichenkunde," 1896, published by Senf Bros., of Leipzig, Germany. Mr. W. Sellechopp, a well-known authority on the Samoan issues, had it printed to prove his contention that the Samoan "Palm Trees" had more than mere local franking value.

The text is as follows: (Two stamps, 1d. and 4d., 1887, appear in the upper left part beside the date).

Government House, Apia, Samoa,
December 20th, 1886.

Malietoa, King of Samoa, do hereby appoint Mr. John Davis, of Apia, to be Postmaster for the Kingdom of

Samoa, and give him full power to enter into any arrangements with other countries he may consider necessary for the forwarding and delivery of letters and other mail matter to and from this country.

Also hereby acknowledge the postage stamps hereto affixed as the Samoan postage stamps.

(Seal.)

(Signed) MALIETOA,

King of Samoa.

The Postmaster was invested with rather absolute powers. In August, 1891, an arrangement was entered into with the United States postal authorities, by the terms of which the Samoan stamps were recognised as valid for the payment of postage to the United States. Formerly the foreign mail clerk at San Francisco, the only exchange post office between Samoa and the United States, had to affix United States stamps to the amount of the domestic or foreign rate of postage.

New Zealand went a step further. Besides recognising the stamps issued by Mr. Davis for Samoa, the postal authorities of that great and prospering Commonwealth sent out a circular inviting the members of the Postal Union to accept letters shipped from Samoa by way of Auckland or San Francisco, and found in the New Zealand mails for other countries, without charging extra postage on delivery, in fact, to treat them in all respects as if originating in New Zealand and franked with New Zealand stamps. That arrangement may have existed as early as 1886, but certainly after 1892.

Notwithstanding the fact that the stamps were typographed at the Government Printing Office of New Zealand, and on paper watermarked N.Z. and star, they should not be considered as British stamps in the strict sense of the word.

They had merely a partly official character. No philatelist will ever refuse to give them the attention they merit, as they represent a good deal of Samoan history. I should, however, list the same under the title correctly adopted in our leading catalogue—plain "Samoa Islands."

The *Samoa Weekly Herald* of March 3, 1900, had the following reference to the Samoa Post Office:—"On the delivery door of our local post a notice appears to the effect that this office is closed. This office has been carried on by our respected townsman, Mr. Davis, in a manner which we feel sure has given universal satisfaction to all who have had any dealings with the same during the many years he has conducted it by his obliging and courteous manner." (ib., p. 2, col. 4.) The editor's expression "local post" is rather significant.

The present New Hebrides issues are issued directly by either the British or French Authorities under special treaty arrangements, but no such arrangements appear to have existed concerning the establishment of the Samoan "local post."

Queen Victoria's Postage Stamps

MR. HENNIKER HEATON (U., Canterbury) having asked the Postmaster-General whether the British postal officials impose a fine or surcharge on all letters from Australia that have the portrait of Queen Victoria on the postage stamps on the ground that such stamps are not current six years after the demise of the Sovereign, Mr. Sydney Buxton says: There is no foundation whatever for the allegations conveyed in the question. No stamps, Australian or other, are regarded as obsolete here unless they have been declared by the country of issue to be no longer current. Many of the stamps now valid in States of the

Commonwealth bear the head of Queen Victoria. I received an inquiry on April 8 from the Post Office of the Commonwealth with regard to a surcharge said to have been raised on a particular letter addressed from Brisbane to a firm in London on the ground that the stamp was obsolete. Inquiry was made, but the addressee stated that he had destroyed the envelope and could give no particulars. A reply to this effect was despatched on April 16. The envelope in question must have been marked for surcharge in Australia, as it is not customary to disallow stamps which have been accepted as valid by the office of origin.—*Morning Post*, May 22.

In the Stamp Market

BY O. REGINALD GUM

The Austrian F.P.O. Jubilees

Are evidently to be gone before they are known. A run round dealers in Town shows how few possess these stamps, which are now probably withdrawn together with the Jubilees of the Fatherland. Everyone is asking the question as to what will be the better values. Your friend O.G. places his money on the 30 paras and 15 centimes chocolate of Austrian Levant and Crete respectively. Has anyone seen many of them at all, at all, as our friends across the Irish sea say?

Joseph & Co., Timbres Postes.

It is not the first time that the Austrian Post Office has competed with the stamp trade in Vienna, by either selling or making stamps to and for respectively, collectors. Legitimately the "poor dealer," as was the wont of E.J.N. to call the trade, cannot deny the right of the former, but let the dealer dare to manufacture his own stamps and its—well—fifteen minutes on, five off!

Current Greeks at 4s. each.

Here is a fine opportunity for the philanthropic philatelic dealer to give away more bargains. One of the current types of the 5 lepta Greece is priced in the new Gibbons II. at four shillings. Until reaching this pedestal of fame, its utmost price was about 6d. per 100 for used copies. Really, as our sporting friends say, "it's money for nothing." Unused a block of 399—er—er—99 would be four shillings exactly. Is this merely a coincidence? (For the benefit of those unacquainted with Grecian currency, 5 drachmas (or 500 lepta) equals 4s. 0½d.).

Sea Kings.

For really honest, straightforward, and attractive stamps, those of Denmark and Colonies should be more popular than they really are.

The Colonial stamps cannot be termed common in any way, and more so in their preferably used state. The gradual, but appreciative value of the stamps of Iceland and St. Thomas prove that they must be worth capitalising. The "Sea Kings" are worth watching.

And Other Vikings.

Neither must the other Scandinavian emissions be left out for philatelic financial interest. There are several stamps among those of Norway which pay for finding.

The 12 öre of '88, in green, is often confused with the unshaded post horn type, and priced accordingly. The writer has picked several up.

It is worthy of note that there are many things in these three countries that are worth studying, firstly from a philatelic point, and secondly from one of investment.

Coming Back to Popularity.

No one ever knows what will happen in stamps or anything else, but O.G. is willing to lay a few odds that those dealers who possess good stocks of West Indians will, in the near future, be able to realise on good margins. A slump always follows a distended boom. West Indians had their boom and then fell. No one can dispute that to-day there are many of the stamps of the Antilles which are much under catalogued in relation to their scarcity, in good condition.

Catalogue Cutting.

This opens out another phase. There are a number of collectors to-day who loudly cry that they can get anything they want at 50% off catalogue. Quite so—with no extra percentage for obliteration, ink, ventilation holes, or "toothless" perforations. The writer confesses that he has not yet got so far as to be a condition "doter." Still, as he is not a postmark collector, he desires to perceive the designs on his stamps.

Half Catalogue Fallacies

Really seem to be doomed. The late auction sales in Paris should be a demonstration. Buying at half catalogue indeed! The catalogue prices are half the buying figures. Some may say that this particular only applies to rare stamps. I am willing to send per the Editor a want list of stamps that I am prepared to buy at half catalogue, and would do so, were I not afraid that that old rogue Wrinkle would catch a few things.

The J.P.S. Tenth Anniversary

I.

To bring together old and young,
The veteran and beginner,
The specialist and generalist.
O happy thought! a dinner.
In drawing closer friendship's ties
The festive board's effectual,
The wit more witty doth appear—
The sage more intellectual.

II.

Here philatelic politics
We freely may discuss.
The World's "new issues" e'er provide
The "politics" for us.
With craniums "blank"—with "hair-lines" grey—
Or tresses fair or dark,
We'll merry be—no eye to-day
Will show a watermark.

III.

In silence eloquent we toast
The veterans passed away,
In spirit may those Pioneers
Be with us e'en to-day.
Nor yet forgetting "Absent friends"
(E'en foes—if such have we),
And now "The ladies!" (standing, sirs!)
With hearty three-times-three.

IV.

The Old Guard of Philately
Salute the Young Brigade—
The "boys" (no matter what their years)
Who've reached their first decade.
When 'tained their full majority
May they betray no lack
Of hope in looking forward and
Of pride in looking back.

W. E. INESON.

Editor's Letter Box

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Correspondence.

To the Editor of the Postage Stamp.

Dear Sir,—We write to correct an error in an article by Mr. W. Ward in the current issue of *The Postage Stamp*, entitled "Colonial Reminders." In this Mr. Ward states that the Stellaland remainders "were looked upon as legitimate perquisites by the Boer Officials, who privately disposed of them." We are at a loss to understand from whence Mr. Ward could have got this surprising information, seeing that we purchased the whole of the remainders of the Stellaland postage stamps as far back as 1887, this purchase having been made from the British Bechuanaland Government and payment made through the Crown Agents for the Colonies in London. The quantities we received of each value were as follows:—621 of 1d., 10,514 of 3d., 11,762 of 4d., 9,566 of 6d., and 4,329 of 1s. The original numbers as offered to us were slightly in excess of these figures, but in the interim between their being offered to us and our acceptance of them a few had been used for postage purposes, and these were replaced by the same number of British Bechuanaland stamps which had taken the place of those of Stellaland.

The revenue stamps of Stellaland were advertised by the Crown Agents for the Colonies in a circular dated January 1st, 1895, and were purchased by us in the same year.

Yours faithfully,

WHITFIELD KING & CO.

Ipswich, 21st May, 1909.

Our Binding Covers.

In navy blue buckram, gilt lettered side and back, for binding any volume of *The Postage Stamp*, price 1s. 6d., from Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

Our Publishing Day and Advertisers.

In order to meet the requirements of the publishing trade our publishers now distribute copies to the Newsagents on Wednesdays instead of Thursdays as before. This compels us to go to press on Saturday morning. Hence it is absolutely necessary for our printers to have all advertisements at latest on Friday morning; consequently, copy must be in the Advertisement Manager's hands not later than Wednesday, 5 o'clock p.m.

Advertisers' Proofs.

We are anxious to consult our Advertisers' convenience to the greatest possible extent, but where proofs have to be supplied and returned our printers must have the "copy" by Thursday morning at the latest, as we now have to print off a portion of our issue on Saturday morning.

Nankivell's Philatelic Handbooks.

It has frequently been suggested to us that we should reprint in cheap and convenient handbook form some at least of the more important special articles from *The Postage Stamp* which deal with popular countries.

These articles cover the general history of each country and its various postal issues. They also include catalogue fluctuation of prices over a period of ten years, thus enabling the collector to see at a glance the relative rarity, and the investment value, of every stamp.

The articles are designed to be useful alike to the specialist and the general collector.

We have, therefore, decided to issue a handbook from time to time as opportunity offers.

Now Ready.

No. 1. Jamaica & Cayman Islands.

Foolscap 8vo., price 4d., post free 4½d., from our Printer, Mr. Baldwin, Grosvenor Printing Works, Tunbridge Wells.

"The Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The Postage Stamp is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:—

Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C.

F. C. Ginn, 143, Strand, London, W.C.

Lewis May & Co., 15, King William Street, Strand, W.C.

W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.

James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.

Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.

The Court Stamp Co., 10, Marriott's Court, Manchester.

Our Handbills.

We are still sending out hundreds of our handbills with specimen page to kind friends who are doing their best to help us to a big circulation. *We want every reader to see to it that all his stamp friends take in THE POSTAGE STAMP.* Shall we send you post free a dozen or two, or fifty, or a hundred, handbills to hand to friends and enclose in letters to collector friends? If so, write Baldwin, Printers of *The Postage Stamp*, Tunbridge Wells.

Collectors' Wants and Exchanges.

Our friends will note that we have opened a column for collectors to advertise their wants, at the nominal charge of ½d. per word. Many collectors even in London have not time to hunt about for stamps, whilst others resident in the country, have not the opportunity.

By using this column Collectors' Wants will catch the eye of all who are likely to be able to supply the stamps needed, for dealers watch such advertisements very closely, and collectors who want to dispose of duplicates will not fail to note the opportunity for exchange or sale.

Advertisements of stamps for sale are not admitted to this column.

Collections Artistically Arranged.

In response to many inquirers I am willing to undertake the mounting and re-arranging of a few collections in the same style as I mount my own Specialised Collections. These are artistically arranged, with chronological notes, numbers printed, &c. For terms write, The Editor, *The Postage Stamp*, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

Examination of Stamps.

So many of our readers have asked us to undertake the examination and identification of their stamps that we have made arrangements to accede to their wishes.

We shall be pleased to express an opinion as to the genuineness or otherwise of any stamps submitted to us, or identify them according to any catalogue at a charge of 6d. per stamp (minimum 1/-). All fees must be paid in advance with sufficient added to pay for return postage and registration.

Stamps upon which an opinion is desired should be mounted on a separate sheet from the letter accompanying them and addressed to "The Expert," c/o The Editor of *The Postage Stamp*, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

Pitman's New Commercial Dictionary

OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

With an Appendix containing Forms of Addresses, Chemical Elements, Coinage systems, Common Foreign Phrases, Mensuration Notes, Metric System, Correction of Printers' Proofs, Notes on Punctuation, Signs and Symbols.

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PERHAPS YOU HAVE NEVER TRIED an advertisement in our columns. Perhaps it has not occurred to you to send your "Offers" along to THE POSTAGE STAMPS. The next time you want anything why not use our columns? For particulars and price see above.

The POSTAGE STAMP

An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors

Founded by
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.
Edited by
FRED. J. MELVILLE.

No. 11. Vol. 4.
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Gossip of the Week

BY CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Secrets of the Initiated.



DISCUSSING Mr. Burton's answer to Mr. Henniker Heaton the other day, regarding the alleged surcharge on a letter bearing a Victorian stamp, the *Globe* says: Obsolete stamps—there are a few varieties of stamps which have been declared obsolete—are far too valuable to be used on letters. They are sold for fabulous sums to stamp dealers and collectors,

who have created the science of philately out of the curious perversion which leads men to pay many pounds for a penny, or even perhaps a twopenny, stamp which they can use for any purpose save that for which it was originally intended. We have even heard of stamps being issued by impecunious States which were never meant for use; they were at once disposed of to the stamp collectors and withdrawn. But it does not do for the mere layman to probe too far into the secrets of the initiated.

Madness—with Method.

Verily, yea verily, I subscribe to the last part of the paragraph, which is surprising in a paper usually so well informed on stamp matters. The paragraph had been on my table for some days when the *London Philatelist* for May put in its appearance, and the first sentence of Mr. Castle's editorial brought it to my mind. "There linger perhaps," says Mr. Castle, "yet a few sceptics in the outside world who profess to disbelieve in the permanency of philately, and still regard the stamp collector as an innocuous form of lunatic!"

Philately for the Rich and Cultured.

Mr. Castle goes on to point out that, in spite of the removal from our ranks of many veterans and leaders, their places are amply filled up by recruits of assured

financial position and social rank. Both in Europe and America rich and cultured men are more than ever turning to stamps as one of the most interesting and delightful forms of collecting.

Collectors' Consols.

"The sceptics we have alluded to" says the Vice-President of the Royal, "fail to realise two very important features connected with philately, which in combination are not present in any other hobby in the world. The first is the extreme portability and susceptibility to easy arrangement of a postage stamp, and the second, the fact that there is a recognised value for almost every variety, with corresponding information to confirm or refute such estimation. Fashion may alter and markets may change, but, broadly speaking, we doubt if there is any object in bric-à-brac collecting that is such collectors' Consols as really scarce postage stamps. It is this feeling of 'knowing where one is,' largely strengthened of late years by the auctions and purchases of the trade, that has given a sense of security to stamp collectors that is assuredly not always present in other forms of collecting."

A Tribute to the Trade.

Mr. Castle is invariably one of the most apt commentators on general philately, if I may coin the term, and the remarks I have quoted will be heartily endorsed by every reasonable stamp collector. The recent disclosures in the old china case come in for a share of the editorial observations in the *London Philatelist*. "That a gentleman, possessed of ample means, and presumably, at least, with the average bric-à-brac collector's intelligence, could succeed in losing nine-tenths of £130,000 in making a collection of old china, reveals a state of things that, happily, philately wots not of!"

Trade Temptations.

Here we have a tribute to the stamp trade, and a deserved one. There must, of course, be an abundance of temptation before any dealer who has attained any eminence in the stamp trade, but in comparison with other trades of a similar order, ours is distinctly purer. Only the other day in the smoke room of the philatelic hostelry at Margate, we were discussing the numbers of

people who were customers of stamp dealers, but who never associated themselves with any philatelic society, or appeared to the public as collectors of stamps. Some of these are students in a quiet way, but others are only seeking a safe investment for their golden quidlets. At times, when market depression has made them wary of stocks and shares, they may go to one of the big stamp dealers and deposit an amount to be invested in the formation of a collection. In such cases, where knowledge is absent, it would be quite possible for something of the "china" case to occur in connection with stamps, but, happily, such folk only go to the dealer with a reputation to maintain, and who has also the prospect in serving such clients conscientiously of stirring up some real interest in stamps which may lead the customer on to greater things.

Unknown as Collectors.

A prominent dealer who was present during the discussion confirmed the notion that quite a few well-known public men and the wives of public men were keen stamp collectors though they were not known as such except to their own particular dealer who naturally kept his knowledge to himself as long as he reasonably could.

As Others See Us.

Another of our company said that he thought there were many collectors unseen and unknown to the philatelic world who remained collectors in secret because of some vague notion that the pursuit which interested them was childish. One can hardly conceive of such being the case with anyone who understood anything of stamps and the interest which they provide to the serious collector. The idea doubtless prevails with a great proportion of the public *outside* the pale of philately, but the man who has never handled the driver and cleek is just as ready to set down the ancient and royal game of golf as consisting of

using a very long stick to put a ball into a very small hole. But to the man who has taken up golf or stamps with a desire to learn something about either, there can be no question of their being childish things.

Memories of Bassinette Days.

The trouble with most of the critics who set us down as followers of the schoolboy pursuit of stamp collecting is that they have no information on the subject beyond a dim recollection of their school days when they perhaps were possessed themselves of a grubby little book with still grubbier stamps stuck into it without any idea of arrangement. It is no uncommon experience for an adult collector to meet a non-collector who will take an early opportunity of informing him that he collected when he was a *very little boy*.

How Some Philatelists are Made.

There is another side to the small boy idea. If we took the confessions of half the adult membership of our philatelic societies of to-day we should probably find that half of our adult collectors got their first interest in serious philately by starting "putting stamps aside for the boy." I have known several start in this way; their own interest has grown and the time has come when they have had to start little collections of their duplicates in order to keep up the delusion that the youngsters have anything to do with their hobby at all.

Bargains in Stamps.

If you want real bargains in Postage Stamps read the advertisement pages of *The Postage Stamp* every week. Every week there is something new, and many special bargains. If you miss a week you may miss the very stamp you want to complete a series.

Philatelists at Margate

A Merry Round of Festivities at the famous South Coast Resort

MERRY Margate" was quite a centre of philatelic interest during the Whitsuntide holidays. The Queen's and High Cliffe Hotel at the Cliftonville end of Margate has been for some time growing in popularity as a philatelic holiday resort and perhaps at no time has the stampic interest been so keen there as during the recent short holiday.

Unfortunately a number of collectors who put off till the last moment were unable to put up at the hotel which was the J.P.S. headquarters and had to seek shelter and hospitality elsewhere. But those who had made their arrangements in advance had good reason to congratulate themselves on their foresight, for a more delightful week-end of festivities and a better *cuisine* could not have been desired than that provided by Mr. A. Leon Adutt, the managing director, who, as is well known, is a philatelist and a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society and a prominent member of the Junior.

The hotel and the annexe were as full as they could be, and on Whit Sunday there were no fewer than 250 visitors at lunch. The Right Hon. Lord Brassey, G.C.B., Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports was among the visitors, and Mr. and Mrs. Henniker Heaton.

The entertainments included a recital on the evening of Friday, May 28, by Mr. Fredk. Chester, and on Saturday a concert, at which Mr. Leslie Gordon, the eminent

baritone, assisted. The Royal Roumanian Orchestra from Bucharest had been specially engaged for the week and provided delightful selections on the lawn in the afternoons and in the lounge in the evenings.

On Sunday afternoon several of the philatelists present were entertained by Mr. Edwin Healey to an invigorating motor ride to Dover, where tea was taken at the Burlington Hotel. The journey of sixty miles was performed in excellent time without any police traps being encountered, the only incident being the salvage of a derelict car which we towed into Margate where we arrived on the return journey in good time for dinner.

From 8.15 to 10 p.m. there was a concert in the lounge with Mr. Gordon as the vocalist.

On Whit-Monday, from 10 to 12 a.m., there was a philatelic reception held in one of the private suites in the hotel. Mr. H. Wade of Leeds displayed his collection of Sicily, which is very fine and was much admired. The condition of the stamps was beyond reproach, and in the matter of retouches the collection was particularly strong. The rare brick-red 5 grana was represented by no fewer than six copies.

Mr. A. Leon Adutt followed with the display of his fine specialised collection of Cayman Islands which is very strong in the provisionals, and in fine mint blocks of all

the regular issues. He has also made a feature of copies used on entire original covers, and has a very interesting set of colour trials.

Portions of Mr. Adutt's collection of British Colonials were also shewn. It is a general collection on a fine scale but is strongest in modern issues.

The proceedings were intentionally informal but the President of the Juniors voiced the thanks of those present to Mr. Wade and to Mr. Adutt for the very interesting displays.

The short holiday came to a close with a dance in the recreation room from 9-12 on the evening of Whit-Monday. Altogether the few days spent among the delightful surroundings of the Queen's and High Cliffe Hotel will be

very pleasant memories to all the collectors and visitors at the hotel.

Among the philatelic visitors to the hotel during the week-end were Mr. and Mrs. H. Wade, of Leeds, Mr. and Mrs. Craven, of Sheffield, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Healey and daughter, Thomas Barratt, Junr., of London, H. H. Hatland, of Croydon, D. B. Armstrong, G. Proudfoot, J. R. McDonald and Fred. J. Melville, of London, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Adutt, etc., etc. A number of the scholars from the various colleges in Margate whose parents were staying in the hotel for the holidays took a lively interest in the stamp collections and bombarded some of the collectors present with enquiries on elementary stamp matters.

In the Stamp Market

BY O. REGINALD GUM

Coin of the Realm Now.

Though I fear I shall be rebuked for mentioning it, I think it would be too good to miss. A certain well-known stamp dealer had a Confederate Bill passed on to him the other day, and he accepted it! So you see stamp dealers don't know everything. From latest news to hand, I believe the man that proffers even a U.S. \$ bill in payment now takes his life at a percentage.

Multiple Coloured Papers

Look as if they are going to make history repeat. Even the new 1s. mult. Cayman Islands has just arrived in time, else the devotees of those "bits of dirt" in the Caribbean Sea might have tired at having no further emissions emitted.

French China Re-issues.

Collectors who intend buying the surcharged 1906 sets of Canton, Ton-Kin, Yunnan Foo, Pac-hoi, Non-Tsea, Kong Tcheon Wan, would be advised to wait a little while. The whole of these stamps have been re-issued, and are being hawked about unused and "used." As most of us know, these stamps are catalogued extremely high, both at home and abroad. The Scott Company have given notice that probably in their next catalogue these stamps will be priced at a tenth or less of the present prices!

High Value Continentals

Can hardly be said to be very good sellers in this country at least. One rouble Russians rarely sell for more than 2d. each, guilder Dutch or 3 franc Swiss at a 1d., or 5 mark German much more than a shilling—and cannot be considered "rushers" at those modest quotations. On the other hand one, two, three or five marks Bavaria are entirely unsaleable. The reason for this is probably their stereotyped design which they share with the common low values.

Back from whence they came.

The only thing to do with such stamps that so easily accumulate into "dead" stock, is to cultivate the acquaintance of someone in the respective countries that the stamps were issued in. It is the same all the philatelic world over. High value English are always procurable at lower rates abroad than at home. This is

apparent from the fact that the domestic mails rarely require the high-valued franks.

Good Sellers

Are to be found in the current Servia, Roumania, Iceland, and Swiss. Apparently the chief reason is that they are for the most part bi-coloured stamps, and of very attractive appearance. Indeed, as we have stated before in these columns, the trade in current Europeans has never been so brisk. None of the stamps are out of reach of the most shallow pocket—to metaphorise a phrase.

No Seasons Now.

Once upon a time, the members of the stamp trade, about this part of the year, began to prepare for a general holiday until October. Not so, now, however. A "run" round the philatelic providers gives us the information that, notwithstanding Whitsun holidays and sunny weather, things are very busy. The philatelic press keeps up the life of Philatelia throughout the entire year. True there is a little time of the year that is slack to some extent—about the months of August and September, but then the poor dealer must have a holiday!

Greek Olympics.

Always good selling stamps, of the 1906 issue do not seem to be coming on to the market so fast as the 1896 issue did. Certainly there is a chance that some wily Greek may be holding up large quantities, but only that as far as the lower values are concerned. Forty lepta of both issues, the thirty of 1906, and all the high drachma values will never experience a drop in catalogue prices—one can even safely say that the 30 and 40 l. of 1906 will be priced at much more than 4d. each in the 1910 Gibbons.

Spanish West Africa.

Any Spanish West Africans in used condition are extremely scarce stamps to procure, even to the 5, 10 or 25c. values, the commonest in use. Unused can be bought anywhere at a percentage over face. This is yet another word in favour of the collection of used postage stamps. To quote a well-known collector's phrase "make the 'busking' governments do some work for easily earned postal revenues."

The Postage Stamps of Dominica

BY BERTRAM W. H. POOLE

I.—Introduction.

FEW of the stamps of our West Indian colonies have received so little attention as the issues of Dominica, if one may judge by the scant reference to them in the literature of our hobby. So far as I have been able to trace, no specialistic article dealing with these stamps has appeared in any journal published in the English language; and the only references of value are those found in the new-issue columns of the various stamp papers.

And yet the stamps are not without interest, even from the specialist's point of view. The designs, if not strikingly handsome, are at any rate neat and pleasing; the issues are all quite straightforward, and free from perplexing varieties of paper, watermark, etc.; and there are one or two points connected with their manufacture, and with the setting of the type for the various surcharges, that are well worthy of study. With the exception of one or two errors of surcharge none of the stamps are expensive; and altogether they form a compact little group that can be cordially recommended to the collector of moderate means in search of a country that offers fair scope for original study of a not too ambitious character.

Historical.

Dominica is the largest island of the Colony of the Leeward Islands, and the loftiest of the Lesser Antilles. It was discovered by Christopher Columbus on a Sunday (hence its name) in 1493. It was first settled by the French in 1750, and thirteen years later (1763) was ceded to Great Britain. In 1771 it was again captured by the French, only to be finally ceded to the British by the Peace of Versailles in 1783, and since then it has been continuously under the British Flag.

It is one of the five presidencies forming the Colony of the Leeward Islands and is administered by a Legislative Council, consisting of the Administrator, who sits as president, and six official and six non-official members nominated by the Governor. This local assembly is subordinate to the Governor.

The total population of the island is about 30,000, and as many of these are descended from the early French settlers more than half of the inhabitants speak French. The chief town, Roseau, has a population of about 6,000, while Portsmouth comes next with a population of 2,500.

Early Postal Arrangements.

Dominica was one of the last of our West Indian possessions to issue stamps of its own being followed only by Montserrat (1876), Tobago (1879), and Cayman Islands (1900).

Prior to 1860 postage was evidently paid in money though what postal facilities the inhabitants enjoyed at that period there are no records to show. In May, 1860, a post office was opened by the home authorities (evidently at the chief town, Roseau, only) at

which a supply of the then current British 1d., 4d., 6d. and 1s. stamps was kept. The use of these, however, seems to have been quite optional for the prepayment of correspondence was not insisted on. This post office was maintained until May, 1874, and during the period of its existence only the following British stamps are known to have been used:—

1d. red, "stars,"	wmk. Large Crown, perf. 14.
4d. rose,	wmk. Garter.
6d. lilac,	" wmk. Emblems.
1s. green,	" wmk. Emblems.

These stamps may all be recognised by the postmark which is "A07" with three thick lines of unequal length above and below and two thinner lines at each side, the whole being flat-oval in shape. As, at that period, the island was of little importance commercially correspondence was not very heavy and thus these British stamps with the "A07" postmark are among the scarcest of the "used abroads."

Proposed Issue in 1870.

Although Dominica did not issue its first postage stamps until May, 1874, essays for the proposed issue were made as early as 1870, for in the May number of the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* issued in that year the following interesting paragraph appeared:—"A London correspondent of ours has very obligingly communicated to us a proof impression of the type which has just been engraved for this island, obtained by him from the engraver himself. It is a very charming stamp, rivalling the St. Lucia in its fineness of execution, and to a certain extent resembling it in design, though it is by no means a slavish copy. The profile of the Queen, diademed, and with pendant curl, occupies the centre, on a solid ground, formed of very fine vertical lines. This is enclosed in a light and rather narrow oval frame, with double-lined edges, bearing the word DOMINICA in a clearly-cut type, slightly raised, and enclosed within a kind of label, just over the portrait; and in the lower half is a similar label, left blank for the value. The spandrels are filled in with a delicate open engine-turned pattern, and the stamp is completed by an exterior double-lined frame. The proof before us is struck in chrome-yellow on thickish cartridge paper. Our correspondent gleans from the engraver that the emission will take place about the end of the year, but neither the colours nor the values appear to be fixed on as yet."

From the above description it will be understood that the proposed design was a very handsome one and far superior to the one eventually adopted. Apparently this essay was the work of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., and it was intended to produce the stamps by the line-engraved process. Why this design was not used, and why the question of issuing stamps was shelved for another four years, are points upon which we are not vouchsafed any information.

Its Philatelic History.

Eliminating the episode of the design proposed in 1870, referred to in the previous paragraph, the

philatelic history of Dominica commences with an issue of three values in 1874 upon Crown CC paper. In 1879 three more values were added, and in 1882 and 1883 provisional ½d. stamps appeared. Late in 1883 the "CA." paper began to appear, and during the period 1886-88 all values arrived on this paper and also printed in new colours. In 1886, too, provisional ½d. and 1d. stamps were made. Then, on the 31st October, 1890, the general sets for the whole of the Colony of the Leeward Islands was issued and the separate stamps for Dominica were withdrawn. Naturally, it was very generally concluded that this completed the philatelic history of the island, but in 1893, following the example of the other presidencies, it succumbed to the temptation of again issuing a special set of its own and thus raising a little extra revenue at the expense of stamp collectors. This set is in concurrent use with the general series for the Leeward Islands.

II.—The First Issue.

The 1d., 6d. and 1/- stamps forming the first issue for this island were placed on sale on May 4th, 1874, according to the following short official notice which appeared in *The Official Gazette*, Dominica, for May 5th, 1874, viz :—

DOMINICA POST OFFICE,
May 4th, 1874.

STAMPS may now be had at this office at 1d., 6d. and 1/- each. Letters, etc., dropped into the letter box insufficiently paid will be DETAINED.

ALL LETTERS, ETC., MUST NOW BE FULLY PREPAID BY STAMPS.

In his notes in the Royal Philatelic Society's work on the stamps of the West Indies, Mr. E. D. Bacon tells us that, unfortunately, this *Official Gazette* was discontinued at the end of 1876 and, as the second issue of stamps did not appear until 1879, the above is the only official notice relating to stamps to be found in that paper.

The first notice of the new stamps I can find in the philatelic journals of the period appears in the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* for June, 1874, as follows :—"Own brother to St. Christopher' is the brief but significant pedigree of the Dominican type. No one can deny that the design is pretty. Were it the first of its kind it would create a sensation. Unfortunately it comes after forty others, and we should have preferred the adoption of the much-abused apocryphal type, of which we gave an illustration some years ago; it would, at least, have had the merit of novelty. Still, whatever prejudices we may have in this matter, we can, at any rate, rejoice in the fact that Dominica has at last joined the ranks of the stamp emitting countries."

The design, which is neat and effective, consists of a diademed profile of Queen Victoria with head to left on a ground of horizontal lines, enclosed within a circular band of solid colour, which touches the top, right and left sides of the stamp. The band is inscribed with "DOMINICA" at the top and "POSTAGE" below in uncoloured block letters, the two words being separated by an ornamental star at each side. In the spandrels are triangles containing conventional trefoil ornaments and at the base is a tablet for the



insertion of the value which is printed at a separate operation. The whole is enclosed in a single-line frame.

The stamps were printed upon machine made white wove paper, and each is watermarked with a device consisting of a crown over the letters "CC." (Crown Colonies.) The perforation gauges 12½.

They were engraved and printed by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., Ltd., and in general appearance they are somewhat similar to the stamps for St. Christopher produced by that firm about four years previously. The head is undoubtedly taken from the same original die, but the small ornaments on the circular band and the spandrels are quite different. The type employed for printing in the words of value was also different in some of the denominations.

Only one head-plate—i.e. the plate from which all of the design with the exception of the value was printed—was made, and this was used in the production of all the Queen's head stamps. This plate consisted of sixty impressions, arranged in ten horizontal rows of six, as follows :—

□ ○

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42
43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54
55	56	57	58	59	60

○ □

Above the fifth stamp in the top row and below the second stamp in the bottom row of the sheet the plate number is shown in the margin. This consists of an uncoloured figure "1" on a solid circle of colour enclosed in a ring. Above the second stamp in the top row and below the fifth stamp in the

bottom row the reference number is shown. This consists of a coloured figure "1" enclosed in a rectangle with indented corners.

The value was inserted at a second printing and there was a separate duty-plate for each denomination. The type of the words "ONE SHILLING" is exactly like that employed in producing the corresponding value for St. Christopher and, as the stamps are of the same size and of similar style one might at first sight imagine the same duty-plate was used, but, the St. Christopher plate being of a totally different shape this was certainly not the case.

In producing stamps of this sort, where two plates are necessary before the process of printing is complete, it will be found, I think, that the duty-plates are so carefully made that the value on each stamp on the plate is an exact fac-simile of all the others as regards the lettering and the alignment is perfect. In the case of these Dominican stamps, however, this is not so, for there are differences in the lettering and irregularities in the alignment that are difficult to account for unless the values were printed from a plate constructed from ordinary printer's type. In the 1d. value the irregularities of alignment are particularly noticeable, the words "ONE PENNY" on some stamps being distinctly higher than those on the other labels in the same row.

I believe only one duty-plate was constructed for each value and these were used in the production of all the Queen's head stamps for this Colony as well as for the similar stamps of Tobago.

In the type for the "ONE PENNY" the "o" always appears to be a little too small and the "P" a little too large in relation to the other letters. In the "SIX PENCE" the type is a little larger than that employed for the 1d. and the letters are more even, while in the "ONE SHILLING" the letters are smaller, thinner, and very even in size and shape.

The stamps being produced at two operations it will be found that the shade of the value does not always exactly match that of the main portion of the design, but apart from these differences there are no marked varieties of shade.

In the absence of official documents bearing on this point it is impossible to state with certainty the postal charges obtaining at this period. Probably, however, the 1d. stamp was intended for use on ½oz. local letters, the 6d. one for postage on letters to the neighbouring islands, and the 1s. value was used to frank correspondence to England and other places outside the sixpenny radius.

The following is a synopsis of the varieties:—

4TH MAY, 1874.

Wmk. Crown CC. Perf. 12½.

1d. lilac (shades).

6d. green (shades).

1s. magenta (shades).

III.—The Second Issue.

In 1877 the 1d., 6d. and 1s. stamps, in the same colours as before and on "CC" paper, appeared with a new perforation gauging 14, and in 1879 ½d., 2½d., and 4d. values were added to the set.

Dominica joined the Postal Union on July 1st, 1879, when the rates on foreign correspondence were considerably reduced: hence the necessity of ½d., 2½d., and 4d. stamps. In the Royal Philatelic

Society's work on the stamps of the West Indies Mr. Bacon states that if these three values were not ready for use on that date they were probably received from England shortly afterwards. The earliest chronicle I can find of the arrival of these varieties in England is in the *Philatelic Record*, the 4d. being mentioned in December, 1879, and the two other values in the following month, so it would seem that the stamps were not placed on sale until late in 1879. The exact date of issue is, at present, a matter of surmise only.

About May or June, 1882, the rate for ¼-oz. letters to islands not more than 300 nautical miles distant was reduced to 2½d., but as stamps of this value were already in use no change of any sort was necessary.

The 1d., 6d., and 1s. stamps call for no special comment for, with the exception of the perforation, they are exactly the same as the preceding issue.

The duty plates for the ½d., 2½d., and 4d. denominations show varieties of alignment like the other values. The type employed is the same as that for the corresponding values of St. Christopher but new plates must have been made owing to the difference in the size of the head plates. These three duty-plates were also used later on in the production of the Tobago stamps.

In the "HALFPENNY" the letters are large and quite fill the value tablet, in the "2½ PENNY" the lettering is similar, while in the "FOURPENCE" the letters are smaller and somewhat irregular, i.e., the "o" and "c" always seem to be a trifle too small and the top stroke of the "F" a little too long.



The 4d. is the most interesting stamp of this series for on each sheet No. 60 (the sixth stamp in the bottom row) shows a distinct variety in the lettering of the value. On this stamp the letters "ce" are much smaller and slightly malformed as shown in the accompanying illustration. On certain stamps, too, the "c" will be found more closed than on others.

Shades may be found in all the values of this set, and, as in the first issue, the colour of the letters in the value is often quite distinct from that of the main portion of the design.

In the Tapling Collection in the British Museum there is an original cover franked with a 1s., 1d. and half of a 1d. stamp in payment of a 1s. 1½d. rate. Possibly the 1d. was allowed to be bisected and used as a ½d. stamp pending the arrival of the regular stamps of this value.

The following is a synopsis of the varieties:—

1877-79.

Wmk. Crown C.C. Perf. 14.

½d. olive yellow (shades).

1d. lilac (shades).

2½d. red brown (shades).

4d. blue (shades).

(a) with small "ce" in "PENCE."

6d. green (shades).

1s. magenta (shades).

To be continued.

Notes and News

Henry Grey Collection of Victoria.

It is not generally known that Mr. C. L. Pack, the eminent specialist in British North American stamps has also devoted considerable attention to Australians. He has recently purchased Mr. Henry Grey's collection of Victoria, which is being amalgamated with his own collection of this colony. Among the gems of the purchase are about 40 copies of the various printings of the first type of the 1d.; a block of four of the 2d. 1854 unused; and a fine unused 6d. orange of 1860.

Mr. Pack's Philatelic History.

Mr. Pack who is supposed to possess more 12d. black Canadians than any other collector, is said to have embarked on his Australian collections at the early age of ten. That is nearly forty years ago, and the boyish hobby did not outlive his schooldays. But nearly three decades later the old enthusiasm was revived by taking an interest in his own youngster's efforts to form a stamp collection. It is now we learn from some notes by our friend Mr. J. Murray Bartels in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* about twelve years since Mr. Pack commenced specialising in British North America, New Zealand, New South Wales, Victoria, Spain and Cape of Good Hope.

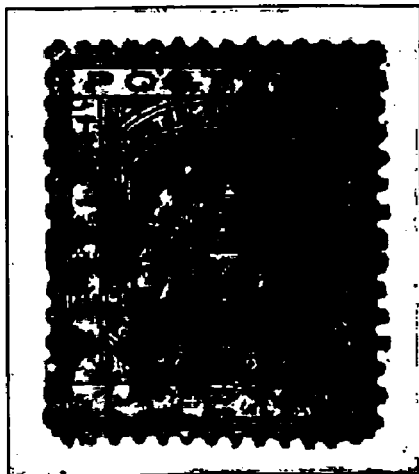
A Stamp Collector's Paradise.

Fleet-Surgeon G. T. Bishop in the *Philatelic Record* gives some experiences of philately in the Far East. If ever there was a stamp collector's paradise, he says, Shanghai could claim the title. The number of different posts and post offices! By simply buying at the postal establishments themselves one could make in a few hours quite a respectable collection. There were in 1905: the English P.O. where all the varieties of current Hong Kong stamps could be bought; the French P.O., here the "Chine" issues are sold; the German P.O.; the Japanese P.O.; the Russian P.O.; each with its own issue of stamps.

1d. Red, Plate 225.

At Messrs. Plumridge's auction sale on June 10th and 11th a particularly interesting piece will be offered in a mint block of sixteen of the 1d. red, plate 225.

Perf. 14 x 12½.



Chalky Paper Tester.

To the gradually increasing list of philatelic accessories provided by enterprising individuals there is now advertised a "chalky paper tester." It is said to consist of a pure silver (softer metal than coinage) pointed pencil. A good tip for testing chalkies was given by a correspondent in one of the magazines recently. He recommended the use of a brass pin and a magnifying glass. The pin must be brass not iron or steel! The testing mark thus made on the chalky paper is quite unobservable to the unassisted eye.

Farthing Caymans Part-Perforated.

The ¼d. Caymans seem to have all been perforated with a single line machine. In Mr. Adutt's collection there is a block of twelve imperforate at the right, and Mr. A. J. Watkin recently showed us a pair the left stamp being imperforate at the left side.

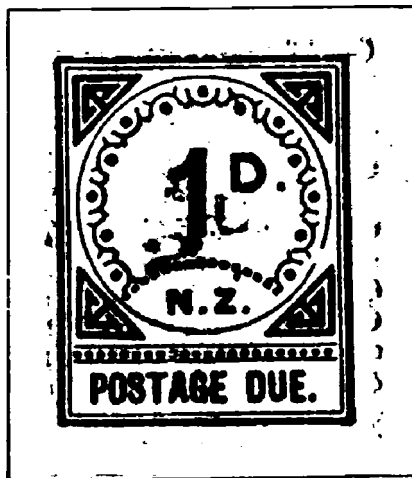
Hadlow Discoveries Continued.

Mr. Hadlow showed us some time ago, and he now illustrates in his auction catalogue a copy of the New Zealand 1d. Postage Due with a fairly clear additional red printing showing the value ¼d. It suggests somewhat the appearance of a double offset, but as will be seen from the illustration on this page the second print is very clear. Another variety illustrated by Mr. Hadlow is the 1c. British Guiana (Gibbons type 13) perforated 14 x 12½. We give the illustration of this variety also on this page.

A Celestial Stamp Album.

I suppose it must be over 20 years ago that I attended what was probably the first stamp auction ever held, says Fleet-Surgeon Bishop. As it was curiosity that took me I did not go to Tokenhouse Yard more than two or three times. Judge of my surprise when, about six or seven years later, on my first day in Shanghai, I happened upon a stamp auction in full swing. I soon gathered from the spirited bidding that philatelists abounded, and subsequently found my surmise to be correct, some being collectors, some accumulators, and some amateur dealers. Many fine collections had a home in this great

Surcharged ¼d. in red also.



city. Some were of Shanghai stamps only. Others were "celestial," while this collector specialised Japanese, and that collected all stamps issued in the Far East. At one bookseller's I saw displayed in the window "The Celestial Stamp Album." This publication, which was printed locally, had pages for all stamps issued in China or in territory that had been Chinese, i.e., Hong Kong, Macau, Saigon, etc.

Poverty in Hayti.

There is a Consular Report just issued which gives an account of the deplorable state of affairs existing in Hayti, thanks to the succession of revolutions and to the continued political mismanagement. The country is said to contain some of the richest spots on earth and is inhabited by over two million persons.

"It is difficult," says the British Consul-General, "for anyone abroad to have any idea of the abject poverty of the bulk of the population. . . . They rarely taste meat, and live chiefly on sweet potatoes, maize, fruit, and some rice. Few of them have more than the clothes they stand up in, and these are rarely in a condition to cover them." Their chief household utensils are old condensed milk and other tins, for which, therefore, there is a brisk and constant demand. Cooking is done in old 5-lb. butter and lard tins, and old condensed milk tins have a handle put to them and become drinking mugs.

Haytian Mismanagement.

Never, it seems, has the political mismanagement of a country told so heavily on its material conditions as in the case of Hayti. There are practically no public works, the only railway open to regular passenger and goods traffic being a line of twenty-eight miles long, and there is no industry, with the exception of some small sugar refineries, which do not make enough sugar even for local consumption. Literally everything, except sugar, rum, and what grows and can be used in a natural state, has to be imported.

Yet the Republic has an external debt of £2.4 millions, and an internal one of £2.7 millions. But this very absence of all manufactures and of all public works will make Hayti a unique market both for goods and investment of capital, if it ever obtains a good and steady government, which would guarantee security and order.

The time must soon come for a change in the Haytian affairs and it has more than once been mooted that annexation by the United States would be the best thing that could happen. In which case early Haytian stamps will cost you more.

J. M. Bartels in Europe.

J. Murray Bartels, the well-known specialist dealer, left Boston, Mass., on May 24th, for an European trip. He goes first to Hamburg and will visit a number of Continental philatelic centres, and may get to England about September. Mr. Bartels is one of those student dealers who have contributed much to our current philatelic knowledge. His chief works in philatelic literature are "The Postage Stamps of the Philippines" written in collaboration with F. Althorp Foster and Captain F. L. Palmer, and a book on U.S. Stamped Envelopes written in conjunction with Victor M. Berthold.

Holland Varieties.

The Melville Stamp Book on Holland which was published just before the opening of the Amsterdam Exhibition contains much that is new to the specialist in these issues. Hitherto the country has been regarded as purely a perforation country. Many have shunned it on that account. There are interesting plate varieties described

and illustrated for the first time in the new book. The chief things to look for are:—

- 1st issue. 5c. Retouches in top left corner.
 " " " " right corner.
 Recut scroll (left corner).
 " " (right corner).
 10c. All Retouched similar to above.

The "Hook" of Holland Variety.

There is also a variety by which plate 2 of the 10c. stamp is identified. It shows a little horn jutting out from the forehead of the effigy on the stamps. Owing to an accident this flaw must have been on the die of the 10c. value and consequently appeared throughout the plate described as plate 2. It was afterwards discovered and every stamp on the plate was retouched in various ways to remove the flaw.

The Second Issue of Holland.

In the second issue an interesting discovery is described on the 5c. value where the outer frame line was evidently drawn on the plate and the transfer roller was laid down within the rectangles thus formed on the plate. These outer lines being drawn separately with a graver were not all cut strong and deep and many stamps shew signs of the wear of these lines. In a few cases they have been recut and the varieties as illustrated in the book are well worth hunting for.

Printings of First Issue Holland.

The celebration number of the *Nederlandsch Tijdschrift Voor Postzegel Kunde* gives the following statistics of the numbers printed in the first issue of Holland postage stamps.

Year.	5 cent.	10 cent.	15 cent.
1851	100,000	125,000	75,000
1852	1,895,700	1,096,800	507,500
1853	1,500,000	1,200,000	300,000
1854	1,500,000	1,200,000	300,000
1855	1,828,500	1,171,500	—
1856	1,500,000	1,500,000	—
1857	900,000	800,000	300,000
1858	2,350,000	1,650,000	—
1859	1,700,000	1,200,000	100,000
1860	1,800,000	1,100,000	100,000
1861	2,000,000	1,900,000	100,000
1862	1,800,000	1,400,000	300,000
1863	2,500,000	2,700,000	300,000
Total	20,874,200	17,043,300	2,382,500

Stad Philatelic Society.

The sixth meeting was held at the Y.M.C.A. Rooms on Tuesday, 11th May, 1909, at 7.30 p.m. There were present:—Mr. Pramroze E. Pauthakey, President, in the chair, Messrs. E. A. Pearson, D. J. Sicé, J. Woodsell, and B. J. H. Somake, Honorary Secretary. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. J. M. Moses, of Messrs. David Sassoon & Co., Bombay, was elected a corresponding member.

A memorial to H.E. The Governor-General in Council was drawn by the Honorary Secretary and put before the meeting; the memorial deals with the abolishing of 5% custom duty at present levied by the authorities on the fancy prices of stamps. It was decided to invite the co-operation of other societies, especially the Indian Philatelic Society and then approach Government. The Home Societies and dealers who are also affected by this most unreasonable taxation should, the members were of opinion, move in the matter also.

The Honorary Secretary moved whether the chalky paper, King's head, M.C.A. should be catalogued as a separate issue. After little discussion, in which the members were of opinion that this step only meant further embarrassment to the young collector, the beginner, and even the advanced collector, and it is distinctly a blockade in the paths of stamp collectors; it was finally proposed by Mr. E. A. Pearson, and seconded by Mr. D. J. Sicé, "that in the opinion of this Society the chalky paper should be ignored by stamp collectors as a separate issue."

The day and hour of meeting was changed from second Tuesday in the month at 7.30 p.m., to first Friday in the month at 8 p.m.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chair.

W. P. Barnsdall, M.A.

At the moment of going to press I learn that Mr. W. Percy Barnsdall, M.A., has resigned his connection with the firm of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.

The Late W. B. Thornhill.

I regret to hear of the death of Mr. W. B. Thornhill which occurred on May 6th. Mr. Thornhill had for some

time been missed from active philatelic work, though in the "eighties" he was a very prominent figure in the stamp world. He specialised in Shanghai, Australia and Ceylon. Of the first-named country he wrote a handbook which was published by Gibbons in 1895. His collection of Shanghai was sold to Mr. Duveen, and his New South Wales collection he sold for nearly £2,000.

The "Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The *Postage Stamp* is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:

Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C.

F. C. Ginn, 149, Strand, London, W.C.

Lewis May & Co., 15, King William St., Strand, W.C.

W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.

James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.

Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.

The Court Stamp Co., 10, Marriott's Court,

Manchester.

A Great American Collection

By Percival Parrish, B.L., in "Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News"

I HAVE recently enjoyed the privilege and pleasure of examining and studying with care one of the greatest collections of stamps ever assembled, that of the late James W. Paul, Jr., of Philadelphia, and a brief description of this philatelic treasure may prove interesting to your readers. The collection is mounted in forty specially designed large blank albums, requiring two good-sized chests, each as big as the average trunk, to hold them.

The total catalogue value is considerably over £40,000, and altogether there are a great many rarities of which we occasionally hear, but seldom see.

The U.S. Collection.

The stamps of the United States are a magnificent lot cataloguing over £10,000. One of the finest things upon which our eyes feasted was the celebrated Annapolis envelope in used condition. The impression is dark blue on faded white paper. We have never heard this stamp quoted, but it is undoubtedly worth between £400 and £600. There is a fine unused Millbury worth in the neighbourhood of £360, also a Brattleboro, and thirteen varieties of the scarce St. Louis stamps, including all the rare pelure papers, the lot being worth about £800.

Next we came to the magnificent complete set of *Première Gravures*, otherwise known as the issue of August, 1861. These stamps are all unused and in absolutely faultless condition,—veritable jewels in a remarkable setting, each stamp seeming to cast a radiance of color about. It is noteworthy that many of the early issues of our country are examples of superior workmanship, and no set more so than this one. They are truly appropriate settings for the fathers of our country, whom they portray in such glowing colors. This particular set is certainly worth over £600. Accompanying it are pen marked copies of the 5, 10, 24 and 30c. and the 90c. unused imperforate. From this date until 1900, we find practically everything which has been issued by our country,

including all the rare re-issue sets, and many blocks of four and parts of sheets.

The Carriers, etc.

We now reach the semi-official issues, which are in great profusion, in both new and used condition, many of the latter being on the entire envelope. Of these we note: Nearly £200 worth of Baltimore Carriers, including some stamps plated and in unbroken sheets, the very rare 2c. black Boston unused (Scott No. 812), the 8c. rosy buff New York, worth £70 and some superb Philadelphia Despatch on entire covers.

The Finest Collection of U.S. Locals.

Of the U.S. Locals Mr. Paul had perhaps the finest collection in the world, and among others we note the very rare Cook's Despatch on green paper on the entire envelope in splendid condition. The writer remembers being shown the cover by Mr. Paul several years ago, when he remarked that he believed it to be the rarest local in existence, and at the same time, the only one known. We also note fine specimens on the cover of Bloods Phila. Despatch, 3c. black (No. 2235), worth about £20, Boyce's City Express, 2c. green (No. 2266) three varieties of the rare Briggs Despatch worth £15 or more each, the 1c. rose Hills Post (No. 2502) worth over £20, Jones 2c. pink, (No. 2605) and many others.

Confederate Provisionals.

The collection of Confederate Postmasters' Provisionals many of them on original cover, is also superb, comprising many of the rarities, and including two copies of the 5c. Athens, worth from £100 to £120 each, the 5c. black Goliad worth about £100. Knoxville envelopes on white and on orange, also an uncatalogued variety, a 5c. green worth several hundred dollars, the 5c. black Marion, Virginia, valued at about £80, the rare 5c. red Pittsylvania, the Ringgold, Salem, Spartansburg and a superb pair of 5c. and 10c. Tallico Plains.

Rare Hawaiians.

Among the foreign stamps we are first impressed with the wonderful collection of Hawaiians, including *all* of the rare Missionaries. The 2c., one of the greatest rarities of the world, is in excellent condition for a stamp of its frail composition. There is a slight nick at the top which will perhaps reduce its value somewhat, nevertheless the specimen is worth over £800, as it is, and without the nick would be worth £1,000. The 5c. is a good one and worth £100; type 2 of the 13c. is also good, and worth £90, while type 3 of the same denomination is valued at £120.

The numerals are a fine lot, and nearly all have been plated. All other varieties exist in singles, and many in blocks and portions of sheets.

The early Ceylon are simply magnificent, many of them being unused with original gum, and including the 4d., 8d., 9d., 1s. and 2s.

Another of the show countries is the specialized collection of Portuguese Indies, requiring an entire volume for mounting and worth about £1,000.

Circular Guianas and others.

In British Guiana we are treated to a wonderful display which includes of the first type, the 4c. orange, the 4c.

lemon-yellow, the 8c. green and the 12c. blue, the four being valued at over £120; there are two specimens of the black on magenta of February, 1856, worth upwards of £60, also a 4c black on blue, an extremely valuable piece. The issues from 1860 to date are practically complete.

Moldavian Gems.

The four great varieties of Moldavia are all here,—the 27 par. being a superb copy on original cover, and worth thus about £60; the 54 par. is also very fine and valued at about £16, the 108 par. is a nice one and worth £50, while there is a fine specimen of the rare 81 par. blue on blue worth about £300.

The rare Connell of New Brunswick is among the elite, also the 12d. Canada, both in unused and used condition.

In Victoria we find a superb lot valued at over £1,200, and comprising among other things a plate of 52 specimens of the 2d. reddish-brown of 1852 (Gibbons No. 24). These stamps are catalogued at a total of £180 in singles, but the plate as such is worth much more.

The stamps of early Spain are about complete, including many of the rarities. Thus we could continue finding much to enthuse over in practically every country of the world, but space forbids, and our powers fail at the unceasing array of philatelic treasures.

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

Bosnia.—(Vol. IV. p. 20).—A number of new perforation varieties are recorded in *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*, viz., the 1, 2, 5, 6, 25, 50 h., 1, 2, 5 kr. of 1900 perf. compound of 12½ and 10½. We are also told that all varieties of the current pictorial issue are known perf. 6½ all round.

British Guiana.—(Vol. III. p. 20).—In his latest auction catalogue Mr. W. Hadlow records a 1c. stamp of this Colony of the type of 1876, perf. 14 × 12½. Presumably it is the 1c. slate, watermarked "CC," but Mr. Hadlow vouchsafes no information on this point. At any rate it marks an important discovery, and is certainly a variety worth hunting for.

Canada.—(Vol. IV. p. 116).—On page 116 of our last volume we referred to the discovery of an imperforate sheet of the current 2c. stamps, and we now take the following interesting paragraph from *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* relating to this variety:—"It may be of interest to know that the last supplement to the Canadian Post Office Guide contains the following: 'In view of representations which have been made to the Department, it has been decided to permit the sale of the 2 cent denomination of Canadian postage stamps of the current issue, in sheets of 100, *without the usual perforation.*' I at once asked for a sheet of 2 cent, and incidentally said I would take a sheet of the other denominations if available. A reply came to-day informing me that only the 2 cent would be available, and then, not for some time, as the Department intends to make a separate printing of these stamps, to supply whatever demand may occur."

Chill.—(Vol. III. p. 202).—We understand from *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* that a new set of stamps consisting of 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 12, 15, 20, 25, 30, 50c. and 1 peso values will be issued shortly. Apparently the 12c., and 1 peso denominations of the current set have never yet been placed on sale to the public, though supplies

were, as a special favour, sold to several dealers about three years ago. Have any of our readers seen used copies of either of these values?

China.—(Vol. IV. p. 44).—On page 32 we gave currency to a rumour that a Commemorative stamp in honour of the new Emperor would shortly be issued. We now understand that there will be three denominations all showing a view of the "Temple of Heaven" in Peking, viz., 2c. for internal use, 3c. for use on letters to Japan, and 7c. for use on registered letters.

Crete.—(Vol. IV. p. 116).—Messrs Whitfield King & Co. inform us that the new 25 l., 50 l., 2 dr. and 3 dr stamps recorded last week have not been issued, though their correspondent in the island informs them that they will be issued shortly. For the present, therefore, our readers should delete these four values until we have authoritative evidence of their actual issue.

Crete (Italian).—(Vol. IV. p. 116).—Our Ipswich correspondents also tell us that the current 25c. and 50c stamps of Italy chronicled in previous numbers with the "LA CANEA" surcharge have not yet been placed on sale. Evidently the copies that have been seen are the "specimens" distributed by the Postal Union.

French West Africa.—We learn from *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* that not only the Ivory Coast, but all the other Colonies at present grouped as "French West Africa," are to have new sets of stamps with a different design for each Colony. This will mean new stamps for the Ivory Coast, Dahomey, Guinea, Upper Senegal-Niger, Mauritania, and Senegal.

Guatemala.—(Vol. II. p. 165).—*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* states that a new provisional has been issued, the 2 pesos stamp of 1902 having been reduced in value to 12½c. by means of a surcharge, viz.:—

"12½—Centavos—1909," in three lines. We are told that the type is "large and bold," and the overprint is in black.

1909. Provisional Issue.
12½c. on 2 p. vermilion and black.

Levant (Austrian).—(Vol. IV. p. 93).—A new variety of perforation in the 1890-92 series is recorded by *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*—the 10 pa. on 3 kr. with perf. compound of 10, 10½ and 11, 12. Only the 20 pa. was hitherto known in this state.

1890-92. Austrian Stamps Surcharged.
Perf. compound of 10, 10½ and 11, 12.
10 pa. on 3 kr. blue green.
20 pa. on 5 kr. carmine.

From the same journal we learn that the 1 piastre stamp of the current type exists on two distinct varieties of the coloured paper; one azure, and the other greenish blue. We therefore revise our chronicle of this issue as follows:—

1908-9. No Wmk. Perf. 12½.

	s. d.
10 pa. green on yellow	0 1
20 pa. vermilion on pink	0 2
30 pa. chocolate on buff	0 3
60 pa. purple on bluish	0 5
1 pia. deep blue on azure	0 6
1 pia. deep blue on greenish blue	0 6
1 pia. deep blue	0 4
2 pia. red on yellow	0 7
5 pia. deep brown on greyish	1 4
10 pia. green on yellow	2 6
20 pia. dull blue on greyish	5 0

Queensland.—(Vol. III. p. 227.)—A correspondent has shown *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* a distinct novelty, i.e., the current 4d. stamp in grey instead of yellow. This makes our list of stamps on Crown "A" paper as follows:—

Wmk. Crown and Single-lined "A." Perf. 12½, 13.

	s. d.
4d. deep green	0 1
4d. vermilion	0 2
2d. blue	0 3
3d. brown	0 5
4d. greenish yellow	0 6
4d. grey	—
6d. yellow green	0 8
1s. mauve	1 4
2s. turquoise green	2 6
2s. 6d. vermilion	3 3
5s. rose	6 3
10s. deep brown	12 6
£1 bluish green	24 0

Wmk. Crown and Double-lined "A." Perf. 12 × 12½.
9d. brown and ultramarine

Surinam.—(Vol. IV. p. 57).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us of the receipt of a letter from their agent at Paramaribo stating that all the provisional 5c. stamps, both rouletted and perforated, have been withdrawn from circulation owing to the arrival of a large supply of the ordinary 5c. stamps.

NOTE.

The Prices affixed are those at which Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. will supply any of the stamps chronicled that may be in stock.

The stamps are supplied at lower rates to subscribers to their New Issue Service, particulars of which can be had on application to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich.

The Prices quoted are for unused.

Post-Bag Thefts

Sequel to Gibraltar Mystery—Diverted Mails—Continental Appeal to English Authorities

IN April last the *Evening News* published an account of a series of mysterious robberies from the mails passing between Gibraltar and London.

It was stated that serious losses had been sustained, and that, despite the utmost precautions, no clue could be obtained as to the thieves.

The practice of the latter was to cut the bottom seam of the bags, extract the contents, and sew up the seam with fine string.

It was believed that the thefts occurred within the area controlled by the Spanish Post Office, but the officials in Spain blamed the British Post Office, while there was a theory that they might have taken place while the mails were going through France.

At any rate the British Postmaster-General gave an assurance that there would be no recurrence of the thefts.

He kept his word so far as the mail matter of England was concerned.

This was accomplished by the simple expedient of sending all valuable post articles by British ships running direct to Gibraltar.

Since then no mails have been violated.

The thieves, thus deprived of their plunder, at once turned their attention to the mail bags of France, Germany, and other continental countries.

The latter have no means of dispatching their mails by sea to Gibraltar, and the thieves have continued to make some rich hauls.

So serious, indeed, have their depredations become that the authorities of these countries have made an appeal to England for assistance in the matter. The British Post Office has agreed to extend their own methods to Continental mail matter.

Arrangements have now been completed by which such matter between the various Continental Post Offices and Gibraltar will be forwarded through London.

This will cause about a week's delay, but the matter will be safe.

It seems almost incredible to the average Englishman, accustomed to the most efficient postal service in the world, that the Spanish postal authorities should allow the mails of Europe to be diverted and subjected to serious delay because they are incompetent to detect postal thieves, who have carried on their work for months.

Such, nevertheless, is the case, and instead of trying to discover the delinquents, they are wasting their time in making protests to this country in the belief that the robberies are taking place here.

Postal robberies of this nature in England would not be allowed to go on for a couple of days.

—*Evening News*, May 29th.

Stop Press News

AMSTERDAM EXHIBITION.

CHAMPIONSHIP AWARD.

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN EXHIBITS.

A DUTCH NEW ISSUE.

AMSTERDAM, June 5th.

The International Philatelic Exhibition was opened here on Thursday. The President of the Nederland Philatelic Society introduced Baron Rudolf Lehman, of London, who made his opening speech in four languages, Dutch, English, French and German.

A large number of visitors are here from England, France, Germany, Austria and Sweden.

The display is being held in the Bellevue Building, which adjoins the American Hotel, where most of the visitors from abroad are staying.

The display, as was to be expected, is very strong in collections of the stamps of Holland and Colonies.

The Championship goes to Baron Lehman for his magnificent collection of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (with colonies) which fills an entire room at the Exhibition. The collection was arranged by Herr Köning here, and when the award became known in the Theatre van Lier last night, there were scenes of the greatest enthusiasm.

The other awards will not be known until late to-night; the chief ones will be detailed in a later message to *The Postage Stamp*.

The English exhibits include Baron Lehman's Holland and Colonies, Mr. A. J. Warren's Holland and Colonies, Franz Reichenheim's France, H. J. Duveen's Mauritius, including the 1d and 2d. Post Office Mauritius, the same exhibitor's Transvaal and Tasmania, Leslie L. R. Hausburg's Victoria, J. R. M. Albrecht's Guatemala and Mulready collections, F. E. Wilson's Belgium, Humphrey Bennett's Sarawak, Harvey Clarke's Transvaal, A. J. Warren's Straits Settlements, Labuan, North Borneo.

The only American exhibit to be noted is J. Murray Bartels' splendid specialised collection of Danish West Indies.

There are a number of English and American exhibits in the section for journals and other publications.

There is no collection of the stamps of Great Britain here.

A special interest was aroused today when the new postage due, value 4 cents was issued and put on sale at the special post office in the Exhibition. It is an overprint of a large

numeral 4 in red on 6½c. ultramarine and black.

The entire stock placed on sale in the Exhibition was taken up by two English dealers. But a fresh supply is promised for to-morrow.

The full list of awards was made known at the Banquet last night. The following are those most likely to interest:—

Division I. Holland and Colonies.

Championship. Baron R. A. L. Lehman, London (Collection of unused).

Gold Medal. J. J. Werumés Buning, Velp (unused).

Gold Medal. P. W. Waller, Overveen (used).

Gold Medal—A. J. Warren, Epsom (unused and used).

Silver Gilt—D. C. Paraira, Amsterdam (used).

Silver Gilt—Louis Weimar, Rotterdam.

Silver Medal—A. F. W. Stroo, Utrecht.

Silver Gilt—Jhr. J. A. A. v. Schmid, Amsterdam.

Silver Gilt—G. Buijs, Scheveningen.

Silver Medal—A. C. Voss, Amsterdam.

Bronze Medal—W. P. Costerus, Edam.

Division II.

Great Gold Medal—F. Reichenheim, London (Collection of France).

Great Gold Medal—L. L. R. Hausburg, London (Collection of Victoria).

Silver Medal—J. R. M. Albrecht, Manchester (Guatemala).

Silver-Gilt Medal—Frank E. Wilson, Birmingham (Belgium).

Silver Medal—H. Bennet, Northampton (Sarawak).

Gold Medal—Harvey Clarke, London (Transvaal).

Silver Medal—J. M. Bartels, Boston (Danish West Indies).

Division III.

Bronze Medal—A. J. Warren, Epsom (Straits, Labuan and Borneo).

Division V.

Gold Medal: M. Albrecht, Manchester (Mulready covers)

Division VI. For Young Collectors.

Silver Gilt Medal presented by the Junior Philatelic Society, awarded to Miss Kitty Nelke, of London.

Division VII. Literature and Publications.

Awards are made to Philatelic Record, Stamp Lover, Herts Monthly Report, and West End Philatelist. Whitfield King & Co. and W. S. Lincoln receive medals for exhibits of English-made albums.

A detailed report of the Exhibition will appear in next week's *Postage Stamp*.

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Our Publishing Day and Advertisers.

In order to meet the requirements of the publishing trade our publishers now distribute copies to the Newsagents on Wednesdays instead of Thursdays as before. This compels us to go to press on Saturday morning. Hence it is absolutely necessary for our printers to have all advertisements at latest on Friday morning; consequently, copy must be in the Advertisement Manager's hands not later than Wednesday, 5 o'clock p m

Advertisers' Proofs.

We are anxious to consult our Advertisers' convenience to the greatest possible extent, but where proofs have to be supplied and returned our printers must have the "copy" by Thursday morning at the latest, as we now have to print off a portion of our issue on Saturday morning.

Nankivell's Philatelic Handbooks.

It has frequently been suggested to us that we should reprint in cheap and convenient handbook form some at least of the more important special articles from *The Postage Stamp* which deal with popular countries.

These articles cover the general history of each country and its various postal issues. They also include catalogue fluctuation of prices over a period of ten years, thus enabling the collector to see at a glance the relative rarity, and the investment value, of every stamp.

The articles are designed to be useful alike to the specialist and the general collector.

We have, therefore, decided to issue a handbook from time to time as opportunity offers.

Now Ready.

No. 1. Jamaica & Cayman Islands.

Foolscap 8vo., price 4d., post free 4½d., from our Printer, Mr. Baldwin, Grosvenor Printing Works, Tunbridge Wells.

The POSTAGE STAMP

Founded by
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.
Edited by
FRED. J. MELVILLE.

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all Classes of Stamp Collectors*

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Gossip of the Week

BY CORNELIUS WRINKLE

By the Side of the Sleepy Canal.



THE talk of the town this week has been about the Amsterdam Exhibition, of which no doubt a full report appears elsewhere in this issue of *The Postage Stamp*. A big Exhibition is no light undertaking, and it is my dim recollection of past undertakings of the kind in which Corney took active part, that makes me hesitate to offer some criticisms on the show in the Bellevue Hall by

the side of the sleepy canal.

Foreign Visitors at the Exhibition.

Be it therefore understood that any suggestions I make as a result of an enjoyable visit to the land of dykes are not due to a bad crossing—it was bad enough in all conscience (as D.F. and *others* will avow)—nor yet are they due to any personal discomforts which were not shared by all the English visitors and most of the foreigners at the Exhibition. It is only by pointing out defects that future organisers of exhibitions can be aided in improving upon the efforts of their predecessors.

The Source of the Exhibits.

In the first place let me say that but for the said foreigners—the English, French and German Philatelists—there would have been scarcely any exhibition at all. Had the exhibits of these collectors been taken away we should have had only a few small single specimen collections left—with one or two exceptions. Of the three rooms filled with stamps one entire room was devoted to the exhibit of Baron Lehmann, who is described as “of London.” In the other two rooms were the big collections of Mr. Warren’s Dutch and Dutch Colonies, Mr. Reichenheim’s France, Mr. Duveen’s Mauritius, Transvaal and Tasmania, Mr. Hausburg’s Victoria, Mr. Albrecht’s Guatemala and Mulready Envelopes, Mr.

Hartman’s (Germany) Montenegro, Mr. Passer’s (Vienna) Bosnia, Mr. F. Wilson’s Belgium, Mr. Zumstein’s (Berne) Switzerland, Mr. Bennett’s Sarawak, Mr. Blanco’s (Paris) Rio de Oro, Harvey Clarke’s Transvaal, Mr. Bartels’ (U.S.A.) Danish West Indies, Mr. Warren’s Straits Settlements, Labuan and North Borneo, Mr. R. Friedl’s (Vienna) Forgeries, and Mr. George’s (Lisbon) Portuguese, and other minor collections.

The Local Exhibits.

Among the strictly local exhibits the only notable ones were two or three fine collections of Dutch stamps, Mr. Manus’ collection of reconstructed plates of New South Wales, Tasmania and Victoria, Mr. Yaar’s Transvaal Forgeries, a few other moderately specialised collections, and a batch of single specimen collections, which would never have figured in the awards’ list of an International Exhibition in England. At the moment I may have overlooked one or two fairly important Dutch exhibits, but the general impression was that the exhibits were more contributed by foreigners than by the Dutch themselves.

Excessive Charges for Space.

The cause may in part have been the excessive charges levied by the Committee for space. For exhibits of stamps the charge was 8s. 4d. (5g.) per square metre. Albums were charged 8s. 4d. per album. Entires (of which there was a good number of locally contributed exhibits) were only charged 4s. 2d. per square metre. All expenses and risks of postage and insurance were additional charges on the exhibitor. The foreign exhibitors evidently paid up like lambs, but whether there were good specialised collections in Holland which were withheld on account of the excessive charges, it is not for me to say. I heard of two foreign collections which were to have been shown in albums, but the authorities would not admit them except displayed out sheet by sheet and the cost of the space alone would have exceeded in one case £30, and in the other £40. Both entries were of course withdrawn.

A Visitors’ Register Wanted.

Having their main support in exhibits and finances (space charges, nearly 40 per cent of the medals and a similar percentage of the gate money) from foreigners,

it might have been expected that something would have been done to make the visitors from other countries welcome and at their ease in a strange land. No register was started of the visitors until the third or fourth day, and one could only discover whether one's acquaintances had arrived by chance or from the hotel registers. There are many other little courtesies which there was no occasion or excuse for overlooking, and one or two incidents which shewed bad management and open neglect, the most notable example being the steamer excursion to the Isle of Marken, which was a farce, so far as the foreign visitors was concerned.

The Awards.

As regards the awards, it would not be, perhaps, reasonable to discuss them at any length. Baron Lehmann received the championship for a very vast but rather uninteresting collection of Holland and Colonies. One or two others, exhibiting the same country and colonies, shewed infinitely more study and arrangement. The Baron's collection was elaborate to a degree, with coat of arms at the top of every sheet and gorgeously inscribed title pages. Very pretty—but not Philately with a big P, although Mr. Naret Koning, the genial philatelic secretary to the Baron had made very good use of his material. Without suggesting in any way that the opinion was held by any of the other adjudicators, I was intensely surprised at one of the Dutch judges telling me that he did not like Mr. Warren's arrangement because *there was so much writing round the stamps*. But there was more research shewn in one page of that writing, than in a score of pages in the bigger collection, and the owner studied and arranged his stamps himself.

Medals for Literature.

As regards other awards, one cannot feel at all regretful that the first silver gilt medal in the literature section went to the Society's own official journal *De Nederlandsche Tijdschrift voor Postzegelverzamelaars* but it is just a little bit surprising to find an advertisement circular which only "appears according to a necessity," and which is solely devoted to one firm's business announcements, being offered for competition at all in a section for "Literature," far less being crowned with an award.

108 Medals for 82 Exhibitors.

I venture to think it would have been wiser to limit the number of medals in order to give them some status, which they can scarcely be said to possess when one notes that out of 129 exhibits listed in the official catalogue, 108 are mentioned for awards of medals, leaving but fifteen out, those being, with perhaps two or three exceptions, the collections of the judges themselves.

The Attendance.

The show was but poorly attended. It had been advertised locally, but only just at the last. There were a few advertisements in the local newspapers. Sunday was the best attended day, but even then there was no large attendance. A few boys were seen, and a couple of them to whom I spoke, told me that lots of his friends at school collected stamps. I asked a member of the committee if any effort had been made to get the school boys to come to the Exhibition, and he said that it was not worth while as boys in Holland did not collect stamps as they do in England. As an advertisement for philately in Holland, the Exhibition was comparatively valueless. The only visitors who came, came because they were already collectors, and no missionary work was done.

"A Home from Home."

Now in future exhibitions I should like to see a sort of master of ceremonies, or two or three officials deputed to get visitors to register immediately they arrive and to

assist those who wish to meet friends only known to them by correspondence. There should also be a cloak room for visitors, who, when they have travelled 24 to 36 hours to spend a week examining stamp collections, do not wish to hold their hats and umbrellas in their hands and keep their overcoats on in stuffy rooms. The committee had all these conveniences, why not extend them to the visitors, at any rate those from a distance? One visitor from a far off colony, told me he had quite enough of the Exhibition the first day he arrived, and he might just look in for a moment once again before he left. Quite half the English visitors left before half the week was over.

The General Arrangement.

In certain respects the Exhibition was admirably arranged. The stamps were set out well on the familiar triangular shaped stands. All this part had been well attended to. The light was not uniformly good, but for most purposes it was sufficient. Owing to the meagre attendance, there was no crowding. The special post office erected in the Exhibition did a roaring trade, especially in the newly issued provisional 4 on 6½ cents postage due stamp mentioned in our stop press column last week, as well as in many of the low value stamps which were affixed to mail matter and posted in the Exhibition to get the special postmark.

The Alaska-U.S. Stamp.

The new U.S. Commemorative Stamp to advertise the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition is to hand. The face value is 2c., it is a horizontal oblong in shape, deep red in colour, and bearing on an arched medallion a portrait of Secretary of State, William H. Seward, who has only hitherto been portrayed on the high value official stamps of the State Department. The stamp bears the value in numerals and also in words. A white band extending round the curve of the medallion has the inscription ALASKA-YUKON-PACIFIC 1909. We are indebted to Mr. Benedict Prieth, of the *New Jersey Freie Zeitung*, for an unused pair and a copy posted on the day of issue, June 1st.

The Seattle Exposition.

The Exposition in connection with which the above mentioned stamp was issued is being held at Seattle, and is said to be one of the most interesting ever held in America, and to possess many features which are unique. The National Government and the Governments of most of the States of the Union, Canada, and representatives of nations beyond the sea, had part in the opening ceremonies, and nothing was lacking to make the occasion an historic event on the Pacific coast.

Why they settled on Seattle.

It would of course have been impossible to have held the Exposition in Alaska, and Seattle was chosen as the *locale* because it is from there that settlers, miners and tourists set sail for the north, and it is to Seattle that the products of the vast territory of Alaska are brought. The Exposition has a much wider field of interest than that suggested by the name Alaska. Practically all the States west of the Rockies, the Canadian North West, Hawaii, and the Philippines, are all well represented, so that the event is one which primarily displays the products and features of interest of the shores and islands of the Pacific. This idea is typified in the grounds of the Exposition by a fountain, capped with a bronze figure styled "The Spirit of the Pacific." Below the allegorical figure are grouped figures representing the Indians, Eskimos, Japanese, Chinese and Pacific Islanders.

A Two Million Pounder.

The National Government has spent £120,000 on its part of the Exposition, Washington appropriated £200,000, and California £20,000. The total cost of the Exposition is said to be £2,000,000. The Dominion of Canada, which has one of the finest buildings on the grounds, has installed the permanent Canadian exhibit which was shown in London last year.

The Iceberg on the SEAL.

It is a little puzzling to know why the organisers of the Exposition should have objected to the iceberg design

as stated in *The Postage Stamp* a few weeks back. We have seen the very handsome design adopted for the great seal of the Exposition, and here we see in the background the sun behind an iceberg and in the foreground three figures. The central figure is holding a tempting nugget, of the other two figures, one holds a locomotive in her hand and the other an ocean liner. Why then should the organisers object to an iceberg on the stamps if they adopt it on their great seal? And in any case, was the writer in the *Detroit Free Press* not a little bit muddled when he described the originally proposed design as "a cake of ice on which a seal is reposing." Possibly it was the great seal which had the upper hand!

'The Times' on Postage Stamp Sales

The following interesting Review of Stamp Sales is quoted from a communication to "The Times," of June 4th

COLLECTORS are in most cases singularly impatient—even often contemptuous—of the idiosyncrasies of others who affect totally different hobbies. Perhaps no form of collecting has been subjected to so much scorn and sarcasm as stamp-collecting. The philatelist is in the awkward predicament of an incompetent advocate briefed with a case requiring subtle argument and mental agility. Stamps are rarely things of beauty; those most sought after are nearly always exclusively noteworthy on account of their rarity; and the collector can only answer the scorn of the philistine either by abuse—which is admitted on all hands to be no argument—or by dignified silence, and by going on collecting.

It will surprise most people who do not collect anything to know that of all forms of collecting that of postage stamps is probably the most widespread. It is almost the only youthful hobby which can be enjoyed and pursued in manhood and old age with ever-increasing zeal. The field is practically boundless. There are at least 55,000 varieties, not counting what may be termed varieties of varieties. The British Empire has about 18,000 different sorts of postage stamps. Forty years ago, when Stafford Smith & Co. of Brighton, published their *Illustrated Catalogue of Postage Stamps* (second edition), they could enumerate only 1,947 varieties, of which 17 only are registered under the two sections of "Argentine Confederation" and "Argentine Republic"; to-day the Argentine Republic numerically leads all other countries (not counting colonies, &c.) of the world with a list of about 8,750 stamps—mostly manufactured with an eye to commercial profit rather than to fiscal necessities. [There are only 273 stamps listed in the *Gibbons' Catalogue under Argentine Republic, and all but one or two issues have not the slightest taint of the "Commercial Profit" referred to by the Times correspondent.—Editor, The Postage Stamp*].

A mere glance at the London Directory will reveal the fact that the number of stamp dealers is a large one, and as their shops are for the most part in such crowded thoroughfares as the Strand, where rents are high, their turnover must necessarily run into several figures. The firm of Stanley Gibbons, believed to be the oldest in the trade, having started in or about the year 1856, was transformed into a limited company a few years ago with a capital of £120,000, and the turnover of that firm in 1897 was given in the prospectus as over £50,600. From stamp

dealers to stamp auctioneers is an easy step, for the auctioneer is the inevitable associate of the dealer. Stamp collecting had not been many years in vogue before the sale of stamps by auction came into existence. The first auction of this description of which we have found any record was held by Messrs Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge, at 13, Wellington Street, Strand, on March 18th, 1872, and comprised the stock of J. W. Scott & Co., the total of the sale being £258, the two highest prices being £6 paid for a St. Louis 20 cent and £8 12s. for a variety of the same. This experimental auction sale does not seem to have been extensively imitated—it was never repeated by the same firm—for some years; but the custom appears to have been revived in the eighties and nineties of the last century. One of the first of the regular firms of stamp auctioneers was that of Messrs. Cheveley & Co., of 63, Chancery Lane, whose sales were held in the evening as are nearly all other sales to-day—and started with free cups of tea to those who "assisted" at the sales. A rough computation of the turnover at London postage stamp auctions during the last quarter of a century places the total at something approaching £1,000,000 sterling. For some years stamp auctions were confined to London; the first one to be held in the provinces was, we believe, that conducted by Messrs. Cheveley & Co. at Manchester, in June, 1896, when many high prices up to £20 were realised.

At the present moment there are about half a dozen firms of auctioneers who make a speciality of stamp sales, the "pick" of the business going to Messrs. Puttick and Simpson, of Leicester Square, and Messrs. Ventom, Bull and Cooper, of 35, Old Jewry, E.C. There are also Messrs. Plumridge, Messrs. Glendining, and others. Messrs. Ventom held their first sale at the end of 1888. As each sale usually lasts two days (or rather evenings), and consists of about 400 lots, those with a gift for arithmetic can work out for themselves the approximate number of lots sold by this one firm during the last 21 years. Some of the lots, however, consist of from 1,000 to nearly 4,000 stamps. [To enable the arithmetician to work this out it is necessary to add the number of sales held by this firm in the given period. The number is 307 including the final sale of the present season. This, taking 400 as the average number of lots per sale, gives a total of 122,800 lots.—Editor, *The Postage Stamp*].

The distinction of having obtained the "record" auction price for a single stamp belong to Messrs. Puttick and

Simpson, at whose rooms an example of the Mauritius 1847, 2d. blue "Post Office," unused, realised £1,450 in January, 1904. The German Post Office Museum sent over an unlimited commission for the stamp, which the authorities were anxious to obtain for their great collection, but at £1,400 their agent lost courage, and the stamp was secured for the Prince of Wales. This stamp, which, with the 1d. issue of the same date, is one of the dozen or so great rarities of the stamp-collecting world, is far more valuable in the matter of weight than radium; it was found by accident in a small collection belonging to Mr. James Bonar, of Hampstead, who had no idea he had such a rarity in his possession, not having looked at his collection since he was a boy at school in the sixties. Some of the later issues of Mauritius stamps have fetched very high prices: the 2d. blue "Post-Paid" stamp of 1848, unused, realised £140, and a used example £92—both sold by Messrs. Ventom. The second highest auction price for a postage stamp in this country would seem to be the £400 paid for a Western Australia 4d. blue swan inverted, at Messrs. Ventom, Bull & Cooper's; and the third highest sum, £350, also obtained by Messrs. Ventom, went for a Cape of Good Hope 4d in a block of four red triangulars, of which the three others were 1d. values. Very nearly the same extraordinary sum—to be exact, £341—was paid at Messrs. Puttick & Simpson's for a set of four Moldavia stamps, the first issue in 27, 54, 81, and 108 paras (a used example of the 81 paras has sold for as much as £92 at Messrs. Ventom's); the last three of this set were priced in Stafford Smith & Co.'s catalogue in 1868 at 1s., 1s. 3d., and 1s. 6d. respectively, and those who made their purchases of these stamps in 1868 might very well suggest that as an investment stamp collecting has much in its favour!

Very high prices have been paid within these last few years for stamps of our own country. One of the most remarkable, though far from the highest, was the £60 given for "an essay for a postage stamp," prepared by James Chalmers in 1839—apparently one of the 2,700 essays for stamps which the Treasury had received a few months after the Act for a uniform penny postage was passed. One wonders what has become of the other essays, and whether they are still among the Treasury archives. An example of our 1862 9d. bistre with secret marks known as "hair lines" in the corners has sold for £51; the 1876 4d. vermilion, plate 16, a very rare stamp, not yet found (so I am informed by Mr. Neville Stocken, Messrs. Puttick's expert) in an unused condition, and only three or four used copies known, has realised £70; the overprinted "Government Parcels" for use on official parcels, the 1d. lilac with the overprint inverted, 26 guineas; and the "I.R. Official," for use of the Inland Revenue department, 1902, 5s., 10s. and £1, on the

King's head issue, the set unused (very few sets known) produced £186. All the foregoing were sold at Messrs. Puttick's. Messrs. Ventom's long list of big prices includes the very high one of £230 paid for a block of 20 V.R. Great Britain stamps; £235 for a block of five 1d. Sydneys; £127 10s. for a sheet of Transvaals, Queen's head provisional; £50 for a Transvaal with error "Transvral"; £101 for a 12d. Canada; £105 for a Barbados pair of provisionals, 1d. on 5s.; £180 for a Ceylon 4d rose, unused; £92 for a British Guiana, 1856, 4c. black on blue; £65, £62 and £61 for three Newfoundlandlands respectively, 2d. carmine, 1s. orange, and 1s. carmine; and £65 for a Cape of Good Hope 1d. blue error.

The highest price paid at recent sales for a United States stamp went for an example of the celebrated Brattleboro, 1847, 5c., black on buff, £100 (at Messrs. Ventom's)—this is one of the provisionals issued by the postmasters of the various cities of the United States pending the preparation of the general issue; some of these provisionals are amongst the rarest of the world's stamps, only one or two of some of them being known. Two other rarities of the same country, the 1869 15c. and 24c., the errors with the centre portion printed in an inverted position—these two produced £35 10s. at Messrs. Puttick's, in whose rooms also the Belgium 1850 10c. brown, a block of 12, and the 20c. blue, a block of eight, the variety with the framed watermark and unused, sold for £150.

A few of the other noteworthy prices at recent sales held by Messrs. Ventom may be grouped together. Baden, 6kr. green, error of colour, £100; a sheet of 12 6d. Nevis, £155; Tuscany, 3 lire, unused—a gift to the war fund sale held by this firm at St. Martiu's Town Hall in March, 1900, when about £1,150 was handed over to the fund—£93; another example of the same, but used, £60; a Reunion, 30c., £50; and a Confederate States, Grove Hill, £50.

The most remarkable collection of postage stamps dispersed by auction within recent years was probably that of the late M. Le Roy d'Étiolles, sold in Paris. This sale, which was concluded in June, 1907, occupied 50 days, and the 12,688 lots, some of which consisted of a thousand stamps, produced the grand total of 827,752f. Messrs. Ventom's sales of private collections have included the "Good" collection, which realised about £10,000; the "Tamsen" collection, which has shown a total of over £7,000; whilst that of Mr. Reid, which is in process of dispersion, and has extended to several sales, has already realised many thousands of pounds. These figures show that the collecting of postage stamps is no longer merely the hobby of the schoolboy with a few spare coppers in his pocket.

The Alleged Stamp Frauds

Accused Dealers Committed for Trial.

AT Bow Street, before Mr. Curtis Bennett, John Stewart Lowden, of Villiers Street, Strand, and Henry Harmer, of Westcliff-on-Sea, stamp dealers, were again charged on remand with conspiring to obtain money by fraud and with conspiracy under the Post Office Act.

It was alleged that they had obtained in Paris a large number of forged British North Borneo stamps for the purpose of selling to collectors.

Detective-Sergeant Curry produced the translations of letters in French sent by Herbert Mack & Co., with

whom the accused were said to have been connected, to a printer in Paris on whose premises a number of forged British North Borneo stamps were found.

Mr. Bodkin read extracts from some of the letters. In one, he said, the writers stated they were sending 80,000 sheets of paper, and in another they complained that the stamps they had received from Paris were badly perforated, and that out of ten sheets they had received not one was perfect.

The prisoners, who pleaded not guilty, were committed for trial on the same bail as before.—*The Standard.*

The Dutch International Exhibition

A Glut of Medals—More Medals than Exhibitors—Notable Collections of Holland and Colonies

BY FRED J. MELVILLE



President C. WAFELBAKKER, of the Nederlandsche Vereeniging Van Postzegelverzamelaars, and Chairman of the Exhibition Committee.

A General Impression.

AS may be gathered from other sources the International Philatelic Exhibition at Amsterdam was not an unqualified success. In one respect it may have been a success. As every available space was taken up, the revenue accruing from the rather exorbitant charge of 8s. 4d. per square metre for private exhibits must have been considerable, though the gate money was probably almost entirely limited to the coteries of visitors from abroad. In point of attendance, and in the matter of the "inter-nationality" of the stamps exhibited, the results could scarcely be said to be all that could be desired.

A Glimpse of the Show.

The Exhibition was held in a very suitable building known as the Bellevue Hall in the Leidschekade, adjoining the American Hotel, which is a very handsome and comfortable modern hotel, and was the temporary home of most of the well known philatelists from abroad. The Bellevue really consists of four halls and minor rooms opening into one another. The large hall which is the first to be entered from the street has a stage for the orchestra at one end, and a raised platform on one side was fitted up with a provisional post office, where many thousands of the new provisional unpaid stamps were dispensed along with other varieties to the dealers and collectors present during the period of the Exhibition.

The Dutch Society's Jubilee.

The Exhibition, it is perhaps scarcely necessary to repeat here, was to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Netherlands Philatelic Society, and there was a programme of fêtes arranged in connection with the celebration. I trust the Society may continue

its work for many years, and that all in good time it may celebrate its jubilee.

Opening Ceremony and other Events.

The opening ceremony took place shortly after 9 o'clock on the afternoon of Thursday, June 3rd. Mr. C. Wafelbakker, the President of the Netherlands Philatelic Society, introduced Baron Rudolf Lehmann, who gave his opening speech in four languages, Dutch, English, French, and German. At 6.30 there was held a banquet in the Bible Hotel, in the Beursstraat, at which the Baron took the chair and repeated his linguistic feat. The next evening (Friday) a large company attended a variety performance in the Grand Theatre Van Lier. During the evening it leaked out that the judges had awarded the Baron the championship for his extensive aggregation of Dutch stamps, and the occasion was celebrated with a great deal of warmth, Mr. Naret Koning, who is attached to the Greek embassy in Amsterdam, and who is also philatelic secretary to the Baron being enthusiastically cheered. Mr. Koning had worked hard and deserved all the cordial recognition he got at the hands of his colleagues of the Dutch Society.

On Saturday the 5th inst. a second banquet was held, this time in one of the halls of the Zoological Gardens. At this the full list of awards was given. The speech-making throughout was a babel of tongues, but the only speech from an Englishman was an oration in Dutch by Mr. A. J. Warren, who is as much a master of the language as he is master of the knowledge of the stamps of Holland.

Excursions.

The Exhibition was open on Sunday afternoon and evening, and on Monday there was an enjoyable steamboat excursion to the Isle of Marken which was attended by over sixty ladies and gentlemen. Tuesday was set apart as a day of rest, though why it should have been is somewhat puzzling, for the Exhibition remained open and no doubt many of the officials had to be in attendance. Wednesday was partly occupied by a visit to the Rijks Museum. The Exhibition closed on Thursday at 4 p.m., and there was a little final gathering in the American Hotel to round off the week of festivities.

British Visitors.

Among the British visitors to the Exhibition were A. J. Warren, H. Lee, H. J. Duveen, Willy Jacoby, D. Field, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Phillips and Son, Herbert F. Johnson, Hugo Griebert, P. L. Pemberton, E. D. Bacon, I. Lamb, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Slade, J. K. Boddy, Baron Lehmann, of London; W. Ward, J. S. Higgins and Taylor, of Manchester; and C. Whitfield King and C. Whitfield King, junr., of Ipswich. Mr and Mrs. Fred Hagen, of Australia, and Mr. A. D. Ferguson, of Georgetown, British Guiana, were also present. Mr. Ferguson is the Hon. Secretary of the British Guiana Philatelic Society.

Other Visitors.

Other collectors and dealers present at the Exhibition were Dr. jur P. Kloss, Dresden; Friedr. Breitfuss, St.

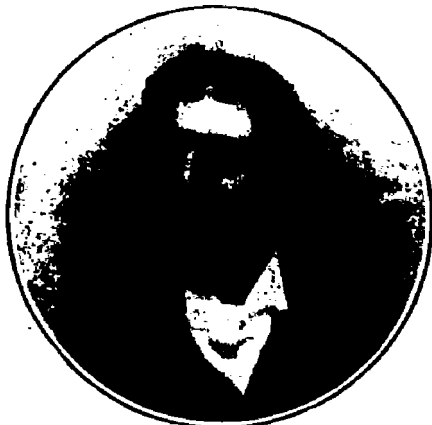
Petersburg; J. Goosen, Amsterdam; and Baron A. de Reuterskiold, Lausanne, of the jury; President C. Wafelbakker, Von Schmid, G. T. Stork, C. C. v. Altena, Lehmann, L. A. Beuser and A. W. Polman of the Committee; Paul Kohl, Chemnitz; J. H. Spiet, Amsterdam; Ernst Zumstein, Berne; Joan Calisch, Amsterdam; G. Keiser, Hague; Louis Weimar; Buck, Hanover; J. Limper, Amsterdam; J. E. Bohlmeijer, Amsterdam; Max Henke, Berlin; v. Altener, Bergen op Zoom; A. G. Last, Amsterdam; J. Rietoff, Amsterdam; Spandon, Rotterdam; Edmund Cohn, Hague; Becking, Hague; J. H. Donnal, Rotterdam; S. Keiser, Hague; de Jonne, Rotterdam; J. E. Meulman, Amsterdam; J. C. Krahmer, Flushing; P. A. Leupen, Harlem; E. Erdman, F. Erdman, Amsterdam; M. Sandow-Runderman, Amsterdam; W. H. Polmen; J. Sandow, Amsterdam; Major Manders, of the West Indies Army; A. Rischpof, Hanover; Hans Müller, Hanover; Syween, Amsterdam; H. C. Sweys, Tetterode; L. J. Buijs, Scheveningen; C. de Regt Barendssoon; M. Riethoff and Anne Riethoff, Amsterdam; Leon de Raay and Son, Amsterdam; J. G. de Mesquita, Amsterdam; A. van Oost, Amsterdam; M. and Mme. Raay, Amsterdam; Hugo Krotzsch, Leipzig; Oberlieutenant Eugen Bayer, Prague; Major C. Y. de Bordes, Adjutant to Her Majesty the Queen Wilhelmina; J. W. Buning, Arnhem; R. Friedl and A. Passer, Vienna; A. Coyette, Paris; N. Koning, of the Greek Embassy in Amsterdam; M. Z. Booleman, Amsterdam.

Guarding the Exhibits.

J. T. Blauw, and P. A. C. Reynen of the Amsterdam detective force were present in plain clothes throughout the duration of the Exhibition.

The Exhibits.

In regard to the exhibits one may state at once that except in Dutch stamps, and one or two countries such as Transvaal, Victoria, New South Wales, France, Sarawak, Mauritius, Tasmania, the exhibition was lamentably weak. The only collection of Great Britain was that contained in Miss Kitty Nelke's fine general collection which received a silver gilt medal in the class for collectors under 18 years; Miss Nelke is 15. But the occasion was a Dutch festival and it was of course a delight to have the opportunity of examining perhaps the greatest aggregation of the stamps of Holland ever brought together. There was much to be learned from them in many respects, but with the great wealth of material the main problem as to the production of the two types in the 1867 issue was not solved.



BARON R. A. LEHMANN, whose stupendous Exhibit of Stamps of Holland and Colonies gained the Championship Award.

Too Many Medals.

I had intended to give a full list of the awards of the jury, but this seems superfluous when one considers that every exhibitor with seven exceptions (excluding the judges) received these awards and that 108 medals were distributed between 82 exhibitors. In future I trust that the managing committees of such exhibitions will place a limit on the acceptance of medals from donors, as in the present case the surplus of medals has nullified the interest or value in their possession. The distinction indeed is to those seven who did not get medals.

In the case of collections of stamps and entires EVERY EXHIBIT is awarded a medal. It was only in section VII., devoted to Literature, Albums and Philatelic Accessories, that one could escape an award. Some exhibitors of stamps received two medals, but only one received three, that being Mr M. Z. Booleman, the stamp dealer of Amsterdam who acted as Secretary to the exhibition, one of the medals being awarded to him in the section for Philatelic Journals for his occasionally published price list "Confidentia."

Not a single Dutchman escaped having a medal.

It would be invidious to make comparisons between the exhibits which did not get awards and those in the same section which did get recognition. The fault—and we believe it is a serious fault—lay in there being too many medals, and any critical faculty which may have been displayed by the jurors is lost.

It must not be thought that as everything received a medal in the stamps and entires sections that the collections were all of so high a standard that they could not have been passed by. Many indeed were small single stamp collections which bore no trace of study or research, or even of careful arrangement. To these I shall refer only in the briefest terms in my notes on the exhibits.

The Exhibits Described.

Division I.—Holland and Colonies. (11 medals to 12 exhibits).

(1) The collection belonging to Baron R. A. L. Lehmann is a great aggregation of unused and used stamps of Holland and the Dutch Colonies mounted in an elaborate style with coat of arms at the top of every page. The Holland portion was, if I remember rightly, awarded a bronze medal at the International Exhibition in London in 1906, when it was in competition with Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson's Holland which took the gold medal. At Amsterdam the entire collection gained the championship award. It is particularly strong in unused, and there is an abundance of complete sheets of the later issues including a complete sheet of the 10 gulden (Coronation design) which may some day be an unique possession. In the early issues, the chief interest was in the postmarks shewn, including a very well worked out key to the numeral postmarks on the third issue. A number of split provisionals were shewn which we did not note in any of the other collections. Mr. Naret Koning who arranged the collection in his capacity of philatelic secretary to the Baron, has made a fine study of the unpaids, and would add to the already very complicated catalogue of them an additional two types (making six in all) of the 1881 to 1885 series. The sheets on which the collection was mounted bore some notes in English, some of which were rather obscure owing to the free use of such words as "practically," which could not be fitted in to any real meaning. This is the more surprising as Mr. Koning himself is an excellent linguist, and was one of the few who did his best to make the foreign visitors welcome.

(2) The collection of J. J. Werumeus Buning, of Velp, was a smaller and more compact one than the Baron's but covered the same field. There were mint blocks of four of all three values in each of the first issues; a number of minor varieties were shown in the later issues, and

the unpaids were worked out on the four types basis.

(3) Mr. P. W. Waller's (Overveen) collection starts off most interestingly with a little original document which was the notice issued by the Dutch Minister of Finance at the end of 1851 to explain the manner in which the then forthcoming postage stamps were to be used. This beginning gave promise of a really historical collection which was well borne out throughout the entire display of this exhibitor's stamps. An interesting series of misprints, diagrams of the overprints of Suriname, and quite an unusual display of a big series of entires from all countries bearing Dutch unpaid stamps.

The only superfluous elements in this collection seemed to be the systematic shewing of all the stamps in

- singles
- pairs
- strips of three
- blocks of four
- and on entires.

The collection richly deserved the gold medal which was awarded to its exhibitor.

(4) Mr. D. C. Paraira, of Amsterdam, received a silver gilt medal in this section for an interesting display. I noted that he showed the now well-known variety of the split T in CENT on the 25c. lilac of the 1872-88 issue in three varieties of perforation, $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, and $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$. Mr. Wetherell (*Monthly Journal* xvi., 147) stated that this variety only exists with the $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ perforation. There did not appear to be any doubt about the bona-fides of the specimens, and we should revise Mr. Wetherell's statement that on account of the $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ perforation the variety must have "occurred on the left vertical row of the sheet, and if a faker of minor varieties made . . . split letters T for the benefit (!) of specialists, and inserted these little points on stamps perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, his sin would find him out, or rather we should find him out."

Among other perforation varieties Mr. Paraira showed the 15 and 20c. of 1867, Die II., perf. $10\frac{1}{2} \times 10$, and the 5 and 20c., perf. 14, small holes.

(5) The collection formed by Mr. A. J. Warren, of Epsom, was in point of chronological arrangement and evident research immeasurably superior to the other exhibits of Dutch issues. It is in every sense a collection of historical data. The collection starts off with a fine block of 20 proofs in black of the 5c. 1852, the Moesman reprints are shown in green, orange, canary yellow, black, blue, brown, etc.

This was the only exhibit which noted the retouches in the first issue. The stamp which received most of the retouches in the upper corners and the scrolls at right and left was the 5c., and of these varieties Mr. Warren shewed a magnificent range, accompanied by enlarged photographs to show the retouched parts. The 10c. value with the horn variety mentioned in last week's issue of *The Postage Stamp* was represented by a single unused, and a strip of four and numbers of other copies used.



NARET KONING, Philatelic Secretary to the Baron Lehmann, who arranged the Championship Exhibit

There was a block of six unused printed from the original plate without the flaw, and a block of ten from the faulty plate after the defect had been repaired. An unusual piece was the mint block of six of the 5c. of the 1864 issue.

The perforations have received a great deal of attention from Mr. Warren whose studies of this difficult country are very valuable contributions to the knowledge of the Dutch perforations. We noted rows of stamps which had been, as it were, "reconstructed" to show the arrangement of particular perforating machines.

Strips of the later stamps shewing the positions of the flaws and varieties were included, and we noted that the star-shaped flaw on the bicoloured 20c. of 1908 occurs on the fourth stamp in the bottom row in the sheet. As this variety is repeated in the bicoloured 15c. no doubt it is due to a flaw on the key plate.

Mr. Warren's collection was awarded a gold medal

(6) Mr. A. F. W. Stros, of Utrecht, shewed a good collection of unused Dutch for which he received a silver medal.

(7 and 12) A silver medal was also awarded to A. C. Voss, of Amsterdam, for his two entries. (a) Holland Adhesives; (b) Holland Entires.

Other exhibits in this section were:—

(8) Louis Weimer, Rotterdam (adhesives), silver gilt medal.

(9) Jhr. J. A. A. V. Schmid, Amsterdam (Cancellations on Dutch stamps), silver gilt medal.

(10) G. Buijs, Scheveningen (entires), silver gilt medal.

(11) W. P. Costerus, Edam (entires), bronze medal.

[Notices of some of the more important exhibits in the other sections will be published in next week's *Postage Stamp*].

"What's On."

Thursday, June 17th. London Auction (Ventom).
 Friday, " 18th. " " " "
 Saturday, " 19th. Mrs. Field's Garden Party to Members of the Junior Philatelic Society.
 Monday, " 21st. London Auction (Hadlow).
 Tuesday, " 22nd. " " " "
 Thursday, " 24th. " " (Plumridge).
 Friday, " 25th. " " " "
 Every week-day—Golden West Exhibition (with Stamp Section) at Earl's Court.

Our Advertisers' Offers.

Messrs. Bridger & Kay include Natal, Madagascar, Swaziland and Tasmania in their special offers this week.

Mr. Oswald Marsh has some interesting items in Great Britain stamps on offer.

The Victoria Stamp Co. advertise superb lightly used copies of a number of cheap and medium stamps.

Messrs. Pemberton & Co. offer a packet collection of 40 varieties of Chili for 1s. 9d.

Mr. James Rhodes offers a big variety of bargains in used and unused stamps. He adds a list of stamps wanted to purchase.

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.
After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

Austria.—(Vol. III. p. 69).—We take the following interesting paragraph from *Meeke's Weekly Stamp News*: "The New England Stamp Co. calls our attention to a change that has been made in the 60h. Jubilee stamp which materially changes the aspect of the stamp. The change consists of the removal of the horizontal lines in the sky, thus bringing into greater prominence the Emperor's head. That the change has been made by re-engraving the old plates is shown by the fact that in all the specimens seen, there is a little spot of the horizontal lines left just above the horse's head, giving him a halo, as it were." From the above description, however, we should imagine the change has been made by re-engraving the die and not the plate.

Bolivia.—(Vol. IV. p. 93).—A correspondent informs *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* that he has an undoubtedly imperforate pair of the 10c. brownish-purple of the 1897 issue.

Canal Zone.—(Vol. III. p. 311) —We gather from *Meeke's Weekly Stamp News* that a new 2c. Panama stamp surcharged "CANAL ZONE" has been issued, though, up to the present, the stamp has not been placed on sale in an unsurcharged state. The portrait is the same as on the preceding issue, i.e., "Fernandez de Cordoba," but the head is larger and has a more imposing appearance. The stamp is printed in vermilion red with the centre in black. The design of the frame is quite new and a particularly attractive one. Around the oval containing the portrait is "REPUBLICA DE PANAMA" at the top, and "DOS CENTESIMOS" at the bottom. Across the top of the stamp is "CORREOS," at the base "DE BALBOA" is shown, and the numerals of value are placed on square tablets at the sides. The ornamentation is simple, yet graceful, and at the foot of each stamp the imprint of the American Bank Note Co., N.Y., appears. The new stamps issued to date for this territory are:—

New designs. Surcharged "Canal Zone."		
	s.	d.
2c. vermilion-red and black	...	—
10c. violet and black	...	0 8

China (German).—(Vol. I. p. 107).—From divers of our contemporaries we learn that the 20c. on 40pf. has appeared on the lozenge watermarked paper making the list of varieties issued to date as follows:—

German stamps surcharged.		
Watermarked Lozenges. Perf. 14.		
	s.	d.
1c. on 3pf. brown	...	0 1
20c. on 40 pf. black and carmine	...	0 8
1/2 dol. on 1 m. carmine	...	1 6
1 dol. on 2 m. blue	...	3 0
2 1/2 dol. on 5 m. lake and black	...	6 3

Crete (Italian).—(Vol. IV. p. 130).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. now send us the current 25c. Italian stamp surcharged "LA CANEA" for use in the offices in this island. We can, therefore, authoritatively list the following as actually issued:—

Contemporary stamps of Italy.		
Overprinted "LA CANEA."		
	s.	d.
5c. green	...	0 1
10c. rose	...	0 2
25c. blue	...	0 4

Finland.—It is rumoured that ordinary Russian stamps are now in use here, this marking the complete suppression of the autonomy of Finland.

French Somali Coast.—(Vol. III. p. 238) —We understand that an entirely new set of stamps will be issued for this colony shortly. The designs will be similar to those of the current set but the centime values are to be larger, while the franc stamps will appear in new colours.

Greece.—A correspondent sends the *Philatelic Adviser* a notice to the effect that "the Minister of Finance has appointed a committee consisting of the Postmaster-General, the Director of Antiquities, the Director of Fine Arts, and other eminent men, to decide upon a design for a new series of postage stamps."

Guatemala.—(Vol. IV. p. 130).—From several of our contemporaries we learn that there are two other provisionals in addition to the one recorded last week. These are the 75c. surcharged 2c. and the 50c. surcharged 6c. in type very similar to that employed for the 1908 provisionals. The overprint is in three lines, viz., "1909—DOS DOS—CENTAVOS" (the middle line is "SEIS SEIS" for the 6c.), in black. There are two errors in each sheet having an "F" in "CENTAVOS" and a more minor variety exists with a smaller "s" in the same word.

1909. Provisional Issue.

2c. on 75c. lilac and black
6c. on 50c. brown and blue
12 1/2c. on 2p. vermilion and black

Hyderabad.—(Vol. IV. p. 8).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a new 4a stamp in the type inscribed "POSTAGE" and inform us that the 3a. of the same design, which was reported some months ago, has only just been issued. The complete list of varieties is now as follows:—

Inscribed "POSTAGE."		
Watermark of Arabic characters. Perf. 12 1/2.		
	s.	d.
1a. blue	...	0 1
2a. pale grey	...	0 1
3a. orange	...	0 1
4a. vermilion	...	0 1
5a. green	...	0 1
1a. carmine	...	0 2
2a. lilac	...	0 4
3a. chestnut	...	0 5
4a. olive green	...	0 6

Japan.—(Vol. II. p. 69) —*Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* announces that current supplies of the 15 sen. are in quite a new shade, dull purple-mauve, which is very distinct from the bright mauve hitherto in use.

Levant (Russian).—Quite an interesting series of new stamps has been issued for use in the Russian offices in the Turkish Empire according to *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*. The stamps are of new designs, evidently similar to the contemporary stamps of Russia, but with different centres. On the 1, 2, 4 and 10 kop. values, the centre-piece shows a ship, and this is in the same colour as the rest of the stamps; on the 50 and 70 kop. the centre shows a ship and two dates embossed in colour; while the rouble values have similar centres but are much larger stamps. The list of varieties is as follows:—

New designs. Surcharged with new values.

5	PARAS	on 1 kop.	yellow
10	"	" 2 "	green
2)	"	" 4 "	rose
1	PIASTRE	on 10 kop.	blue
5	PIASTRES	on 50 kop.	violet and green
7	"	" 70 "	brown and yellow
10	"	" 1 rouble	brown and orange
35	"	" 3½ "	brown and green
70	"	" 7 "	"

Maldives.—(Vol. IV. p. 116).—We append an illustration of the design of the new stamps chronicled on page 116.



Mexico.—(Vol. II. p. 68)—The *Philatelic Adviser* announces the discovery of a copy of the 2 reales, black on pink, of 1861, printed on both sides. The stamp is used and bears the "Mexico" overprint in Gothic type.

Nicaragua.—(Vol. IV. p. 93).—After a fairly quiescent period this Republic has caught another bad attack of "surchargitis" and *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* gives an appalling list of new varieties as follows:—

Small size fiscal stamps surcharged "CORREOS—1908," vertically downwards.

5p.	dull blue, surcharged in green
50p.	orange vermilion, surcharged in black

Similar fiscal stamps, dated "1904," similarly surcharged, and also with "VALE 4C."

4c.	on 25c. lilac, surcharged in black
4c.	on 50c. green, " " "

Large size fiscal stamps surcharged "CORREOS—1908," vertically downwards.

1c.	indigo, surcharged in black
2c.	orange, " " "
5c.	brown, " " "
5c.	" " " green
1p.	claret, " " black

Stamps of same design, similarly surcharged, and also with "VALE 4C."

4c.	on 1c. indigo	surcharged in black
4c.	" 2c. orange	" " "
4c.	" 5c. brown	" " "
4c.	" 10c. green	" " "
4c.	" 50c. dull purple	" " "
4c.	" 1p. claret	" " "
5c.	" 2c. orange	" " blue
10c.	" 2c. "	" " green

Porto Rico.—The *Philatelic Adviser* chronicles a number of varieties in the overprints on the provisionals of 1898, viz.:—double surcharge, 2m. de peso yellow-green, 2c. on 2m. red, 5c. on 1m. blue; without "IMPUESTO," 2c. on 2m. red; without "DE," 2c. on 2m. red; with "IMPUESTO" only, 2c. on 2m. red; surcharged with value only, 5c. on 1m. violet.

Roumania.—(Vol. IV. p. 93).—A correspondent has shown *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* a copy of the 1 leu. of 1905, with compound perforation making the list of varieties now known as follow:—

1905. Perf. compound of 11½ and 13½.

		s.	d.
5b.	yellow green	...	0 1
10b.	carmine	...	—
1 leu.	blue-green and black	...	1 3

From the same source we learn that the 5 bani of the current issue is now produced by lithography. The 1 and 3 bani of the same set are also lithographed, and do not, we believe, exist typographed like the other values.



Lithographed. Perf. 11½, 13½, or compound.

		s.	d.
1b.	black	...	0 1
3b.	red-brown	...	0 1
5b.	pale yellow-green	...	—

NOTE.

The Prices affixed are those at which Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. will supply any of the stamps chronicled that may be in stock.

The stamps are supplied at lower rates to subscribers to their New Issue Service, particulars of which can be had on application to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich.

The Prices quoted are for unused

The Postage Stamp Handbooks

Important Announcement regarding the continuation of "Nankivell's Philatelic Handbooks"

Arrangements are now being made for the continuation of the series of small handbooks on the postage stamps of popular countries, which were initiated as "Nankivell's Philatelic Handbooks." Only one has been issued under this title (*Jamaica and Cayman Islands*). In future the series will be styled "The Postage Stamp Handbooks," and while they will be under the general editorship of Mr. Fred J. Melville, they will not be restricted to the writings of any one author.

Among the authors whose works are at present in preparation for this series are the late Mr. Edward J. Nankivell, Mr. Fred J. Melville, and Mr. Bertram W. H.

Pool. The first two booklets are both from the pen of our late Editor, and one of them will deal with the popular Cape of Good Hope stamps.

The work of other writers will be included in the series as opportunity affords, but the series will continue the policy projected for the Nankivell Philatelic Handbooks of reprinting serial articles from *The Postage Stamp*, so that readers may have the more important articles in convenient and separate form.

A further announcement regarding these booklets will appear shortly.

Gambia Sensation

Enquiry upon Oath ordered by Lord Crewe—Government Gazette Extraordinary—Commission Appointed

AT the moment of going to press, we have received by the West African Mail copies of the Government Orders issued on the 11th May last at Bathurst, Gambia, ordering a re-enquiry upon oath as to the circumstances of the issue and disposal of the provisional stamps of Gambia. It will be remembered that in the Melville Handbook on this Colony reference is made to an indictment made by Mr. W. Ward and published at the time in a contemporary.

Mr. Ward denounced the issue and it was through him the first enquiry was made. We have reason to believe that this second investigation (*this time on oath*) is due to the information he has since been able to place in the hands of the Government.

As Mr. Ward is at present out of England we regret we cannot give further particulars than the following notices:—

[COPY.]

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.

COLONY OF GAMBIA.

XXVI. FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1909. No. 20.

88

The following Commission is hereby published for general information:—

BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND.

F. BISSET ARCHER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Bathurst, Gambia, 7 May, 1909.

A COMMISSION

to inquire into the circumstances under which certain postage stamps were issued and the manner in which they were disposed of.

WHEREAS it is provided by Section II. of the Commission of Inquiry Ordinance, 1903, that it shall be lawful for the Governor, whenever he deem it advisable, to issue a Commission appointing one or more Commissioners and authorising such Commissioners, or any quorum of them therein mentioned, to inquire into the conduct of any officer in the public service of the Colony, the conduct of any Head-Chief, or Headman, the conduct or management of any department of the public service or of any public or local institution, or any matter whatsoever, whether arising in the Colonies or Protectorate in which an inquiry would, in the opinion of the Governor, be for the public welfare.

AND WHEREAS it is expedient and for the public welfare that an inquiry should be held into the circumstances under which certain postage stamps, viz.:—(1) Stamps of the denomination of three shillings and surcharged "one penny" and (2) Stamps of the denomination of two shillings and sixpence and surcharged "half-penny," authorised to be placed in circulation on or about

the tenth day of April, 1906, and withdrawn from circulation on or about the 25th day of April, 1906, and the manner in which they were disposed of:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, SIR GEORGE CHARDIN DENTON, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of the Gambia, do hereby by this Commission issued under my hand and the Public Seal of the Colony authorise and appoint the following persons, that is to say:—

His Honour the Chief Magistrate, the Honourable Samuel Horton Jones, Member of the Legislative Council, and the Honourable Ernest Baily, Member of the Legislative Council hereinafter to be referred to as "My Commissioners" and collectively as "The Commission" to inquire into the circumstances under which certain postage stamps, viz.: (1) Stamps of the denomination of 3s. and surcharged "one penny" and (2) Stamps of the denomination of 2s. 6d. and surcharged "halfpenny," authorised to be placed on circulation on or about the 10th day of April, 1906, and withdrawn from circulation on or about the 25th day of April, 1906, were issued, and the manner in which they were disposed of with all such powers for the preservation of order, the conduct and management of proceedings before them, the appointment of hours and times and places of sittings, the adjournment of the inquiry from time to time, the summoning and examination of witnesses, calling for the production of books, plans and documents, and all such authorities and powers whatsoever as are in the above mentioned Ordinance specified; and for the better conduct and management of the inquiry, I hereby direct and declare as follows:—

1. The said Chief Magistrate shall be Chairman of the Commission.

2. The inquiry shall be held in the Court House at Bathurst or at such other place as my Commissioners may from time to time determine.

3. On the completion of the inquiry, the Commission shall render a report in writing, setting forth the conclusions at which they have arrived in reference to the matters the subject of the inquiry together with any observations relative thereto. In case my Commissioners are unable to agree in their conclusions, the Chairman shall render a report in writing, and any Commissioner dissenting therefrom, shall adjoin a statement in writing, indicating the points upon which he dissents and his own conclusions thereon.

4. *The evidence of all witnesses examined shall be taken on oath or affirmation to be administered or made in due form of law, and shall be taken down in writing, and read over to the witnesses and duly signed or otherwise authenticated by them before my Commissioners. The original notes of all evidence so taken shall be forwarded to me along with the report of the Commission.*

5. All other matters and proceedings whatsoever shall be done and regulated as in the above-mentioned Ordinance specified.

AND I APPOINT EDWARD HARTLEY KIRK-PATRICK, Esquire, Lieutenant in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, A.D.C., to be Secretary to attend the sittings of the Commission, to record their

proceedings, to keep their papers, summons and minute the testimony of witnesses, and generally to perform such duties connected with the inquiry as my Commissioners shall describe.

Given under my hand and Public Seal of the Colony at Government House, Bathurst, this 7th day of May, 1909.

GEORGE C. DENTON,
Governor.

GOD SAVE THE KING!

No. 27. E.R. 1909.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

WHEREAS His Excellency the Governor, pursuant to the powers granted to and vested in him by an Ordinance No. 6 of 1903, intituled the "Commission of Enquiry Ordinance 1903" has been pleased to appoint the following persons, that is to say:—

His Honour The Chief Magistrate, The Hon. Samuel Horton Jones, M.L.C.; The Hon. Ernest Baily, M.L.C., to be His Excellency's Commissioners to inquire into the circumstances under which certain Postage Stamps, viz.:—(1) Stamps of the denomination of Three Shillings surcharged "One Penny" and (2) Stamps of the denomination of Two Shillings and Sixpence surcharged "Half-

penny" authorised to be placed in circulation on or about the 19th day of April, 1906, and withdrawn from circulation on or about the 25th day of April, 1906, and the manner in which they were disposed of.

THIS IS TO GIVE NOTICE that the said Commissioners will sit at the Court House of Bathurst on Tuesday, the 18th instant, at 8.30 o'clock in the forenoon to hear and receive evidence touching the subject matter of the said inquiry.

AND FURTHER THIS IS TO GIVE NOTICE that all persons having knowledge of or concerning the issue or the disposal of the Postage Stamps hereinbefore described of any of them and all persons desirous of giving or tendering to the said Commissioners any evidence or information being in respect of the said issue or disposal of the said stamps, or being relevant to the subject matter of the said inquiry, shall attend at the said Court House of Bathurst on Tuesday, the 18th instant, at 8.30 a.m., or at such place and on such day and at such time as the said Commissioners shall direct to communicate such knowledge or to give or tender such evidence or information, and all such persons shall signify at or before 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the 17th instant their intention so to do to one of the said Commissioners or to me the undersigned.

E. H. KIRKPATRICK, Lieut.,

Secretary to the said Commissioners.

Government House,
Bathurst, Gambia,
11th May, 1909.

Notes and News

Biography of the Late Editor Promised.

Mr. F. J. Hallett, the well-known phonographic expert, of Taunton, and until recently joint principal of the Taunton School of Commerce, has become the new editor of the old-established and influential monthly, *The Reporters' Magazine*, in succession to the late Mr. E. J. Nankivell, who occupied a distinguished position in journalistic, philatelic and phonographic circles. A biography of the deceased gentleman is being compiled by Mr. John Lanyon, of Truro, and Mr. W. T. Stead (with whom the late Mr. Nankivell was associated for some years) has promised to contribute an appreciation of his old coadjutor. Mr. Hallett's name has been a household one in phonographic circles throughout the world for some years, and his new appointment has been received with much approval. He was a personal friend of long standing of Mr. Nankivell.—*Bristol Mercury*.

Design of the British Postage Stamp.

Mr. Sydney Buxton replied yesterday in the Parliamentary papers to a question by Mr. Horniman calling attention to "the dissatisfaction existing with the design and quality of colour of most of the stamps" issued by the British Post Office, and asking whether he could hold out any hope of their being replaced at an early date by some more worthy design. The Postmaster-General's answer is that "there is no present intention of adopting a new stamp."—*Morning Post*, May 29th.

Porridge and Hobbies.

The Bishop of Carlisle, who is regarded as a specially sane man on life affairs, has recommended "porridge and hobbies" as preventives to intemperance. There is more and deeper philosophy here than to most will appear on the surface. Bad food and idle, unoccupied hours that hang heavy on men are two of the most potent feeders of the public-house. Porridge is a synonym for health-

food. It is a "non-such." There is no well-regulated home and hardly a first-class hotel in the English-speaking world in which it is not within the reach of every man with which to begin the day.

Wooden-headed men and women often speak of a hobby as marking eccentricity and weakness. It is just the reverse. A man without a hobby that really grips him is a man at the mercy of circumstances. A wise man has said, "The man with a hobby will never die of senile decay." It is equally true that a man with a hobby will seldom, if ever, become a drunkard. Cultivate a healthy hobby that is in direct contrast to your daily calling.—*Sunday Companion*.

The Resignation of Mr. Barnsdall.

It is with the greatest regret that I have to inform the readers of *G.S.W.* that Mr. W. P. Barnsdall has severed his connection with this firm, writes the Managing Director of the Gibbons firm in his house organ.

Mr. Barnsdall joined us some twelve years ago as book-keeper and worked his way up to a seat on the board, to which position he was elected on the death of my friend Mr. Gordon Smith.

Mr. Barnsdall has done a lot of good work for the *Weekly*; for a long time he has written the series of articles entitled "Countries of the World," and their compilation has entailed an enormous amount of original research.

For some years past Mr. Barnsdall has edited several of our albums, notably the "Imperial" and the "Ideal," and for the past three years has done the bulk of the work on the annual Catalogues.

Personally I deeply regret that he has had to leave us; in certain branches of the work of the company he has given me assistance which I shall find it very difficult to replace.

Stop Press News

BRITISH SIAM.

WHAT POSTAGE STAMPS WILL BE USED?

The Foreign Office yesterday issued the text of the treaty signed at Bangkok on March 10th between Great Britain and Siam under the provisions of which Siam cedes to Britain all rights of suzerainty over the States of Kelantan, Tringganu, Kedah, Perlis, and adjacent isles. The jurisdiction of the Siamese international courts is to be extended to British subjects in Siam, but this jurisdiction is to be transferred to the ordinary Siamese Courts after the promulgation of the new codes of law.

Attached is a memorandum explanatory of the circumstances which rendered a modification of the system of British extra-territorial jurisdiction in Siam desirable.

As regards the transfer to Great Britain of jurisdiction over the territories referred to, it is stated that, owing to their distance from Bangkok and the difficulties of communication, especially during the north east monsoon, it was impossible for Siam to control their administration effectively. The people are Malays and Mohammedans, like the natives of the States to the south which form the Federated Malay States. The administration of the States is at present self-supporting, and there is no reason either on the Federated Malay States or the British taxpayer.

The possession of the fine harbour of Langkawi is a matter of considerable importance in connection with the trade route to the Far East. Whilst enabling Siam to consolidate her power and render her administration effective in the northern part of the peninsula which remains to her, the transfer will lead to a great expansion of the trade and commerce which finds an outlet through the ports of the Straits Settlements, and the transfer of Kedah will greatly facilitate the carrying out in Penang of the recommendations of the Opium Commission.

Gambia Sensation.

The Book you ought to read on Gambia Postage Stamps is The Melville Stamp (No. 4). Price 6d. Post free 7d. Published by

The Melville Stamp Books,
47, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

Editor's Letter Box

Publishing Offices:—1, AMEN CORNER, LONDON, E.C.

Editorial Address:—FRED J. MELVILLE, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

Articles, Contributions and Correspondence, should be addressed to the Editor, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the correspondent. Articles, etc., not accepted, will be returned when postage is prepaid.

Business Communications should be addressed to the Manager, and Advertisements to the Advertisement Manager, 1, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

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Correspondence.

The Stellaland Reminders.

The Editor of "The Postage Stamp."

Dear Sir,—Though doubtless I have personally satisfied Mr. Whitfield King in regard to these stamps, it is only due that I should reply to the letter from the above gentleman that appeared a few weeks back, and which I did not see until yesterday.

A Dutch dealer informs me that he never got his Stellaland sets from any British representative, but from a Dutch correspondent (! Boer). Since he did not pay face value—evidently these stamps were "otherwise than legitimately obtained." I do no question Messrs. King's statement in any way, however, as where there are reminders there are often leakage.

Yours, &c,

W. WARD.

Rotterdam, June 9th.

Our Publishing Day and Advertisers.

In order to meet the requirements of the publishing trade our publishers now distribute copies to the Newsagents on Wednesdays instead of Thursdays as before. This compels us to go to press on Saturday morning. Hence it is absolutely necessary for our printers to have all advertisements at latest on Friday morning; consequently, copy must be in the Advertisement Manager's hands not later than Wednesday, 5 o'clock p.m.

Advertisers' Proofs.

We are anxious to consult our Advertisers' convenience to the greatest possible extent, but where proofs have to be supplied and returned our printers must have the "copy" by Thursday morning at the latest, as we now have to print off a portion of our issue on Saturday morning.

Nankivell's Philatelic Handbooks.

It has frequently been suggested to us that we should reprint in cheap and convenient handbook form some at least of the more important special articles from *The Postage Stamp* which deal with popular countries.

These articles cover the general history of each country and its various postal issues. They also include catalogue fluctuation of prices over a period of ten years, thus enabling the collector to see at a glance the relative rarity, and the investment value of every stamp.

The articles are designed to be useful alike to the specialist and the general collector.

We have, therefore, decided to issue a handbook from time to time as opportunity offers.

Now Ready.

No. 1. Jamaica & Cayman Islands.

Foolscap 8vo., price 4d., post free 4½d., from our Printer, Mr. Baldwin, Grosvenor Printing Works, Tunbridge Wells.

FINE STAMPS IN FINEST USED CONDITION.

	each
Austrian Levant, 1908, Jubilee, 20p. or 11p. on blue	1d.
Bosnia, 1906, Pictorial, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10h. each	4d.
" " " 6, 20, 25, 30h.	1½d.
" " " 35, 40, 45, 50h.	3d.
" " " 1 kroner	6d.
" " " 2 "	1¼
" " " 5 "	2½
" " " the complete set, 1h. to 5kr.	5/0
Gold Coast, King, 2d. grey or 3d. brown (New)	2d.
Germany, 1905/6, lozenge wmk., 1 or 2m.	4d.
German East Africa, 1893, 5 pesa.	7d.
" " " 10 "	4½
Cyprus, Queen, 3cp. violet and green	1d.
" " bi-col., 1 or 2 piasres	1d.
" " King, single CA, ½ pi. or 30 paras.	1d.
Ivory Coast, 1900, 50c. brn. & red on blue	4d.
Morocco on Gt. Britain, 40c. or 50c.	4d.
" " " 1 peseta	9d.
Nicaragua, 1909, 10c. violet	1d.
" " 20c. olive	2d.
Persia, current issue surcharged Colis Postaux, Parcel Post, 9c., 10 or 20 chahi	2d.
Siam, Jubilee, 1908, 18 atis	8d.
Switzerland, 19.8/9, 70c. or 1fr.	1d.
" " 3 francs, special	5d.
Serbia, King Peter, one dinar	4d.
Sierra Leone, Queen, 4d. brown	3d.
" " 1896, 4d., 5d., or 6d.	6d.
" " King, single CA, 2½d.	6d.
" " " 4d., rare	1/9
St. Lucia, Queen, 1d. green, 1d. lilac, or 2½d. blue	4d.

Special Bargains in Unused (full gum).

Argentina, 1908/9, 2c. (block of 4, 2d.)	4d.
" " 3d. green	3½d.
" " 4c. mauve	4d.
Soudan, Army Service, 1m. to 1pi., rare set	5/-
" " 5 milliemmes	10d.
" " Plate 2, 1 piastre	2/6
" " Quatrefoils, 2pi.	5/0
" " Cresc. & Star, 2pi. rare	5/6
" " 5pi. rare	18/6
" " Quatrefoils, 10pi. rare	22/6

The Soudan can be supplied in pairs (except the 5 and 10pi.) at the same rate.

Wanted (used or unused) 1st issue 5/- Cayman, all rouble values Russian China, 2 and 5 dollar U.S.A., 10 gulden current Holland, and any other rare stamps, at reasonable prices.

Presented Free to purchasers. Manchester Exhibition Souvenir Card used at Amsterdam, with the special postmark.

JAMES RHODES, 62, MARKET ST., MANCHESTER

The POSTAGE STAMP

An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors

Founded by
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.
Edited by
FRED. J. MELVILLE.

No. 13. Vol. 4.
(Whole Number 91)

26 JUNE, 1909.

Price 1d.

Gossip of the Week

BY CORNELIUS WRINKLE



A Notable Book.

THE past 12 months have been notable for the production of books about stamps. We have had the completion of Maury's "France," C. J. Phillips' "Fiji," Crocker's "Hawaiian Numerals" in the front rank of philatelic importance, and now we have Bellows' "Campeche," the most remarkable stamp book about "the most remarkable stamp ever issued." I do

not know if Mr. Bellows is a millionaire—but I would have no hesitation in calling him an enthusiast of the first degree. The book is a book-lovers' gem, it is a casquet into which a virtuoso has deposited his choicest thoughts about the curios he loves.

Unpopular but Interesting Stamps.

No more unpopular stamp could have been selected for so great a work. But those of us who have handled the tweezers for a decade or two know full well that it matters little how poor the design or how paltry the execution we can find a real interest and a true charm in any stamp which will respond to our love of research, which will yield to our persistent questioning, and prove its original honesty of purpose and its present rarity.

Freaks of Philately.

There has always seemed to me a much truer, sounder interest in what many regard as the monstrosities of philately. There is a *je ne sais quoi* about a stamp produced in the most crude fashion at a time when stress of circumstances precluded access to the more polite forms of stamp production, which makes me eager to fathom its mystery. I think most philatelists, as distinct from speculators, have at least something of a twist in them which makes them openly or secretly love the bizarre, the freaks of philately.

"Screw."

Look at Major Evans for example. I think it is Budyard Kipling who says that a certain amount of

"screw" is as necessary for a man as for a billiard ball—it makes them both do wonderful things. And it is surely something of that vague quality Kipling calls "screw" which has resulted in the masterful, the "wonderful" studies of those weird prints of the Indian Native States. And those studies must have afforded their author an exquisite pleasure (quite apart from the undoubted interest they would arouse in the readers of the articles). Take Mr. J. N. Luff—I doubt whether his collection of the beautiful stamps of the United States ever gave him the same profound personal pleasure as his collection of the unconventional dragons of Shanghai, and the pyramids of Egypt.

Philatelic Conformity.

There will of course always be the great majority of Conformists in philately because it is there that the chief investment lies for the man who is not prepared to give serious study to his stamps. The Conformists will stick to the uncompromising De la Rue type in this country with an occasional venture into the period of the palmy days of the Perkins. So many of us are ready to put in a sixpence with the hope of taking out a pound when we sell. But we are not all so ready to put in work, persistent personal work. We are led by the priced catalogues when we should map out our route for ourselves. The catalogues have nearly wiped out of existence some of the most fertile fields for philatelic research. It is indeed a wonder that the Campeche locals are to be found in priced catalogues at all.

Collect to Enjoy.

We cannot of course blame the dealers for cataloguing the things they can best sell. It is business. But the collector of stamps—speaking broadly, for naturally there are many exceptions—does not regard his hobby in quite the same light as does the collector of bric-a-brac, of paintings, or prints. The latter collects things which are rare because they are rare, or things which are interesting because they are interesting. But he does not buy in the first place with the one eye to what each object will yield when he sells. He appreciates, studies and enjoys his collections while he is making them, and the stamp collector who wants to get the highest benefit out of his stamps will disregard fashion, treat the catalogue quotations as only of secondary importance, and consider the possibilities of investigation and research of paramount importance.

Profit Thrown In.

Fortune will not be unkind to the serious collector who studies and collects the issues of a forsaken country. In the first place he will get his material in comparative plenty at moderate cost for the prices will not be inflated in the catalogues. The result of his researches if published, as researches should be for the benefit of both the author and his fellow students—will attract the attention of others to the interest which is in the stamps they have hitherto neglected. Then he may sell out to advantage, unless, as is indeed often the case, he will have come to have too warm a regard for his treasures and would be loth ever to part with them even at a considerable profit.

Where the Non-Conformist Scores.

Even those who do not publish the results of their investigations will find that as they systematically work up neglected countries they will find a purchaser for their collections often the more readily on account of their being out-of-the-way countries. The wealthy collector who buys collections intact is generally well supplied with the popular countries, and his only field for expansion is in the countries which are off the beaten track.

Gambia Sensation.

Many of our readers will be eagerly awaiting news of the result of the Commission enquiring into the circumstances of the issue of the Gambia provisionals, news of which appeared exclusively in *The Postage Stamp* last week. I quote from our Editor's "Gambia" the report of the Governor of the Colony printed in the report of the first Commission, the evidence before which was apparently not taken on oath:—

"The Governor of the Colony states that as the supply of the ½d. and 1d. stamps had been exhausted before the arrival of a new supply which had been ordered, no [regular] stamps of these denominations were available from the 2nd to the 10th April, letters requiring such postage being stamped 'Postage Paid.' The surcharged stamps were on sale from the 10th to the 24th of April, the date on which the new supply became available. A surplus was left over, which was destroyed with proper precautions."

Wanted—More Correspondents.

I should like to remind my friends the readers of this journal that I am always glad to hear from them. You can easily find something to write about. If you strike a curious sentence in a philatelic paper or in a stamp article or advertisement send it along for the "Items in Brief" column. Or, if you see a philatelic par., or a pseudo-philatelic par. even, it may be of interest to other readers of this journal so let Cornelius have it and earn his everlasting gratitude. We are using our best endeavours to give our readers the promptest information on all new issues and discoveries and shall be glad of the assistance of our numerous friends at home and abroad in obtaining yearly news of new stamps and discoveries. We welcome also Post Office notices and other documents of interest to philatelists.

A Lucky Reader.

Congratulations to the reader who within 24 hours of receiving his *Postage Stamp* of June 12th discovered no fewer than three copies of the rare 1c. British Guiana perf. 14 x 12½. Some folk are born lucky, but that does not apply to people who "write for the papers."

I tender my thanks to Benedict Prieth, W. Ward, W. T. Wilson, and Gerald Bliss for early sendings of new issues.

Not the only Pebbles on the Beach.

Mr. C. J. Phillips, in his report of the Amsterdam Exhibition, complains of the scanty attendance and lack of advertisement, says: "I would recommend the Committee in future to secure a few members of the London and Manchester Junior Philatelic Societies to show them how to get an attendance of thousands of collectors." The italics are not mine but C. J. P.'s very own. And quite right too! Some of those youngsters in London, you know, are getting a bit too—too—[Have a care, Cornelius!—EDITOR.] Anyway, they must not be allowed to think they are the only pebbles on the beach.

A Post Office Puzzle.

The following communication has reached me from Messrs. Harmer, Rooke & Co., under date June 17th.

Dear Sir,

A matter which is of very considerable importance to stamp dealers and collectors has just occurred. We despatched last week a registered packet containing stamps purchased in auction to a French correspondent, these were detained by the General Post Office and returned to us as they contained "goods having market value," and we were referred to a certain section of the "Post Office" guide. We have taken up the matter with the Post Office, but as it is a matter of such considerable importance to the stamp trade and will have the effect of entirely prohibiting all business with the continent, we think it is worth drawing special attention to in your journal.

Yours truly,

HARMER, ROOKE & Co.

Maldivé Perforations.

In looking over some sheets of the new Maldives chronicled in *The Postage Stamp* of June 5th, I find the sheets of the 2, 3 and 10c. are perforated by a comb machine, and the sheets of the 5c. by a single line machine. Possibly some of my readers will find sheets of the 5c. perforated by the comb machine, and the other values with the single line. As is now well known, these perforations can be distinguished in pairs or blocks by the crossing of the horizontal and perpendicular lines of the perforation, as in Gambia.

American Philatelic Society's Convention.

The convention of the American Philatelic Society is to be held at Atlantic City, starting August 24th. Friend Adair writes me that much interest is being aroused by the forthcoming election of officers and in the proposed amendments. "Wish you could attend," he adds. "One whole week of unalloyed pleasure. Can't you do it?"

Gee! don't I wish I could.

Handbills for Circulation.

We have prepared and shall now be glad to send any number of neat handbills of *The Postage Stamp* to any of our friends post free, on application. These little handbills include a specimen page, and being only leaflets are very suitable for enclosing in letters to philatelic friends.

Applications for supplies should be addressed only to Mr. Baldwin, Printer of *The Postage Stamp*, Tunbridge Wells, and friends should say how many they can use. They can be had in dozens, or hundreds, and even thousands, if desired.

The Most Remarkable Stamp Ever Issued

Mr. Walter Clarke Bellows' Magnum Opus Reviewed

BY FRED J. MELVILLE



An error of illustration: CRAL instead of PRAL, which has figured in all the standard catalogues, etc., since 1877.

If you turn to page 380 of Gibbons' Part II, you will find listed (but not priced) three of the most uninteresting-looking stamps in the world. They are those under the heading of Campeche, and are wrongly described in the catalogue as issued by local (Mexican) authorities and postmasters during the revolutionary period 1867-68.

I said the stamps were uninteresting-looking, yet these three unfamiliar stamps have been made the subject of one of the most interesting stamp books ever written, and one of the most sumptuous volumes ever added to the philatelist's bookshelf.

"CAMPECHE: *Some Notes on the most remarkable Postage Stamp ever issued.*" is the title of the book which has been written, arranged and (apparently) privately circulated by Walter Clarke Bellows, of New York.

Even to those who are slightly acquainted with the three values of Campeche provisional stamps it would scarcely seem possible that they could provide matter for a large volume of 103 pages with perhaps a hundred or more beautiful photographs added in the margins. Yet Mr. Bellows has not written a single page of which one cannot read every word with real fascination and wonder.

Philatelic Belles-Lettres.

We confess that we should have been inclined to cold-shoulder the meagre postal emission of Campeche; but Mr. Bellows would not let us. We read his graceful dedication to Mr. W. T. Wilson, of Birmingham, and were tempted on to the preface. Before we knew it the clock had advanced by a couple of hours and we were deep in ecstatic enjoyment of what we unhesitatingly state to be the most fascinating piece of work in the realm of LITERATURE in philately. We have had plenty of books about stamps, and books on the science of philately, but few if any can lay the least claim to brilliance of style or hypnotism of language. Mr. Bellows has both.

In the matter of diction Mr. Bellows naturally writes American, but not loudly so. There is an almost com-

plete absence of the slang of the Yankee, nevertheless there is a picturesqueness of expression which makes every sentence a delight. "Campeche" by Bellows is a contribution to the Belles-Lettres of Philately.

The Book Beautiful.

One hundred copies only of the book are stated to have been printed. The number of our copy has not been filled in but the author has written "Special" instead. We are not certain therefore in describing the format we are describing the style in which the bulk of the edition was produced. As however no other such handsome philatelic volume has ever found a habitation on our library shelves a brief description will not be out of place.

Imagine an album of about 120 pages 10½ in. × 9 in. of marbled hand-made paper, on which neatly printed white pages 8½ in. × 5 in. have been mounted, leaving a narrow margin on the top and inside, and wide margins at the outside and bottom edges. These white pages contain all the reading matter, and the wide margins are illustrated like a scrap book with small photographs to illustrate the subject matter. The whole is interleaved for notes and bound with tape to stiff board covers. Every illustration is an actual photographic print apparently produced by one of the now popular gas-light processes and with the artistic matt surface. If all the books are produced in the same or a similar fashion each copy must have entailed a vast amount of individual labour in mounting the pages and the numerous small and large photographs.

On the Edge of Nowhere.

But to get to the subject matter:—

"In a far-away corner of the world, out of the beaten track of the traveller, unknown to the tourist, in fact, almost bordering on the edge of nowhere, is the State of Campeche . . . That is, it seems so to all who are not there."

Mr. Bellows in some delightful pages tells us—not so much where it is—but that it is quite unnecessary to apologise for gross ignorance should you slyly look up that map of Mexico in order to re-fix its locality clearly in mind. Which is, after all, letting us down very gently. Suffice it to say, in the present notice, that it has been a Federal State since April 29th, 1868, its area is 18,087 square miles, and it is situated on the Gulf of Mexico with Yucatan on the East and Tabasco on the West. It derives its name from two Indian Mayo words Can = snake, and Pech = thick.

A Pseudonym for Fakers.

The postage stamps of Campeche are quite primitive in design and this is set down as one of the reasons why they have attracted the fakers. You must not think however that Mr. Clarke Bellows calls them by this mongrel-Greek name. One can almost detect a sympathetic feeling and a desire that their souls might be spared in spite of the errors of their ways in Mr. Bellows' reference to the makers of spurious labels, as "those

whose love for the quaint outweighs their desire for the true." Here however the suggestion itself is not true. We would paraphrase it to "those whose love for the lucra outweighs their fear of the law."

An Error in Perpetuity.

It seems extraordinary that every stamp catalogue and every handbook which illustrates the stamp of Campeche has assisted in perpetuating an error in the inscription on the upper portion of the stamp. The entire design is composed of two horizontal ovals impressed by means of ordinary hand stamps. In addition large figures denoting the value have been separately added in the upper oval. This oval is inscribed—

ADMON. PRAL. DE CORREOS.

If you consult the illustration in your catalogue you will find this reads—

ADMON. ORAL. DE CORREOS.

The inaccurate illustration first appeared in *Le Timbre Poste* for May, 1877, and from this one erroneous source have descended the catalogue illustrations of these stamps ever since. What confusion has been caused, how many have discarded genuine stamps and accepted faked ones, made in facsimile of the catalogue pictures, heaven only knows, but Mr Bellows shrewdly suspects that their name is legion.

Heitman's Handbuch gives the meaning of the inscription (which his illustration gives as CRAL) as Administracion GENERAL. Mr. Poole although giving correctly the same inscription in the case of Apurimac repeats the Cral error for Campeche and does not give the interpretation which was generally supposed to be Administracion CENTRAL. As a matter of fact CRAL and GRAL are beyond the mark and neither could possibly have been used in Campeche, the term for that office being ADM-inistraci-ON PR-incip-AL.

Similar handstamp impressions are known inscribed ADMON. PRAL. DE CORREOS. ORIZAVA, ADMON. PRAL. DE CORREOS PUEBLA, so it is surprising that this matter has not been cleared up before and the illustrations not corrected.

The Status of the Stamps.

Mr. Bellows produces much interesting evidence of the status of the stamps. The design of the lower oval he says conclusively shows the official nature of the issue. It was the seal of state, placed by the fiscal representative of the government showing that for the time, and under the stress of the prevailing extraordinary conditions it was to be regarded as regular and authorised.

Notes and News

Buying Stamps at Auction.

Buyers of stamps at auction who cannot attend the sale in person, but send in their bids by post, are often at a loss as to the intrinsic value of the goods under the hammer, and their bidding is usually much of the nature of a venture in the dark. Being entirely dependent, in their calculations, upon the description of the stamps given in the auction catalogue, they look for these to be as full and definite as possible, yet any description which runs to more than a couple of lines would greatly increase the auctioneer's printing bill, and the stamps have perforce to be listed as tersely as possible. The writer recently sent in a bid which proved to be much too high, and found himself the possessor of a lot which certainly was not cheap.

The remedy of the country buyer seems to be to find some reliable correspondent resident in London who is in

He refers also to an Act published by the Secretary of Hacienda dealing with the obligations of the Jefatura de Hacienda, or general financial representative, to interfere in postal or other departments of the public service, when necessary to protect or conserve the revenues or other Federal interests.

This would render the course pursued by the officials of the different departments of the Government in Campeche not only a lawful but a necessary one, the Government itself being for the time unable to furnish the usual postal supplies as in the ordinary conduct of the service.

The Catalogue Date an Error.

In the matter of date of issue the catalogue is wrong in associating the stamps with the other locals of the revolutionary period, 1867-68. Larisch, Meyer and Moschkau give 1877. Escalante in his "Study of the Postage Stamps of Mexico" gives 1876, the date which is accepted as the correct one by the philatelists of Mexico. In yet another particular do we get confusion from the standard catalogues of the world, that is in regard to the colours.

The Paper Used.

The paper used for these stamps Mr. Bellows tells us was of two varieties—a plain common white wove, and more rarely a distinct tone of yellow buff. He adds that they may yet be found on other coloured papers, as it is not at all unusual that for stamps issued as these were the most convenient paper at hand would be used, with little regard to uniformity.

The stamps were struck several on a sheet, which was then ruled with a lead pencil and the stamps cut out, or the lining may have been the first step, the order being quite immaterial.

A Confusion of Colours.

The figures were struck in black. Copies of the 25c. have been seen with the figures in blue, but these possess the long and awkward top stroke to the 5 which is another characteristic of the catalogue illustrations already referred to. Mr. Bellows has never seen a specimen of any of the values to warrant the supposition that any except those with the black numerals might be regarded with respect.

Each of the ovals being struck in a different department of the Government service, it is only natural to find them differing in colour, in the genuine specimens. The lower oval is usually in shades of dark blue, indigo, and in rare cases in a decided blue-green. The upper oval exists both in blue and in black.

the habit of attending stamp sales, and who would be willing for a small commission to act as "London agent" for the countryman.—*J.W.H.H., in the Bazaar.*

Sold Again!

For once the dealer could not tempt this collector. "Send him the book of Cayman Islands!" said the boss.

"We have done, sir," meekly replied the clerk.

"Mail him the New Hebrides selection!"

"We have, sir."

"Mix some Used Abroad with the English stock, then!"

"We have done that, sir."

"Well, we must tempt him somehow. Send him a set of Sicily marked at double Catalogue!"

—*W. Ward, in The Stamp Lover.*

The Postage Stamps of Dominica

BY BERTRAM W. H. POOLE

(Continued from page 126)

IV.—The 1882 Provisionals.

In November, 1882, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps evidently ran short, for on the 25th of that month a provisional $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp appeared. This was created by cutting some of the then current 1d. stamps in half vertically and surcharging each portion with " $\frac{1}{2}$ " in black.



The surcharge is 4 mm. high, as shown in the annexed illustration. Evidently it was made by means of a handstamp. Apparently, the handstamp was applied twice to each stamp on a sheet, and then each vertical row of labels was divided down the centre before being placed on sale. Consequently, unsevered pairs do not exist, and the only pairs that may be obtained consist of the right half of one stamp attached to the left half of another. Judging from the specimens I have seen, the "cut" was made by folding the stamps and then cutting along the crease thus made with a paper knife or other blunt instrument, for the edges are invariably rough.

Inverted surcharges are known, and *tête-bêche* pairs have been found, the latter being exceedingly rare.

This provisional was in use only a short time before it was decided that the overprint was hardly conspicuous enough, consequently it was superseded by a new variety with the " $\frac{1}{2}$ " in much larger type. This was printed in red instead of black as before.



The new surcharge appeared sometime before the end of 1882, though the exact date of its issue is unknown. This overprint was likewise applied by means of a handstamp, and the stamps were evidently severed in a similar manner to the ones with black surcharge.

Specimens with inverted surcharge are known.

Halves of the 1d. stamp without surcharge are known to have been used at this period, but whether these were accidental varieties that had escaped the overprint, or were so cut by anyone requiring a $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp, I cannot say. But if they were unofficial

and unauthorised they might easily have passed undetected during the time the black surcharge was in use.

The following is a synopsis of the varieties:—

Nov. 25th-DEC., 1882.

Wmk. Crown C.C. Perf. 14.

Left-hand half of 1d. lilac.

Right-hand half of 1d. lilac.

Surcharged " $\frac{1}{2}$ " in black.

" $\frac{1}{2}$ " on left-hand half of 1d. lilac.

(a) With inverted surcharge.

" $\frac{1}{2}$ " on right-hand half of 1d. lilac.

(a) With inverted surcharge.

" $\frac{1}{2}$ " on 1d. lilac (*tête-bêche*).

Surcharged " $\frac{1}{2}$ " in red.

" $\frac{1}{2}$ " on left-hand half of 1d. lilac.

(a) With inverted surcharge.

" $\frac{1}{2}$ " on right-hand half of 1d. lilac.

(a) With inverted surcharge.

V.—The 1883 Provisional.

The half stamps with red surcharge described in the foregoing chapter were, seemingly, in use for some months—until sometime in March, 1883—when for some obscure reason a new type of overprint was brought into use. In this the " $\frac{1}{2}$ " was superseded by the words "HALF PENNY" printed on the



half stamps in black. This also was made by means of a handstamp, and the overprint was applied somewhat promiscuously, for in some cases it is found reading vertically upwards and in others downwards. The surcharge measures 14 mm. in length.

This provisional did not have a very long life, for in April, 1883, a supply of the regular $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps reached the island, and these were at once placed on sale.

The following is a synopsis of the varieties:—

MARCH, 1883.

Wmk. Crown C.C. Perf. 14.

Surcharged "HALF PENNY" in black, reading upwards.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. on left-hand half of 1d. lilac.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. on right-hand half of 1d. lilac.

Surcharged "HALF PENNY" in black, reading downwards.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. on left-hand half of 1d. lilac.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. on right-hand half of 1d. lilac.

VI.—The 1883-4 Issue.

The provisionals referred to in the two preceding chapters were finally dispensed with in April, 1884, when a supply of the regular $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps reached the Colony from England. These were exactly the same as those belonging to the 1877-79 series with the exception of the watermark, which consisted of a Crown over the letters "C.A." (Crown Agents).

In December, 1884, a fresh supply of $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps arrived in the island, and these also were printed on "C.A." paper.

These two values call for no special comment, for they were printed from the same plates as before, and these exhibit any little peculiarities of alignment in the value tablets found in the previous issue.

The following is a synopsis of the varieties:—

1883-84.

Wmk. Crown C.A. Perf. 14.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. olive yellow (shades).

$2\frac{1}{2}$ d. red-brown (shades).

VII.—The Provisionals of 1886.

Both $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. values ran out of stock in March, 1886, and surcharges had to be resorted to to create provisionals to meet temporary demands for these values. A number of the 6d. green and 1s. magenta of 1877 were surcharged "Half Penny" and "One Penny" respectively, in two lines, with a thin bar below to cancel the original values. The overprint was in black in both cases.

In the Royal Philatelic Society's work on the stamps of the West Indies, Mr. Bacon tells us that Mr. R. F. Garraway, who was postmaster in 1891, says that all these provisional stamps were surcharged by the same printer, and that there were 18,000 of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 6d. and 15,000 of the 1d. on 1s. If these figures are correct, the 1d. on 1s. should be the rarer of the two, whereas, according to present catalogue quotations, the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 6d. is 40 per cent. scarcer than the 1d. on 1s.—unused at any rate.

The type was the same in each case so far as the word "Penny" was concerned. It is probable that an entire sheet of 60 stamps was surcharged at a time, but whether there was more than one setting for each value or not I am unable to say.

It will be found that the word "Half" is $10\frac{1}{2}$ mm. long, "One" is $8\frac{1}{2}$ mm., and "Penny" is $13\frac{1}{2}$ mm., while the space between "Penny" and the bar below varies from $1\frac{1}{4}$ mm. to $2\frac{1}{4}$ mm., though the measurement throughout a horizontal row is, of course, the same.



In normal varieties of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 6d., the letters "al" are almost exactly above the "nn" of "Penny." I have seen a variety in which the letters "al" are

placed to the left of the respective letters "n" below; and in the Tapling Collection there is a specimen with the letters "Pe" of "Penny" much closer together than normally. In the absence of entire sheets or large blocks it is impossible to state the positions of these varieties.

In the 1d. on 1s., the "O" of "One" is exactly above the "e" of "Penny" in normal varieties. I have seen a specimen in which the "O" is above the space between the "Pe" of "Penny;" another is known with a space of 4 mm. between the letters "n" and "e" of "One" and with the "O" above the "P" of "Penny;" and in the Tapling Collection a variety is shown with the letters "O" and "n" of "One" much more widely spaced than normally. Unfortunately, as large blocks or sheets are not available, I cannot state the position of these varieties in the setting.

In surcharging the shilling stamps, a sheet of the 6d. value was, by accident, also overprinted, making a 1d. on 6d. provisional. As only 60 of these were printed, the variety is one of great rarity.

The "One Penny" on 1s. exists with double surcharge.

These provisionals were in use for about three months, for it was not until July that fresh supplies of the ordinary $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. stamps reached the island.

The following is a synopsis of the varieties:—

MARCH, 1886.

Wmk. Crown C.C. Perf. 14.

Surcharged in black.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 6d. green.

(a) With "Pe" of "Penny" close together.

1d. on 6d. green.

1d. on 1s. magenta.

(a) Wide space between "On" of "One."

(b) Wide space between "ne" of "One."

VIII.—The 1886 Issue.

A fresh supply of 4d. stamps reached Dominica in May, 1886, and these were printed in grey on "C.A." paper, instead of in blue on "C.C." paper as before. In July of the same year new supplies of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. values arrived, and thus superseded the provisionals described in the foregoing chapter. The 1d. was in the same colour as before, but on "C.A." paper, while the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. appeared in the Postal Union colour of green.

By artificial light the colours of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 4d. are very similar, a fact that was pointed out in the *Philatelic Record* at the time of their issue, as follows:—"We have now the halfpenny of the current type printed in green. As the new four-penny is in blue-grey, these stamps, by artificial light, resemble one another far too much in colour; and were it not that the value is in legible type on a white ground, they might easily be mistaken one for the other. We should have thought that with the Cyprus stamps before their eyes, where it is found necessary to surcharge the halfpenny value, the parties responsible for the colour would have learned wisdom, or that the manufacturer would have advised the adoption of another colour or another type for the fourpenny."

To be continued.

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.
After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

Austria.—(Vol. IV. p. 140).—A correspondent has shewn the 1h., 2h. and 3h. stamps of the Jubilee issue on blue paper to *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*. It is only quite recently we recorded the suppression of blue paper for certain values in the Austrian Levant and Crete sets, so it is difficult to understand why it has been brought into use again. The list of varieties is now as follows:—



No wmk. Perf. 12½.

	s.	d.
1h. black	...	0 1
1h. black on blue	...	0 1
2h. violet	...	0 1
2h. violet on blue	...	0 1
3h. violet	...	0 1
3h. violet on blue	...	0 1
5h. yellow green	...	0 1
6h. buff	...	0 1
10h. rose carmine	...	0 2
12h. vermilion	...	0 3
20h. reddish brown	...	0 4
25h. blue	...	0 4
30h. pale olive-green	...	0 5
35h. slate blue	...	0 6
50h. olive-green	...	0 8
60h. deep carmine	...	0 9
1kr. deep violet	...	1 1
2kr. olive-green and claret	...	2 2
5kr. purple and olive-brown	...	5 3
10kr. deep brown, blue and ochre	...	10 6

Canal Zone.—(Vol. IV. p. 140).—Mr. Gerald D. Bliss, of Panama, has sent us specimens of the new 5c. and 8c. Panama stamps surcharged "CANAL ZONE," neither of which value has yet been placed on sale in an unsurcharged state. Both bear the same portraits as before—Justo Arosemena for the 5c., and Manuel J. Hurtado for the 8c.—but they are greatly improved, and in the case of the 8c. the portrait now has the head turned to the left instead of to the right as before. The borders are much more handsome than was the case with the old designs. On the 5c. "REPUBLICA DE PANAMA" is curved round the top of the portrait oval; "CORREOS" appears at the top of the stamp, while at the base "CINCO CENTESIMOS DE BALBOA" is shown on a highly ornate tablet. On top of this, to the right and left of the central oval, there are branches of foliage and in the upper corners the numerals of value are shown. On the 8c. "REPUBLICA DE PANAMA-CORREOS" is shown in three lines above the portrait, "OCHO CENTESIMOS DE BALBOA" appears at the base, and the numerals of value as shown on tablets at each side of the lower portion of the centrepiece. Above and below these tablets is highly ornamental scroll work, the whole border being effectively engraved. Both stamps bear the imprint of the American Bank Note Co., N.Y.,

at the base, and in both cases the surcharge "CANAL ZONE" reads downwards. The new stamps now issued are:—



New designs surcharged "CANAL ZONE"

No wmk. Perf. 12.

	s.	d.
2c. vermilion red and black	...	0 2
5c. deep blue	...	0 4
8c. red lilac	...	0 7
10c. violet	...	0 8

Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News chronicles the 1c. of the current set with inverted centre and says, "Only one sheet is known to have been issued, the same having been sold at the Christobal, C.Z. post office to the General Manager of the Panama Railroad Company, and all of the stamps, with the exception of about 15 that were secured by Dr. J. C. Perry, had been used on official correspondence on the Isthmus when they were accidentally discovered."

	s.	d.
1c. with inverted centre	...	40 0

The same journal reports the existence of a horizontal pair of the current 1c. imperforate between.

Federated Malay States.—(Vol. III. p. 298).—The *West-End Philatelist* points out that there are two dies of the current 1c. green stamp, due to the early supplies having been produced by the two-plate process, and the later ones from a new plate from which the whole stamp was printed at once. There are many minor points of difference, the most striking being that in Die II, the letters "c" in the corners are much thicker than those in Die I.

Leeward Islands.—(Vol. III. p. 190).—A correspondent informs *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* that a farthing stamp is to be issued for this Colony about July 1st.

Liberia.—(Vol. IV. p. 68).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 10c. marone and black of 1906 surcharged "INLAND—3 CENTS" in two lines in script type.

Provisional.

No wmk. Perf. 14.

	s.	d.
3c. on 10c. marone and black	...	1 6

New Zealand.—(Vol. IV. p. 104).—We gather from the *Australian Philatelist* that King's head stamps are to be issued for this Colony, though apparently they will not appear just yet. There will be six stamps in the new set—2d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d. and 1s.—and these will replace the stamps now current. At present there is no intention

of altering the other values. Our contemporary states:— "The new stamps are printed from engraved plates and are the work of Messrs. Royle, who it will be remembered were responsible for the two plates marked R1 and R2 used for printing some of the later 'Universal' pennies. The workmanship is everything that could be desired, but whether the design could be improved upon is, of course, a matter of opinion." Probably the first supplies will be printed in England and despatched to the Colony with the plates.

Nicaragua.—(Vol IV. p 141).—According to *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* several values of a new set have appeared. They are printed by the American Bank Note Co. from the plates employed for the 1905 issue, so that there is no alteration in the design, but the colours have been changed. The values that have been issued so far are:—

New Series. No. wmk. Perf. 12

2c. vermilion
3c. orange-red
20c. olive-brown
50c. dark green
1p. yellow

Panama.—(Vol IV. p. 8).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the new 2c. stamp for this Republic which we fully described under the heading "Canal Zone" last week. The values now issued are as follows:—

New designs.

No. wmk. Perf. 12.

			s. d.
2c. vermilion red and black	...	...	0 2
2½c. red	...	...	0 3

Tasmania.—(Vol IV. p. 57).—The *Australian Philatelist* states that the 9d. wmk. V and Crown, perf. 12½, has been found in a distinct shade of ultramarine.

United States.—(Vol. IV. p. 117).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. and Mr. W. Ward send us specimens of the latest Exposition stamp. In the centre is a profile portrait of Secretary William H. Seward, with head to left and with his name inscribed below. Curved around the portrait is "ALASKA-YUKON-PACIFIC 1909," across the top is "U.S. POSTAGE" and at the base "TWO CENTS" appears. At each side numerals of value upon narrow oval tablets are shown and these are surrounded by laurel leaves and ornate scrolls. The stamp is of the same size and shape as the Jamestown labels.



Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition stamp.

Wmk. U.S.P.S. Perf. 12.

2c. carmine...	...	...	...	s. d.
				0 2

NOTE.

The Prices affixed are those at which Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. will supply any of the stamps chronicled that may be in stock.

The stamps are supplied at lower rates to subscribers to their New Issue Service, particulars of which can be had on application to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich.

The Prices quoted are for unused

The Amsterdam Exhibition

Some of the Most Interesting Collections

BY FRED. J. MELVILLE



THE EXHIBITION POSTMARK.

THE exhibits in Division I. at the Amsterdam Exhibition were restricted to stamps of Holland and Colonies. These were fully described in last week's article. We now come to the other specialised collections.

Division II., Class 1, was open to exhibitors who had been awarded a gold medal at any previous international exhibition of postage stamps.

One of the three great gold medals in this class was awarded to the exhibit of

France by Franz Reichenheim, which is now a very well known collection, rich in blocks of the early stamps, *l'île-déche* pairs, and a wonderful range of shades, sheets of paper perforated by the Suse machine, and a number of bisecteds, and a quarter of the 80c. stamp used on entire, and stated to have been authorised by M. Rampon, P.M.G., as during the Franco-German War many of the post offices could not be regularly supplied with stamps. This collection received a gold medal in Berlin, 1906, and a silver one in London, 1906.

The *Mauritius* of Mr. H. J. Duveen are now well known to English collectors. The collection contains a 1d. Post Office on entire, a very fine copy with lightly impressed postmark, the letter being dated Se. 27, 1847. The 2d. Post Office is unused. In the Post Paid we noted some splendid pieces, including blocks of four unused of the 1d. (early stage of the plate), 2d. two blocks, one being from the plate in its early stage and one in the intermediate stage. There are reconstructed plates of the twelve types of the 1d. and 2d. Post Paid. all the later gems, and a reprint sheet taken direct from the plate in 1876.

The same exhibitor shewed a magnificently specialised collection of *Transvaal*; and another of *Tasmania*, which

contained quite a feast of gems of the first water. He shewed a strip of four of the 1853 1d. unused, a reconstructed sheet of the 1d. and reconstructed sheets of both plates of the 4d., including stamps with margins shewing the imprint. There was a mint block of the 1d. pelure, the 1d. no watermark unused, a fine lot of the star watermarks, and splendid range of shades, the 6d. London print unused, and all the later things, including the H 2penny surcharge error and the 2½d double surcharge one inverted.

Victoria.—L. L. R. Hausberg. The finest philatelic display in the exhibition, a masterpiece of labour and research. Since this collection was shewn in London in 1906, when it might reasonably have satisfied its owner. Mr. Hausberg has evidently lost no opportunity of improving it, particularly in the matter of specimens. The plating in this collection is wonderful, and made it easily the foremost monument of scientific philately in the exhibition. The collection was awarded a great gold medal.

New South Wales, Tasmania, and Victoria were shewn by H. P. Manus, of Amsterdam. Here we found reconstructed or partly reconstructed plates of the Sydneys and other early N.S.W., and of Tasmania and Victoria. A vast amount of work had obviously been expended on this exhibit, but a little more attention to the condition of the stamps would greatly enhance the interest of these collections. As Mr. Manus was a judge, this exhibit was not for competition.

Mr. F. H. Hancock's collection of *Cashmere* is a very successful specialisation of these *bizarre* stamps, including as it does a splendid range of specimens on original covers, and practically all the rarities. It received a silver-gilt medal.

There were three collections of *Transvaals*, one by M. Z. Booleman (gold medal), another by Harvey Clarke (gold medal), and H. J. Duveen (not for competition). To the visitor from abroad it is a marvel that the incomparable collection of Mr. Clarke, shewn for the first time at any exhibition, could by any jury have been placed on a level with the other collection. Mr. Clarke's *Transvaals* well merited what might in other circumstances have been a distinction. It contains all the choicest varieties in which the *Transvaal* early issues are so rich, and quite a number of complete sheets. The arrangement of the collection too left nothing to be desired. Mr. Duveen's *Transvaals* too are a wonderful lot. As a judge however his collection was not entered for competition.

Of Mr. Hugo Hartman's *Montenegro* there is not much to say beyond that it was fairly strong in the later issues. Perhaps some visitors would be impressed by the details in the catalogue, of the number of pages, and the estimate of the value of the collection modestly placed at 100,000 marks (£5,000!) It received a gold medal.

Adolf Passer, of Vienna, shewed a nice collection of *Bosnia*, advancing a few steps further in the already heavy specialisation of this country. (Gold Medal).

W. von Polansky's *Russia* is a good collection, and contains several of the inverted centres, and a curious lot of misprints of various kinds. (Silver medal).

J. R. M. Albrecht's *Guatemala* is an extensive and interesting collection of this rather neglected country. The surcharges from the 1886 set onwards are all well worked out (Silver Medal).

Frank E. Wilson showed a collection of *Belgium* which presented a very good range of the varieties he has lately described in *The Postage Stamp*, besides some very nice pieces in the early issues (Silver Gilt Medal).

Ernst Zumstein showed a very choice collection of *Switzerland* containing most of the rarities, all in the finest condition unused. Mention of such pieces as the block of eight of the 5c. Vaud, a pair of the double Geneva, all the types of Zurich 4 rappen and a sheet of the 6 rappen, is almost enough to make one wish that

Moses had broken into small pieces the stone on which was written the tenth commandment (Great Gold Medal).

Humphry Bennett's *Sarawak* (Silver Medal) has made a little progress since the collection was exhibited at Caxton Hall in 1908. He has now the 3c. 1869 engraved, one unused and one used. This stamp is rarer unused than used. The 3c. of 1871 was not in the collection. Some time ago we were rather startled to find a fragment of a double sheet of the lithographed 3c. of 1871. It had previously been supposed that this and the similarly printed stamps of this colony had been printed in sheets of 100 (10 × 10) only, and the existence of the vertical columns with a margin between which only turned up a few months back was the first intimation specialists had of the large sheets. The fragment referred to has been acquired by Mr. Bennett, who has utilised it to reconstruct a double sheet of 200 (10 × 10 + 10 × 10).

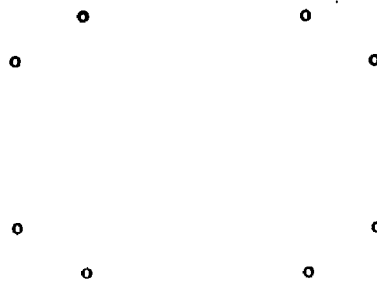
The printing of the two panes of 100 side by side is sufficient explanation of the occurrence of the so-called stop after THREE variety on some sheets and not on others. Only one of the panes evidently had the flaw.

Some fine pieces of the 1889-92 surcharges had been added to the collection and a beautiful series of proofs of the 1895 series. Some of these have the overprints which were made by Perkins Bacon & Co. in experimenting with the placing of numerals for the 1896 issue of British South Africa. The occurrence of these proofs bearing as they did the word PENCE occasioned some wonder at first on the part of specialists, as it seemed extremely improbable that Sarawak could have been proposing a change of currency from the Straits dollar to English money.

One of the most skilful pieces of real philatelic work in the exhibition was J. M. Bartels' fine collection of *Danish West Indies*, worked out to shew all the numerous printings of these stamps. (Silver medal).

Of the remaining special collections particular mention may be made of the *Transvaal Forgeries* shewn by Leon de Raay, a very fine lot which quite deserved the silver medal awarded to it.

Major C. Waffelbakker easily carried off the highest honour in the section devoted to entires with a very fine and big collection of postal stationery. In this section, Leon de Raay's collection of postcards, &c., of the *Orange River Colony* presented a novel method of arrangement. The album leaves had been pierced and eyeletted, a cord being strung through, something after the following rough diagram:—



The plan seemed to have proved quite successful, and merits the attention of others interested in entires.

In the Division for Juniors three entries had been made. Two of the competitors were fifteen years of age and one twelve. Miss Kitty Nelke, of London (aged fifteen), gained the highest award, the silver-gilt medal presented by the Junior Philatelic Society for the best collection shewn in the junior class. The successful collection comprised the stamps of Great Britain and Colonies in three albums.

D. J. W. van Rosendaal, of Helder (aged fifteen) received a bronze medal for a collection of Holland and Colonies,

of which no description appears in the catalogue, and it was not accessible to our inspection.

The twelve-year old competitor received a bronze medal for a collection of 4800 stamps, which also was not open to our examination.

Of the general collections shown by the seniors it is not necessary to write. In any case one cannot comment on them, as they were not available for inspection.

We may heartily congratulate the *Philatelic Record* on a well-deserved silver-gilt medal in the section for Philatelic Literature.

We should like to place on record the pleasure afforded by a chat with Mr. J. E. Bohimeyer, the leading expert-dealer in Holland. He is an enthusiast, and probably knows more than all his dealer *confrères* put together about the issues of his own country and the Colonies. We had a long argument about those dies of the 1867 issue of Holland. Other dealers who were ready to extend a welcome to visitors from abroad were Leon de Raay, Auf der Heyde, and the Rootlieb brothers. Major Waffelbakker, the President of the Dutch Society, and Mr. Naret Koning, of the Greek Embassy in Amsterdam, were both eager to make everything go off well, and, but for the inefficient support from their colleagues, would have succeeded in making their foreign visitors quite at their ease.

Financially the Exhibition must undoubtedly have been a great success. Baron Lehmann, who was a donor to the Exhibition expenses of £250, was, of course, the greatest supporter of the Exhibition. The space occupied

by his tremendous exhibit, if charged at 8s. 4d. per square metre, would have been an additional heavy contribution to the finances of the Exhibition. The collection, as already announced, received the Championship award. Probably the £250 donation would have covered practically all the expenses incurred, the more particularly as rents will not be so high in a city like Amsterdam as they are in London, for instance. Then, too, it is to be presumed that the Baron's magnificent donation was not the only one. In addition, there was nothing done which was not remunerative in itself. A sum larger than the Baron's donation would accrue from the sale of the space at 8s. 4d. per square metre. The area of the halls as given in the Exhibition prospectus was 1,996½ square metres. The gate money would not be very large, the chief business done at the box office being in season tickets supplied to foreign visitors at 3 gulden (5s.) each. Catalogues and picture postcards were sold, but would only add a little to the funds, but the costly tickets for the banquets and excursions would doubtless yield a substantial profit.

The Committee made the following charges to the donors for medals:—

Gold Medal, £7 10s. and £6 5s.

Silver-gilt Medal, £1 5s.

Silver Medal, 16s. 8d.

Bronze Medal, 10s.

The Dutch Philatelic Society can therefore be congratulated on having someone with at least a modicum of the business instinct to manage its Exhibition affairs.

The Nankivell Collections

£86 for a tête-bêche pair of Transvaal 1s. green of 26 April, 1870

British and Colonial Stamps.

At their galleries, Argyll Street, last night, Messrs. Glendining sold some fine British and foreign stamps, including part of the collection of the late Mr. E. J. Nankivell. Great Britain, 1867-83, £1. brown lilac on slightly bluish paper, £2 9s.; Spain, 1855, imperforated, error of colour, 2 reales, blue, £5 15s.; Hong Kong, 1882, 10 cents, blue-green, unused copy, £3; 1897, 1 dollar on 2 dollars, sage green, without Chinese surcharge, mint state, £5; 1 dollar on 2 dollars, sea green, variety with the sloping portion of the Chinese surcharge omitted, £3 3s.; Barbados, 17, all unused and nearly all mint, £3 2s. 6d.; Cayman Isles, February, 1908, 2½d. on 4d., brown and blue, rare, £2 6s.; the same stamp, horizontal pair on original, rare piece, £5 15s.; and Nevis, 1878, 6d. grey, showing registered postmark, but rather heavily cancelled, £2 6s.—*Globe, June 16th.*

The Transvaals.

There was a large attendance last night at Messrs. Glendining's, Argyll Street, at the sale of the late Mr. E. J. Nankivell's collection of Transvaal stamps. Good prices were secured. Transvaal 1869, imperforated, 1s., deep green, fetched £5 17s. 6d.; 1869, one penny vermilion mint, horizontal pair, £10; April, 1870, fine roulette, one penny, carmine red, £5 15s.; 6d. dull ultramarine, £5 15s.; April 26th, 1870, 1s. yellow green, tête-bêche pair, mint, and with large margins, very rare, £86 (Becket); May, 1870, fine roulette one penny, carmine red, a strip of six, £12; June, 1870, imperforated penny, deep red, £5; 6d. deep blue, showing heavy printing, £10; 6d. deep ultramarine, £4 17s. 6d.; September, 1870, thin paper one penny bright carmine, £8 (Pounds); one penny black, horizontal pair, £5 10s.; 6d. ultra-

marine, horizontal pair, £4 10s.; December, 1872, 6d. milky blue, £4 10s.; September, 1870, fine roulette 6d. blackish blue, mint copy, £3 15s.; 1876, 6d. pale blue variety, showing the defective "Zes," £5; fine roulette 6d. deep blue, £5 5s.

British Occupation.—1877, one penny red, but with compound roulettes, £3 5s.; 1877, imperforated 6d. dull blue, variety surcharge inverted, £5 10s.; October, 1877, wide roulette 3d. mauve on buff, £5 5s.; April, 1879, imperforated 3d. mauve on green, mint horizontal pair, £10.

Second Republic.—One penny on 4d. sage green, £10 10s.; 1882, one penny on 4d. sage green, variety surcharge inverted, £3 12s. 6d.; 1883, 1s. green brilliant mint tête-bêche pairs, £5; and 1885 halfpenny on 1s. green, mint tête-bêche pair, £3 7s. 6d.—*Globe, June 17th.*

Bargains in Stamps.

If you want real bargains in Postage Stamps read the advertisement pages of *The Postage Stamp* every week. Every week there is something new, and many special bargains. If you miss a week you may miss the very stamp you want to complete a series.

Back Nos. of "The Postage Stamp."

Those of our friends who are lacking any back numbers of the present vol. will do well to write direct to our Publishers, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, 1 Amen Corner, London, E.C., for what they require. Many newagents do not care to bother about back numbers. Any number still on sale may be had for the published price and postage, i.e., 1½d.

In the Stamp Market

BY O. REGINALD GUM

Stealing a March.

While our Editor and that rascal, Cornelius, were busily inspecting the collections in the Exhibition at Amsterdam, your humble O.G. sneaked away to the stamp dealers' shops in the Dutch Venice to get hold of copy for this column. By so doing, I nearly ran the risk of the ancient order of the sack. Of late, Mynheer Wrinkle—for the old scoundrel assumed the habits and clothes of a Dutchman (he picked them up cheap at an *Uitdragerswinkel*)—has displayed a fondness for the varieties of the first issues of Holland, and was considerably annoyed because O.G. forestalled him.

Zoo!

Do not imagine that the title of this par. has anything to do with living or creeping things, it is only a favourite expression of conversation in the Netherlands, pronounced "sew." When talking to a Dutch stamp dealer, one seems to get the impression that really by trade he is a dressmaker or something connected with the art of the needle. If you tell a Dutch dealer he is very dear—which one must do very often, he calmly replies "zoo!" With every and the greatest respect to our Dutch friends, one cannot but say that quite a lot of dealers in the land of dykes and internal eternal canals, are very erratic in their prices, and possessed of what we English call "swelled heads," with regard to the value of some of their merchandise. Still, one is not compelled to buy.

How about U.S. Gravures?

Certainly there are many bargains to be found in the *Oranje-staat*. Namely, that British Indians, some Europeans, and hoards of minor varieties of all kinds of stamps are quite unknown. For example, one gentleman over for the Exhibition in Amsterdam, offered to a well-known Dutch dealer a set of three, $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d. and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., Jamaica "Ser-et" errors for 10c (2d.), but no sale was effected. What price then an OP-PC English? Another visitor showed the large variety plate in Mr. Melville's new book on Holland, but, though a very vivid and important variety, he of Orange could not perceive the "Eenhoorn," as the Dutch call it.

Early Indians.

No matter of what value, are always worth picking up if in good condition, lightly cancelled and without rubber stamp or pen-marks. Indeed, they are scarce thus. Pairs of all the "East Indians" are worth gleaning. Whoever sees pairs of the 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ annas, or 12 annas, yet even blocks? It would be worthy of note that we saw a deal of the cut "square"—to be Hibernian—four annas first issue India on the Continent recently.

But they were not sold as cuts!

Oh no! They were carefully and neatly grafted to rectangles of similar age-coloured paper, and marked almost "Senf preis" for the perfect copies. One is almost tempted to sum up in a word a criticism of the eventual purchaser.

Don't buy Bargains

In the Old Italian States unless you are perfectly aware of the characteristics of the stamps. There is at present another deluge of forgeries of these stamps—called by

by their "Editors" "fac-similes." They are very well executed, especially with regard to Tuscany, and Italian Postage Due high values. Watermarked and skillfully copied, they are ultra-dangerous. It is a great pity that some important body cannot bring the notice of the Universal Postal Union to what exists on their very doorstep in Switzerland. What is required, is the drawing attention of the officials, by the prosecution of the makers and agents who wilfully "take in" the purchasers.

U.S. Canals

Are always worthy of accumulation when priced as follows, according to an English catalogue:

1c.	-	-	3d.
2c.	-	-	5d.
5c.	-	-	1/-
8c.	-	-	1/6
10c.	-	-	2/-

So ask a pertinent question, will the cataloguers really sell at these figures, and what quotation used?? Faking Canal Zone stamps abound, together with the regular Panamas, our English catalogues are awfully erratic. What dealer expects to get 9d. each for the 5c. and 10c. Maps overprinted Panama at either side? And anything near 4d. for the 5c. Canal Zone Portrait—the commonest of the set? *Poor collector!*

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd. Annual Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., was held at 391, Strand, W.C., on Friday, May 28th.

The accounts for 1908 were presented and passed, and the usual final dividend for the year was declared.

Attention was drawn to the fact that during the past twelve months the accounts owing by the Company had been reduced by no less than £13,600, whereas the accounts owing to the Company were only about £2800 less.

The business done during the year was reported to have been the largest and most profitable for some years past.

The resignation of Mr. W. P. Barnsdall as a Director was accepted.

Mr. Frank Phillips was elected a Director of the Company.

The "Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The *Postage Stamp* is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:

- Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C.
- F. C. Ginn, 143, Strand, London, W.C.
- Lewis May & Co., 15, King William St., Strand, W.C.
- W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.
- James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.
- Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.
- The Court Stamp Co., 10, Marriotti's Court,
Manchester.

Stop Press News

PHILATELIC GARDEN PARTY.

MRS. FIELD ENTERTAINS THE J.P.S.

On Saturday, Mrs. Field gave a reception and garden party to members of the Junior Philatelic Society at her residence The Nook, West Hampstead. A large party including many ladies attended.

The visitors began to arrive shortly after three o'clock, and in the course of the afternoon over sixty had assembled in the house and gardens.

At tea on former occasions when Mrs. Field has entertained the Society there has always been a special *gateau philatelic*, a large cake made in enlarged facsimile of some popular stamp rarity. This having been done recently at the celebration banquet Mrs. Field introduced a novelty by offering her guests numbers of small cakes inscribed with names and initials familiar to the visitors such as J.P.S., Stamp Lover, a la Melville, etc.

Lots were drawn for the possession of a fine copy of the 1s. green triangular Cape provided by the hostess for the competition. The winning number proved to be the lucky 13, and the stamp was secured by the youngest member present, Master W. Pope of Croydon.

A variety of games kept many of the older (!) visitors in the garden while others spent much of the time examining portions of Mrs. Field's fine collection of British Colonials, the albums containing which were displayed in the very spacious billiard room.

The company included the President and Mrs. Melville, Mr. and Mrs. Poole, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert-Lodge, Mr. and Mrs. Nissen, Mr. and Mrs. Cox, Mr. and Miss Giles, Mr. and Mrs. Holland, Miss Rose Pearson, Miss Field, Miss Green, Miss Garwood, Miss Peetris, Miss Payne, Messrs. H. H. Harland, F. J. Lloyd, E. Grelhier, A. Selinger, Thomas, Hartelovelace, A. D. Ferguson (of the British Guiana Philatelic Society), C. Whitfield King, junr. of Ipswich, James Feeney, R. Archibald, etc., etc.

A most delightful afternoon was brought to a close at 7 o'clock. A vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Field proposed by the President was seconded by Master Pope and carried with acclamation.

BELGIAN CONGO.

NEW ISSUE OF STAMPS.

Mr. W. Ward writes that he has received the New Belgian Congo set.

The design, he states is the same as before but the words BELGE CONGO appear in the place of ETAT INDEPENDANT DU CONGO, and the 10c. value has DIN at the bottom instead of DIX centimes.

"What's On."

Saturday, June 26th. "Country Gathering" at Malta House, Angmering, by invitation of Mr. Herbert Clark to members of the Brighton Branch of the Junior Philatelic Society.

Saturday, June 26th. Annual Picnic of the Manchester Junior Philatelic Society at Delamere Forest.

The Golden West Exhibition (with Stamp Section) open every week day.

Editor's Letter Box

Publishing Offices:—1, AMEN CORNER, LONDON, E.C.

Editorial Address:—FRED J. MELVILLE, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

Articles, Contributions and Correspondence, should be addressed to the Editor, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the correspondent. *Articles, etc., not accepted, will be returned when postage is prepaid.*

Business Communications should be addressed to the Manager, and *Advertisements to the Advertisement Manager*, 1, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

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Our Publishing Day and Advertisers.

In order to meet the requirements of the publishing trade our publishers now distribute copies to the Newsagents on Wednesdays instead of Thursdays as before. This compels us to go to press on Saturday morning. Hence it is absolutely necessary for our printers to have all advertisements at latest on Friday morning; consequently, copy must be in the Advertisement Manager's hands not later than Wednesday, 6 o'clock p.m.

Advertisers' Proofs.

We are anxious to consult our Advertisers' convenience to the greatest possible extent, but where proofs have to be supplied and returned our printers must have the "copy" by Thursday morning at the latest, as we now

have to print off a portion of our issue on Saturday morning.

Nankivell's Philatelic Handbooks.

It has frequently been suggested to us that we should reprint in cheap and convenient handbook form some at least of the more important special articles from *The Postage Stamp* which deal with popular countries.

These articles cover the general history of each country and its various postal issues. They also include catalogue fluctuation of prices over a period of ten years, thus enabling the collector to see at a glance the relative rarity, and the investment value, of every stamp.

The articles are designed to be useful alike to the specialist and the general collector.

We have, therefore, decided to issue a handbook from time to time as opportunity offers.

Now Ready.

No. 1. Jamaica & Cayman Islands.

Foolscap 8vo., price 4d., post free 4½d., from our Printer, Mr. Baldwin, Grosvenor Printing Works, Tunbridge Wells.

Collectors' Wants and Exchanges.

Our friends will note that we have opened a column for collectors to advertise their wants, at the nominal charge of 3d. per word. Many collectors even in London have not time to hunt about for stamps, whilst others resident in the country, have not the opportunity.

By using this column Collectors' Wants will catch the eye of all who are likely to be able to supply the stamps needed, for dealers watch such advertisements very closely, and collectors who want to dispose of duplicates will not fail to note the opportunity for exchange or sale.

Advertisements of stamps for sale are not admitted to this column.

Collections Artistically Arranged.

In response to many inquirers I am willing to undertake the mounting and re-arranging of a few collections in the same style as I mount my own Specialised Collections. These are artistically arranged, with chronological notes, numbers printed, &c. For terms write, The Editor, *The Postage Stamp*, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

Examination of Stamps.

So many of our readers have asked us to undertake the examination and identification of their stamps that we have made arrangements to accede to their wishes.

We shall be pleased to express an opinion as to the genuineness or otherwise of any stamps submitted to us, or identify them according to any catalogue at a charge of 6d. per stamp (minimum 1/-). All fees must be paid in advance with sufficient added to pay for return postage and registration.

Stamps upon which an opinion is desired should be mounted on a separate sheet from the letter accompanying them and addressed to "The Expert," c/o The Editor of *The Postage Stamp*, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

The POSTAGE STAMP

*An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors*

Founded by
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.
Edited by
FRED. J. MELVILLE.

No. 14. Vol. 4.
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3 JULY, 1909.

Price 1d.

Gossip of the Week

BY CORNELIUS WRINKLE



Colonial Post Offices.

WE have had instances galore to shew that things are not altogether what they should be in the post offices of some of our Colonies. So far as they ultimately concern the purity of the world's stamp issues the remedy is largely in the hands of collectors themselves, but experience has long since shewn that while serious-minded philatelists avoid, and respectable dealers detest, the unwanted and unneeded surcharge the masses of collectors are still ready to buy rubbishy provisionals because they are provisionals and because there is the element of chance which appeals to their gambling instincts. We decry issues in our journals as speculative only to find they have gone up in price when the next catalogue comes along. We are (and the dealers too) weak, miserable sinners, and there is no consistency in us.

A Complex System.

In the case of some of our more important Colonies there is a defect which years ago led to the issue of numbers of provisionals which were undoubtedly necessary, but had the said defect been removed they could have been avoided. I refer to the extraordinary red-tape which requires many of our Colonial Post Offices to depend upon an outside department to maintain a sufficient stock of postage stamps to meet all requirements. It would seem that the best department to gauge the proper requirements would be the Post Office itself. But the authorities appear to stick tenaciously to the original plan, though probably pressure has been brought to bear upon the Treasury departments to maintain sufficient reserve stocks in most of the Colonies.

Fines for Neglect.

The younger generation of collectors may not remember that the surcharging craze in the Colonies attracted the

attention of Lord Ripon when he was Colonial Secretary. He addressed a circular note to the Colonies in which he directed that care should be taken to keep a sufficient supply of all stamps in stock. "Surcharging," he ordered, "should never be resorted to unless absolutely required for the convenience of the public, and in every such case the officer responsible for keeping up the supply of stamps should be liable to be fined." I wonder how many officials have been fined for neglect to maintain the proper stock!

In (J.P.) Society.

The social event of the philatelic summer in London is Mrs. Field's Annual Reception and Garden Party to the Junior Philatelic Society. Cornelius and his Missus are getting a bit staid for rounders and "ring the bull," though in the interval, between the strawberries and tea, Mrs. W. made quite a hit as Aunt Sally. Of course you mustn't tell her I said so. It's quite safe for me to print it here as the old girl doesn't read this column because, she says, it's all about those dreadful sticky stamps.

An Unfortunate Kiss-Cannon.

As a hostess you could not wish for one more charming and vivacious than Mrs. Field. She never allows the fun to abate a moment. Her stamps, too, are a treat "for sair een" as a braw bright laddie frae the North did tell me. Then when Mrs. Wrinkle was courting an ancient Monarch of East Anglia in the garden, mine host David and I had the time of our young lives in the billiard room. We might have gone on for hours but an unlucky try for a cannon on my part sent the ivory through the window to lose itself in Mrs. Wrinkle's Merry Widow hat. The doctor said her awakening was instantaneous.

Brighton "Country Gathering."

I had scarcely recovered from the Garden Party when I got another invite. This time it is a "Country Gathering," given by Mr. Herbert Clark, of Angmering, to the Brighton juniors. At the moment I am knee-deep in excursion handbills. The extra-specialist correspondent who writes the Stop Press Column (specially engaged by the Editor at a fabulous salary) will be telling you all about it.

Philately in 'Frisco.

I am very glad to learn from *Redfield's Stamp Weekly* that the Pacific Philatelic Society which has been quiescent since the San Francisco earthquake has lately been re-organised. The revival of the Society took place formally at a dinner in The Old Poodle Dog Restaurant, with President Henry J. Crocker in the chair. There are some of the ablest philatelists of America down 'Frisco way, and the revival of the organisation is of no little importance to stampic America.

Stamp-Grab.

The old fashioned game of grab has been revised and brought up to date by the Washington Philatelic Society. At its May meeting some entertainment was provided by what the Minute Secretary calls a 20th Century Grab Bag. A bag containing a few thousand foreign covers was passed, and each one made a grab. We are not told who got the Post Office Mauritius.

Games for Stamp Collectors.

The idea of Stamp Grab suggests quite a new line in entertainments for philatelic garden parties and social gatherings, e.g.:

HUNT THE BOGOTA. Played like hunt the slipper, but if anything with rather more restraint. If played with rare stamps, use tweezers. O.G. should be soaked off the stamp before starting.

GENERAL COLLECTING. Each player takes the name of a stamp issuing country. The leader must then discuss stamps, and as each stamp is mentioned, the player who has chosen the name of the issuing country rises and turns round. When Europe, Asia, West Indies, Seabecks, etc., are mentioned, all who have chosen names which come within the group, rise and circulate. At mention of the *philatelic world* all change places. The skill of the leader will be best shewn in not letting the world out too often.

Congress of the Swiss Union.

This week there has been an interesting event in the stamp world of Switzerland. The philatelists of that country met on Sunday and Monday at le Locle for their Annual Congress, under the auspices of the Union of Swiss Philatelic Societies. This active federation of philatelic societies for the propagation of their common interests is a grand idea, and is being successfully carried out on the Continent. The units making up the Swiss Union already number fifteen, and the session just concluded will have ratified the admission of the Société de Bellinzona, and paved the way also for the admission of the Société Timbrologique de Genève. This will bring

seventeen societies under one banner.

Four More Maldives to Come.

So the Maldives are not going to let us off with four stamps only in their new series, and the highest value a modest twopenn'orth at that. The *Ceylon Morning Leader* just to hand, says we are to expect four more of the values, 15, 25 and 50 cents, and 1 rupee.

"The new Maldivian postage stamps arrived in Colombo last week from England by the B.I. s.s. *Shirala*, and were despatched to the Maldivian Government on Thursday last in the schooner *Patu Salan*. Four varieties, viz., the 2c., 3c., 5c., and 10 cents, were received, and four others have still to come, the 15, 25, 50 cents, and R 1. Delay in their arrival was due to the corrections made and sent from Ceylon in the Arabic lettering."

New Books.

Among the new books awaiting the attention of our reviewer are *Les Emissions des Timbres Grecs*, by Georges Brunel, and *Les Falsifications du Transvaal*, by Leon de Raay.

Sweden 30 ore Imperforate.

The announcement published elsewhere in this issue that the new stamps for Sweden may be expected by the New Year gives the general collector nice time to fill in his gaps in his Sweden pages. But it should not be delayed too long. Among recent sendings from Sweden I saw a very fine pair on large piece of original of the 30 öre brown of the old numeral in circle type, imperforate, and postmarked 18-II-92.

To Supersede Large Swedish Official Stamps.

There will doubtless be much jubilation among the office boys of Stockholm Government Departments at the news that the large size official stamps are to be done away with. The new official stamps will be only normal size, and consequently not nearly so thirst-provoking to the youthful servants of the State.

A Manufacturer Wanted.

From the inspired report in the *Stockholms Dagblad* it would appear that there is some question still as to where the order will be placed for the stamps of the portrait type which are to be produced by the line-engraving process. Some doubt is expressed as to whether Swedish engravers can undertake the task. If the Government is going to give out the work in a foreign country, why not give England a chance? They could depend upon Perkins Bacon & Co. getting the very best results from Olle Hjortberg's design.

Love in the Post Office

Mr. Buxton and the Dick Case

IT will be remembered that in the debate on the Post Office Vote Mr. Joynson Hicks drew attention to the case of a young Post Office official named Dick, who had been compulsorily transferred from Glasgow to Manchester for writing love letters to a young lady also employed in the Glasgow office, and whose father objected to the courtship. Mr. Buxton promised to look carefully into the matter, and he yesterday sent to Mr. Joynson Hicks the following minute which he had issued:—

"I have carefully reconsidered the case of Mr. Dick. I first gave Mr. Dick a full statement of the charges

made against him, and asked for his explanation in writing. On receipt of his explanation I found that there were certain matters of fact as to which there was still some discrepancy in the evidence. I therefore requested Mr. Redford, C.B., secretary at Edinburgh, to make further personal inquiry, and to report to me in regard to the facts. Mr. Redford made full inquiry and gave Mr. Dick a further opportunity of explanation in writing on any points which were still in doubt. He also saw him at a personal interview.

"I have now carefully reviewed the case in the light of all the information now before me. I have come to the

conclusion that, while Mr. Dick's conduct was foolish, as he himself admitted, and indiscreet, a somewhat exaggerated view was taken at the time of the public scandal that was reported to be involved in the matter, and therefore of the detriment likely to be occasioned to the public service; and that the circumstances which gave occasion for his temporary transfer to Manchester were not such as to call for any very serious or prolonged punishment.

"I have therefore decided that Mr. Dick will be re-transferred to Glasgow without loss of seniority, and that his removal expenses are to be paid. This minute will take the place of the present entry in Mr. Dick's record, which will be thereby cancelled. As it appears that there has been some misunderstanding on the point, I think it right to add that at no time in connection with the case has any allegation of moral impropriety been involved."
—Daily News, June 22nd.

Philatelic Dictionary

BY B. W. H. POOLE

(Continued from page 111).

Officiel.—I.—A surcharge applied to certain provisional stamps issued in Persia in 1885 and 1887, to denote that the stamps were officially authorized. This was necessary owing to the fact that a number of bogus provisionals had appeared some little time previously.

II.—A surcharge applied to various stamps of Luxemburg intended for official use.

Oficio.—A surcharge applied to some of the special stamps issued in Chili in 1907 for the use of the Ministry of Marine.

O.G.—A contraction for "original gum," often used in articles or notes of a philatelic character dealing with the condition of some stamp or other.

O.H.H.S.—A surcharge found on certain Egyptian stamps intended for official use. It means, "On His Highness' Service."

O.H.M.S.—These letters are found in connection with various Government documents. They stand for "On Her (or His, as the case may be) Majesty's Service."

Oil Colours.—Some of the circular stamps issued in the Indian native state of Jammu were printed in what are known as oil colours.

Oil Rivers.—The name by which the Niger Coast Protectorate was known from June 5th, 1885, until May 12th, 1893. The first stamps for this territory consisted of the then current stamps of Great Britain surcharged "British Protectorate, Oil Rivers."

Oldenburg.—A sovereign grand-duchy of the German Empire, consisting of three divisions, viz., (1) the grand-duchy, adjoining the North Sea; (2) the principality of Lübeck, immediately north of the State of Lübeck, and (3) the principality of Birkenfeld in the south of the Rhiine Province. Its total area is 2,486 square miles, and it has a population of about 400,000. The grand-duchy has one vote in the Imperial Federal Council, and sends three representatives to the Imperial Diet. In 1180 it was declared a countship of the Empire, in 1777 made a duchy, and in 1829 a grand-duchy. The principality (formerly bishopric) of Lübeck was added in 1803, and that of Birkenfeld in 1815. The reigning dynasties of Denmark and Russia are descended from the same ancestral stock as the Grand Dukes of Oldenburg. Postage stamps were first issued in 1852, and the grand-duchy ceased having separate stamps on the formation of the North German Confederation in January, 1868.

Olin Bros.—A Brussels firm of paper manufacturers, who made the paper upon which the first stamps of Belgium were printed.

Olympic Games Issues.—The two special issues of Grecian stamps issued in 1896 and 1906 to commemorate

the Olympic Games held at Athens in those years.

Omaha Issue.—A special set of stamps issued at Omaha, U.S.A., in 1898, to commemorate the Trans-Mississippi Exposition held there in that year.

Omnia Juncta in Uno.—The motto shown around the arms which form the central portion of the design of the Shanghai stamps issued in 1893. It means, "All joined in one."

One hundred years.—This inscription appears upon all the stamps issued in New South Wales in 1988 to commemorate the centenary of the foundation of the Colony.

On H.M.S.—A surcharge found on many of the stamps of India intended for official use. It means, "On Her (or His, as the case may be) Majesty's Service."

On Public Trust Office Business.—The inscription shown upon a New Zealand official stamp issued in 1891.

Onza.—The Spanish stamps issued for official use and which were in use from July 1st, 1854, until August 1st, 1866, were inscribed with the weight of the letters they were intended to frank, instead of with values, thus: "media onza."

O.P.S.O.—A surcharge found upon several New Zealand stamps used by the Post Office Department on official correspondence between the department and places abroad. The letters mean, "On Public Service Only."

Orange Free State.—A one-time Boer republic now forming the Orange River Colony.

Orange River Colony.—A British Colony in South Africa, bounded on the south by the Orange River. It has an area of over 50,000 square miles and a population of about 400,000, of whom considerably more than half are natives. In 1836, when the great trek of Boers from Cape Colony took place, a large number of the Boers moved to the country north of the Orange River while others went north of the Vaal River. The country between these rivers was formed into a republic in 1842, but was proclaimed British territory in 1848. In 1854 the country was returned to the Boers, who then proclaimed an independent republic under the name of the Orange Free State. In the Boer War of 1899-1902 the Orange Free State threw in its lot with the Transvaal. Bloemfontein, its capital, was occupied by Lord Roberts on March 13th, 1900, and the state was annexed to the British Crown on May 28th, 1900, and was called Orange River Colony. Postage stamps (for the Orange Free State) were first issued on January 1st, 1868.

To be continued.

Woes of the Colonial Postmaster

BY CLIMACTICUS

THE following important article written by a Jamaican forms a striking commentary on recent happenings in Colonial post offices, not alone in the West Indies but in other quarters of our Empire. We reprint the article *in extenso* from the *Jamaica Times* of June 5th.

Something Rotten in the State of Denmark.

About the Post Office Postmistresses and Postmasters in this island (Jamaica), much has been written of late in the newspapers. A great deal of what has been written has been in the nature of adverse criticism. This criticism unfortunately has been too well deserved. There is scarcely a man or woman living in Jamaica who can fail from being interested in the working of this department of the public service. The rich and the poor meet together at the letter box, and every time they do so, unconsciously offer a tribute to the genius of Rowland Hill. And so it is only reasonable to expect that like Cæsar's wife, post offices, postmistresses and postmasters should be above suspicion. But is this the case? There are many fair and judicious persons willing to venture the opinion that even a casual acquaintance with the working of this department is sufficient to leave one with the feeling which prompted one of Shakespeare's characters to observe that there was something rotten in the State of Denmark.

Salaries of High Officials.

If we take the question of the salaries paid to the employees of the General Post Office and its branches throughout the island, we find a state of things that reflects no credit on the Government. We have it on the authority of Holy Writ that the labourer is worthy of his hire; but it has always seemed to me that the governing class of this island has always remembered this injunction when dealing with the bigger officials who are members of their own class, and completely forgotten it when dealing with the smaller fry. When it was a question of touching the salary of a head of department or a Chief Clerk, the whole official brood would sing like bees about our ears, of the impossibility of *this* poor unfortunate head of a department living on £1,000 a year, or the absolute certainty of *that* Chief Clerk dying of starvation on £400 a year. We should deal generously with our public servants, they said. How can you attract the best talent to the service if you do not offer adequate wages they argued. The British Empire, they further said, can point to its judges with pride, because it has always given them such salaries as to place them above temptation. "Let the big officials' salaries remain untouched," they plaintively wailed, "though you send men and women to prison for failing to pay their dues to the State," just as the stump orator cries "let justice be done though the heavens fall."

Small Salaries for Small Men.

When the Government came to deal with the salaries of the small men, who as a rule are not members of the class from which the higher officials come, it sang a different tune. One would think that the members of the Executive had all sat at the feet of Mr. R. B. Haldane, the British War Minister, so zealously did they apply his

policy of ruthless, remorseless, relentless retrenchment. Now we heard talk of necessity of paying off our debts, of providing surpluses, of economy of expenditure. And thus it has come about that there are many young men working in Government offices for long periods as volunteers without pay, and men discharging responsible duties for years at the handsome salary of £1 a week. To these unfortunates the Scripture above quoted does not seem applicable when one looks at their situation from the new point of the members of the Executive. One of the most striking illustrations of the change which comes over the mind of the governing class in Jamaica when sitting in judgment on the merit, financial and otherwise, of the bigger and smaller official, was offered by the case of the Secretary of the Jamaica Institute and the late Assistant Librarian. The public was told in substance, that Mr. Hall who had served them faithfully for over twenty years could clear out; that indeed he "never would be missed"; but that it was indispensable if we are not to remain to the end of our days a rude, uncultivated people, that we should maintain in our midst as our literary mentor, an art critic; such being no other than that distinguished "lover of Jamaicans" Mr. Frank Cundall.

Postmistresses at 5s. a Week.

Postmasters and postmistresses have been commiserated time and again by editors of newspapers and writers to the press. The German poet Goethe with prophetic insight must have been looking at the lives of these people among others when he wrote of those "who eat their bread in sorrow," and "spend the midnight hour waiting and watching for the morrow." They are doomed "to scorn delights and live laborious day" without the compensation given to those whom the poet thought of in writing those lines. I have come across district Post Offices where the persons in charge received the munificent salary of 5s. a week, or to be more correct £1 a month. This was the salary given to a person who was required to receive and despatch so many mails a week, and to sell stamps and postal orders. Is not this a plain case of leading the postmistress or postmaster into temptation? What has become of the argument in which it is urged that we must place our judges—educated men, and men of character—above temptation, by offering them good salaries? Is this a case where sauce for the goose cannot be regarded as sauce for the gander? Are judges more likely to fall into temptation than men and women of a lesser class? There are those who suggest that the true explanation of distinction is to be found in the words "force rules the world, has ruled it, shall rule it," that "meekness is weakness" and "force is triumphant."

Temptation on Starvation Wages.

It seems to me that an adequate answer to the questions which I have asked above, is that the Executive in its dealings with these officers are animated solely by the sin of self. These postmasters and postmistresses are expected to live highly respectable, virtuous and moral lives on what, without exaggeration, may be called starvation wages. But, as has been remarked, nature is stronger than education, and there are some of these lesser officials who have succumbed to the bait which the Government has allowed to be temptingly dangled before them. One

of the latest of these cases is that of a young man employed as station agent by the Government Railway at one of the out stations. He also occupied the post of postmaster. In the latter position he used a part of the money belonging to the post office, and was suddenly called upon to give an account of it. He was arrested and bailed, when he quitted the country, leaving his sureties to pay up. There can be little doubt that this unfortunate was more sinned against than sinning.

Monotony and Isolation.

Even these officers of the public who receive a larger salary than 5s. a week have a very hard time of it. Many of them are situated in isolated and monotonous places; others live in unhealthy spots, and a large number have to rouse themselves from their beds at night to receive and despatch mails.

Talent but no Talents.

Our present humanitarian and Socialist Governor, some time after coming here, made one of his usual high flown speeches, in which he expressed his intention of doing all in his power to attract to, and keep in, the Civil Service, young men (and presumably young women,) of talent. This led many to believe he would do something towards offering adequate salaries to what may be called the budding Civil Service talent. For we all know that some of the foremost officials began life on the lowest rung of the Civil Service ladder. The present Collector-General is an example. And so some of our legislators, among whom were Messrs. Webb & Corinaldi, to their honour urged the claims of the postmistresses and postmasters upon the attention of the Government. The late Colonial Secretary assured these legislators with bland smile that all would be well. But what was the upshot of the whole business? It was once again the case of the mountain in labour which brought forth a mouse. The issue of Sir Sydney Olivier's heroic promise to encourage talent in the Jamaica Civil Service was an increase of a few shillings on the pay of the assistants to the officers in-charge of district post offices. And the other officers may well remark to those who have championed their cause, in a paraphrase of the words of Faust,

And here we stand
With all your lore,
Poor fools, no better
Than before.

Those postmistresses who had toiled for years with the expectation of getting some little increase of pay were sorely disappointed, and regarded the agitation as a farce.

Grave Irregularities

In view of the above, are we to wonder at the grave irregularities which we hear of now and then as taking place in the Post Office Department? When irregularities are pointed out to the responsible officers the answer they give us is that the Government does not allow them sufficient money to remedy these irregularities.

The public in the meantime suffers from delayed letters and we are informed that postal orders and valuable letters have mysteriously disappeared somewhere in St. Thomas. Every day our confidence in the management of the Post Office is increased by the news of this one official decamping with the Government money or that sorter accused on a criminal charge. These occurrences are too often for the peace of mind of those who employ the Post Office as a carrier of money. Something is indeed rotten in its management. And this rotten state of affairs calls for instant remedy.

Post Office should be above Suspicion.

The ideal to be aimed at is the placing of the Post Office Department in the position of Cæsar's wife, viz., in the position of one above suspicion. Let the Government treat this department generously, and not pursue a policy of unreasonable retrenchment towards it. Let His Excellency manfully endeavour to fulfil the promise he made about encouraging talent in the Civil Service, by dealing justly by the lesser employees of the department, especially the miserably paid postmasters and postmistresses, and finally let the Chief Officials look alive, and throw off their somnolence, for this is the view I heard expressed in the country, that the retirement of one or two officials will not bring about improvement, so much as the infusion of a more living spirit in the atmosphere which surrounds those who do their work within the walls of the old Treasury buildings.

Postage Stamps Suggested in 1800

“A Stamp, Label, or Ticket with the words ‘By Permission of the Postmaster General’”

When Uniform Penny Postage was first under consideration, wrappers, stamped paper, and stamped covers were the means suggested for the prepayment of postage; the stamps to be impressed by the Stamp Office, says Mr. W. G. Hendy in his “Postmarks of the British Isles since 1840.” But there were also advocates for the use of labels; such, for instance, as James Chalmers, of Dundee, and Richard Cobden, Member of Parliament for Manchester. The latter, who was examined before the Select Committee on Postage on the 7th May, 1838 (or just two years before postage stamps were introduced), as to the use of stamped paper or stamped covers for the payment of postage, stated: “I have an impression that a vignette stamp, probably three-quarters or half an inch square, to be affixed to the outside of a letter, would be a very convenient plan. I think one source of increase to the revenue would be the loss of these, and the numbers that would be given away, like everything else that is cheap.” Cobden, as an illustration, mentions that he had seen such tickets in actual use in New York. “I found there,” he says, “the soda-water sellers, the great

omnibus-keepers, the keepers of baths, and other businesses issued such labels to their customers in quantities. I can mention,” says Cobden, “that these tickets were frequently taken out of the country, for I have seen gentlemen in Manchester with the pocket of their pocket-books half filled with those tickets.” It is also very certain that the tickets referred to by Mr. Cobden were labels, not cards; for on being asked on what were they printed, he replied, “On thin paper.” The idea of using labels for postal purposes was, however, by no means new. As far back as the year 1800, one Mr. Charles Frederick Schmoll, of Jewin Street, London, put forward a suggestion in connection with the illegal conveyance of letters to make it lawful “to carry letters by coaches by way of a stamp, label, or ticket, with the words by permission of the Postmaster General, such stamp, label, or ticket to be fixed on the outside of the parcel or letter.” The value suggested for these stamps was 1d. and 2d., and that “such stamps, labels, or tickets to be distributed at all Post Offices in the Kingdom”

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

Austria.—(Vol. IV. p. 151)—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. write as follows regarding the 1, 2, and 3 heller stamps on blue paper which we recorded last week on the authority of a contemporary:—"We have just received a letter from our Vienna agent who made enquiries at our request, and he says that the report is incorrect and that nothing is known in Vienna of any such stamps." Our correspondents suggest that in the specimens which have been seen on blue paper the paper must have been stained by chemical means.

British Honduras.—(Vol. III. p. 250).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 5c. stamp printed in blue on white paper. This makes the complete list of varieties on the paper with multiple watermark as follows:—



Wmk. Multiple Cr. C.A. Perf. 14.

	s. d.
1c. bluish green	0 1
2c. purple and black on red	0 3
2c. carmine	0 2
5c. black and blue on blue	0 6
5c. blue	0 4
10c. purple and green	0 8
25c. " " orange	1 4
50c. grey green and carmine	2 9
\$1 " " "	5 0
\$2 " " blue	10 0
\$5 " " black	25 0

Congo.—(Vol. IV., p. 104).—We note several of our Continental contemporaries announce the new stamps inscribed "CONGO BELGE" as actually issued, and our Editor also reports the arrival of the set on the authority of a correspondent who says the inscription is "BELGE CONGO." But as the poor scribe who is responsible for these columns has not yet been favoured with a set he can give no particulars as to the colours and values nor state which of the above interpretations of the name is correct.

France.—(Vol. III. p. 8).—We take the following interesting paragraph from the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*:—"Our publishers have shown us a mint block of twenty-five of the 1c. laureated head, 1863-70, in which twelve of the stamps are obviously from a different sheet, having been patched on in the place of twelve other stamps which, no doubt, had been damaged and cut out for their reception. The join is quite obvious when seen from the back, the stamps overlapping to the extent of about a quarter of an inch. On the face of the stamps, however, the join can only be seen under a glass, coming, as it does, exactly in the margin between the stamps, and perforated through the double thickness of the paper. Such an operation, which must have taken some little time to perform with such perfection, would hardly seem to have been worth the trouble, but we must remember that the printers had to account for every scrap of paper served out to them and were obliged to proceed with as little waste as possible."

Levant (Russian.)—(Vol. IV. p. 140).—In our chronicle of the new stamps issued to commemorate the fiftieth

anniversary of the founding of the Russian Post Office in the Levant, on page 140, we were unable to give the colours of the highest value and as the colours of some of the other denominations are also open to a little more accurate description we repeat the list below. It should be noted that all the stamps are on unwatermarked paper and have the intersecting varnish lines on the surface like the current Russian stamps.

New designs. Surcharged with values in Turkish currency.

No wmk. Perf. 14, 14½.

	s. d.
5 paras on 1 kop orange	0 1
10 " " 2 " green	0 2
20 " " 4 " carmine	0 3
1 piastre, " 10 " blue	0 4
5 piastres, " 50 " purple and green	1 4
7 " " 70 " chocolate and yellow	2 0

No wmk. Perf. 13.

10 piastres on 1r. deep brown and orange	2 6
35 " " 3r. 50k. marone and sea green	9 0
70 " " 7r. myrtle and pink	18 0

New South Wales.—(Vol. III. p. 154).—A hitherto unchronicled variety is described in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, i.e. the 3d. yellow green with the second type of Crown N S.W. watermark (which, by the way, is sideways) perf. 10 compound with 12½, 13. Only the 1d., 2d., 6d., and 1s. were previously known with this perforation.

Nicaragua.—(Vol. IV. p. 152).—*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* records several more values of the new set printed from the old 1905 plates, making the list to date as follows:—

New Series. No wmk. Perf. 12.

1c. emerald green
2c. vermilion
3c. orange red
4c. purple
6c. brown
10c. claret
15c. grey black
20c. olive-brown
50c. dark green
1p. yellow
2p. rose

Our contemporary states that no issue of the 5 pesos in new colours will be made. The 10c. of the above issue is reported cut in half diagonally for use as provisional 5c. stamps.

Papua.—(Vol. IV. p. 21).—Although the 2s. 6d. in the permanent type was chronicled some months ago we understand from a correspondent that this value has not yet been issued. Some of our contemporaries are now listing the 1s. orange and black, perf. 12½, as a "novelty," but Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. shewed us this variety early in April last.

Queensland.—(Vol. IV. p. 131).—We learn from divers sources that the current 2d. stamp is being printed from fresh electrotypes made from another re-drawn die. In this new type the top of the crown does not touch the oval, the forehead is unshaded, the ear is more plainly drawn, and the whole design has a lighter appearance.

Re-engraved die.

2d. blue

Spain.—(Vol. II. p. 237).—The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* records the current 20c. stamp quite im-

perforate, so the values now known in this condition are as follows:—

No wmk. Imperforate.
5c. deep green
10c. rose red
15c. blue black
15c. mauve
20c. olive black
25c. blue

Turkey.—(Vol. IV. p. 93).—According to the *Philatelic World* the 5, 10, 20 par., 1, 2, 2½ pias stamps of the current issue have appeared with a special overprint to commemorate the accession of Mohammed V. The overprint is in Turkish characters, in three lines, and means "Sultan Mohammed V., April 14th, 1925." We are told that there seem to be variations in the setting of the surcharge for different values, and the only specimens seen so far were locally overprinted and issued at Jaffa.

United States.—(Vol. IV p. 152).—We gather from *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* that the new Alaska-Yukon-Pacific commemorative stamps are printed in sheets of 280 stamps, which are divided into four "post-office" sheets of 70 each before being placed on sale. This somewhat odd number may perhaps be accounted for by the awkward shape of the stamp.

NOTE.

The Prices affixed are those at which Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. will supply any of the stamps chronicled that may be in stock.

The stamps are supplied at lower rates to subscribers to their New Issue Service, particulars of which can be had on application to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich.

The Prices quoted are for unused.

Federated Malay States

By B. W. H. Poole in the "West End Philatelist"

THE current stamps of the Federated Malay States do not, at first sight, appear to offer a very promising field for philatelic research and yet, when examining a number of these stamps recently, I made a discovery of some little interest and perhaps importance regarding the single-coloured stamps of 1906-9. These, while of the same general design as the stamps printed in two colours, differ in many small details to the extent of showing that a new die must have been prepared from which the new plates, capable of printing the whole of the stamp at one operation, were constructed. This discovery would be of comparative insignificance were it not for the fact that the first supply of the 1c., all in green, was printed by the old two plate process so that we have two distinct die varieties for this value.

It will be remembered that all the low value bi-coloured stamps of the Federated Malay States, had the centres printed from one "head-plate" common to all, and there was a separate "duty-plate" (the border) for each denomination. This head-plate was numbered "1," and each sheet of 120 stamps, arranged in two panes of 60, one above the other, shows this number four times in the margins, opposite the end stamps in the second and eleventh horizontal rows. A new head-plate, numbered "2," was brought into use, some time about 1904 I believe, differing slightly from the first plate in having the shading above and to the right of the tiger, a little fainter than before.

When, in 1906, the colour of the 1c. was changed from green and black to all green, the same two plates were used for its production, i.e. the head-plate numbered "2," and the original duty-plate. Consequently the sheets consisted of 120 stamps with the number "2," in the margins.

About the same time, the colour of the 3c. value was changed from brown and black to all brown, but, instead of being printed from the old plates, an entirely new plate was constructed by means of which the whole of the stamp could be printed at the same time. This plate was double the size of the old one, and consisted of 240 stamps arranged in four panes of 60, while the plate number in the margins was "1." For the construction of this plate a new die was evidently prepared by taking an impression from the original die for the centre, and engraving a border around it. This was apparently intended to be the same as

before, but there are sufficient differences to make it an easy matter to distinguish between impressions from the two dies.

When fresh supplies of the 1c. in green were required, a new plate, similar to that for the 3c., was constructed, so that this value could also be printed all at once. This plate was likewise composed of 240 stamps and bore the plate number "1" in the margins. As this shows the same peculiarities as the 3c., it was evidently made from the same die with, of course, the necessary alteration in the corner numerals, and it forms a second and distinct variety of the 1c. green. The 1c. is the only value affected by this discovery, for the 3c. brown was never produced by the two-plate printing.

The chief differences between the two dies are as follows:—

DIE I.

The centre varies in its position in relation to the surrounding frame.

The top line of the central frame is thick, and often a little faint, as though the pressure of the plate was not quite even.

The serifs of the letters in the inscription "FEDERATED MALAY STATES" (especially in the first word) are prominent.

The inscriptions on all four sides varying in relation to the frame lines of the centre piece, especially "POSTAGE AND REVENUE," which always projects to the right or left.

The letters "c" in the corners are thin.

DIE II.

The centre always occupies the same position, and is equi-distant from the frame on all sides.

The top line is thinner, and never varies.

The serifs are hardly apparent.

The inscriptions and lines are always exactly the same length.

The letters "c" are much wider, than the figure "1" in each corner has larger serifs at the foot.

For the reasons stated above, Die I. is always plate "2," and plate "1" is always Die II.

How I Wrote My First Catalogue

BY MAJOR E. B. EVANS

[In an old volume of an Indian stamp journal *The Philatelic World* for February 15th, 1896, we found the following interesting paper by Major E. B. Evans. That the idea of a collectors' catalogue should date back to the "seventies" and earlier may be news to some its recent advocates.—Ed.]

It must have been in the early "seventies" that the idea of compiling a catalogue first occurred to me. Stamp collecting was at a considerable discount in England at the time, the good old *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* was still in existence but was drawing near its end. *The Philatelist* (not of London but of Brighton) had but a few more years to run, and the London Philatelic Society, formed a few years previously, was showing no outward sign of activity. The last English catalogue of any value that had been published was the 1870 edition of Dr. Gray's, the dealers' lists of the period were not very elaborate or complete, and a new list somewhat on the lines of Dr. Gray, but going rather further into varieties and brought up to date was greatly wanted—by one individual at all events. I saw no chance at the time of getting this, unless I compiled it myself, and my idea was to take the published catalogues, compare them with one another, and with the chronicles of new issues, etc., in the magazines, and to work up something which, if no one would be venturesome enough to publish it, would at least serve as a basis for the arrangement of my own collection.

To show you the kind of stage at which I had then arrived, I may say that the hunt after a permanent album being then in full cry I had commenced the construction of one for myself, with movable leaves, each provided with a linen hinge, and held together by strings running through eyelet holes in the margin; I had not, however, advanced beyond ruled spaces for the stamps, but was laboriously mapping my pages out, in a way that I much regretted a few years later. I was a fairly advanced collector for that date. At all events I had attained a degree of independence, which so many seem to stop short of now-a-days. I declined to limit my collection by any one's ideas but my own.

Before my idea had got beyond the ideal stage, while it was indeed, literally an "Ideal" Catalogue, I learnt that the London Philatelic Society was not, as I had supposed, defunct, and that it was engaged upon a catalogue which I felt would be far more complete than my own. Mr. E. L. Pemberton, whom we all look back upon as a kind of Philatelic Giant that seems to have become extinct, commenced a work which would certainly for some time have superseded all others, if it had ever been completed; I joined the Philatelic Society, subscribed to Pemberton's Catalogue, and let my own ambitions rest—for a time.

Some ten years later I was again rather in want of a catalogue; the latest that I possessed on this occasion was Moen's Edition of 1877—it was getting a little out of date in 1891, besides I still was obstinate enough to adhere to some of my own ideas as to arrangement. I had drawn up some rough lists of certain countries, for my own use, and having lent one of these to a brother collector, he was good enough to say that it was clearer and more comprehensible, to him, than any he had yet seen published. That he was rather more ignorant than I was, upon philatelic matters, it is unnecessary to add;

but being a sub-editor of a leading daily paper in Dublin, he had infinitely more knowledge than I had of preparing matter for the press and getting it printed and published. He therefore suggested that we should bring out a catalogue together, to be compiled by me, on my own lines; while he, having an excellent practical knowledge of type setting, was to set it up himself, or get it set up under his own supervision, and have it printed as cheaply as possible. It was to appear in parts, as the spirit moved us; and to be continued so long as the enthusiasm of subscribers should lead them to provide funds. Whether either of us seriously believed that that catalogue would ever be completed I cannot say.

We drew up a glowing prospectus, I remember, in the first draft of which great stress was laid upon the blank page at the end of each country, for the insertion of new issues. One of us, however, I forget which, suggested that kind critics would be sure to say that the blank pages, mentioned so prominently in the programme, were the most interesting and valuable part of the book, so we struck that paragraph out. Our great difficulty was the question of illustrations. We felt that a catalogue without illustrations would be quite useless, and that to purchase blocks would be to incur expense that would probably never be recouped. We were not prepared to lose much over the business, and our faith in its money-raising capabilities was of the smallest. I applied to my old friend Mr. Stanley Gibbons, to see if I could obtain the use of some of his blocks for an "English Catalogue," and he, understanding by this a list of English stamps—illustrations of which were at that time commonly published here—kindly offered to hand us all the blocks we wanted. When, however, he discovered that our modest wants extended practically to his whole collection of electrotypes, he was obliged to withdraw the offer thus made under a misapprehension. This, I must say, was quite natural, but it considerably damped our ardour for the time, and very nearly led to our abandoning the whole scheme.

At this juncture we received an offer as flattering as it was surprising to us both; Mr. A. H. Wilson (Pemberton, Wilson & Co.) having heard of our proposed catalogue, came over to Dublin to ask us to allow him either to take the publication off our hands altogether, or to publish a separate edition of it, in either case as a Priced Catalogue for his firm. Like many collectors of the present day, we had a certain amount of prejudice against Priced Catalogues, but under all the circumstances, we agreed that we could not do better than accept Mr. Wilson's proposal; and I am quite sure that our decision was a good one. As originally intended, I was to carry out my own ideas of arrangement, &c., my fellow-worker was to see to the setting up and printing, Mr. Wilson was to put in the prices; and was to have the further privilege of settling the bill and paying us something for our labour—and thus came into existence a book, the full title of which is a somewhat lengthy one "A Catalogue for Collectors of Postage Stamps, Stamped Envelopes, Wrappers and Post-cards, compiled from the most recent Authorities with the prices at which most of the contents can be obtained from the Publishers, Messrs. Pemberton, Wilson & Co.

From this little history you may, I think, glean a few little facts. First, that a catalogue can be compiled, within a reasonable space of time, by an individual collector, who has a certain amount of leisure to devote to it;

whilst it seems to be an acknowledged fact that a Society, or a Committee, practically cannot do this work except in the form of a series of monographs extending over a number of years. Second, that a stamp collector—like any other amateur—can hardly hope to publish his Catalogue himself, unless he is prepared to lose money on it. I had the advantage of the assistance of a gentleman who was able to reduce expenses to a minimum, but even so we were unable to do our own publishing. A rich collector will prefer to devote his spare time, and cash, to his own collection, rather than to the compiling, or publishing, of a catalogue for the benefit of other people. Dealers are the only persons who can publish catalogues with some prospect of making them pay; a dealer who publishes an illustrated magazine has the materials for illustrating new editions of his Catalogue, and if he publishes it as a Priced List, as most dealers will, it is bound to pay one way or another.

The Ideal Catalogue dreamt of in dreams, and revealed in visions is not yet. It is waiting, I fancy, for the Ideal Philatelist; the millionaire collector, who has survived the drudgery of general collecting on the most advanced scale, and is willing to devote, for a few years, the whole of his time, and a considerable portion of his income, to working up all the information that has yet been published, digesting it into a form that shall be understood of the common collector, arranging lists, that shall include every known variety and yet be easy of reference for the beginner, and finally publish it, magnificently illustrated, and printed upon the best possible paper, at a price that shall bring it within the reach of all sorts and conditions of men. I forgot to add that, to satisfy all tastes, there should be given in an appendix the accurate market value, of every variety included in the Catalogue, fixed for all time!
EDW. B. EVANS.

Jamaica Jottings

By Astley Clerk in the "Jamaica Times"

Reduced Rates Wanted.

THE *Jamaica Guardian*, of May 8th, commenting on the recent decision of the Government of the Leeward Islands to fall into line with other W.I. Governments, who are using a *farthing* stamp for newspaper and other mail matters, pleads ably and justly for a reduction in our existing halfpenny newspaper rate. Our Post Office makes a handsome profit every year, all of which goes to the revenue of the Island, it can therefore afford to reduce its rates on newspapers, a power for good and an educative influence in Jamaica. In fact, its past history demonstrates the fact that the Post Office will gain by this reduction. Let us have a farthing newspaper rate—we can do without the special stamp.

Stamps and Coins.

"Numismatic" asks me to call the attention of my readers to the article "Where Stamps meet Coins," in *The Postage Stamp* (April 17th). He feels certain that it will appeal to philatelists as much as to numismatists showing as it does a kinship between the two.

Simplified Collection of Jamaica.

Ewen's Weekly Stamp News has, for several numbers, been printing opinions on the "Future of Stamp Collecting," and, needless to say, these opinions cover a wide field—a good many, however, have voted for "General collecting without watermarks, perforations or shades," or, in other words, a simplified collection. Now I will not quarrel with those who, wearied with the increasing bulk of their catalogues consequent on the yearly growth of "varieties," clamour for a less complicated method than at present exists, the same time I, a specialist in Jamaica and Jamaica only, ask "if collectors want the unscientific or simplified method why do they not stick to it, for it is there and no one prevents them from so collecting?" "But," says our growler, "the catalogues list these differences." Quits true, but that does not mean that you, Mr. Simplified, must of necessity collect everything in your catalogue, a guide-book which you consult but are not compelled to follow. It is, I claim, the duty of the catalogue to call attention to all varieties—it is left to the owner's choice to select the country or countries, which appeal to him and collect them as he likes, that is with or without watermarks, perforation,

shades, etc. "Everyone to her liking" as the old lady said when she kissed her cow, so please yourself, Mr. Growler, no one will grumble, but what I cannot understand is why should you grumble with me because I choose to collect as I do? My object, however, in writing on this subject was born of the thought, "what would a simplified collection of Jamaica look like?" By Gibbons 1904 Jamaica calls for 92 varieties all told. Well, let us simplify this number, and after doing away with so-called superfluities (shades, surcharges, etc.) and considering only designs and colour we get thirty-one (31) thus:—

1. FISCALS:—1d. rose; 1s. rose; 3d. purple; 5s. lilac; 1½d. blue 5
2. Queen's Heads:—1d. blue; 2d. rose; 4d. orange; 6d. lilac; 1s. brown; 3d. green; ½d. maroon; 2s. brown; 5s. lilac; cut 1d. for ½d. 10
3. Queen's Heads:—1d. carmine; 2d. grey; 6d. yellow; ½d. green 4
4. Queen's Heads:—1d. lilac and mauve; 2d. green; 2½d. lilac and ultramarine 3
5. Llandoveries:—1d. red; 1d. black and red 2
6. Arms:—1d. black and carmine; ½d. black and green; 2½d. black and ultramarine; 5d. black and yellow; 5s. black and lilac 5
7. Arms:—1d. carmine; ½d. green 2

It may be that, from the grumbler's point of view, I have done wrong in including the "cut 1d. for ½d."—some one may even think that my list is not simplified enough and may insist on my striking out the contents of sections three and seven as well as one of the Llandoveries, which, although different in colour, are certainly similar in design. In this way Jamaica would be simplified to 23. Would the grumblers and the growlers be satisfied then, I wonder? May be so, but it would not be the first occasion that I have heard of people who think that plum pudding without sauce is finer eating than with it.

Jamaica in the New Gibbons.

E. L. writes—"Gibbons Part I to hand. Very little difference in Jamaica. Isn't it ridiculous that the 5d. is still catalogued at the old figure? I do not think he would sell them at these prices, especially the multiple. He pays no attention to Jamaica at all for the errors multiple are still given in full although they do not exist,

You will notice that the colour-names of the 6 pines have been changed." E.L. is wrong, the errors (ser-et) do exist on multiple paper. While on this subject of "ser-et" errors it surprises me to see that Gibbons still catalogues a 5s. error. I wonder if he ever saw one, for I have never seen it, nor have I ever been able to find a collector who has done anything but express grave doubts as to its existence. The Stamp Commissioners office is emphatic in its statement as to the non-existence of this 5s. error.

The Ser. et, 5d.

A few months ago I stated in this column the 5d. Ser. et. was selling in Kingston for £6 to £8. From a letter, dated April 22nd, 1909, written by a well-known London dealer, I am pleased to find that as I thought, the Kingston price was considerably below value. He writes:—"I have nothing special in Jamaica in the way of proofs, essays or errors, excepting one copy of the 5d. c.a. error, Ser. et. the centre stamp of a strip of three, for which I want

£7 10s. Another London dealer has one but will not take less than £15 for it. Shortly before Xmas I sold a similar strip of the same stamp, but multiple watermark, for £6 cash." And if the thoughtful reader will bear in mind that only 98 sheets of the c.a. 5d and 50 of the multiple (a total of 148 sheets) were printed, they will realise that this stamp especially the latter watermark is cheap at even £20. Of the 148 I lost two in the fire of Jan. 14th. 1907, Mr. George Kinhead lost another two and a lady friend one, which brings the total known copies down to 143. Did any other collector lose their 5d error on the 14th January? I would like to know.

Caymania.

Speaking about the Cayman Islands scandal, G.S.W. says: "The group is a tiny dependency of Jamaica, and the stamps of Jamaica should be used there." So say I, it is simply ridiculous that this 17 x 7 strip of sand should be issuing a special set of stamps and sad to know that she has been permitted to use them to as she has used them.

Stamp Dealers on Trial

Opening of Proceedings at the Central Criminal Court

ON Friday, June 25th, before Judge Lumley Smith, at the Central Criminal Court, John Stewart Lowden, of Villiers Street, Strand, and Henry Harmer, of Preston Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, stamp dealers, surrendered to answer indictments charging them with an alleged conspiracy to defraud persons who might be induced to trade with them in the sale of stamps, and also with obtaining money by false pretences. Defendants were legally represented.

Mr. Bodkin said the case for the prosecution was that the two defendants represented as genuine British North Borneo stamps and sold as such, stamps which they had conspired together to have forged by arrangement with other persons in Paris. It was suggested that they had not only palmed off these spurious imitations upon persons in this country, but also on the Continent. Dealing with the law on the subject, Mr. Bodkin said, in the year 1900 a great Postal Convention was held at Rome, and the outcome was the passing of the Act which made it an offence for any person to forge stamps of any nation which formed part of that postal union.

The two defendants, counsel went on to say, had been associated together for some years past, and they were closely connected with two trading concerns—the West-End Stamp Co. (Ltd.), the offices of which were at 20, Villiers Street, Strand, and the other, Herbert Mack and Co. (Ltd.). The West-End Stamp Co., of which the defendants were managing directors at a salary of £150, was formed in January, 1906, with a capital of £500, afterwards increased to £5,000, and by an agreement £2,000 worth of stamps were sold by Lowden and Harmer to the company. In April this year this company, according to Lowden, was in process of being sold to a person named Schneider, who lived in the Gray's Inn Road, for £10. Herbert Mack and Co was formed in February, 1907, and carried on in precisely the same manner. The British North Borneo Co. administered the affairs of British North Borneo under a charter granted in the year 1881, and, among other powers, they had authority to issue stamps for postage and revenue purposes. The stamps were designed and printed by the well-known firm of Blades, East and Blades, in the City. In consequence of a communication that the Paris police received from the British North Borneo Co., a visit was paid to an

engraver's, where men were found at work printing British North Borneo stamps, also a machine for putting cancellation marks upon them. Between 700,000 and 800,000 of nine different kinds of British North Borneo stamps were being manufactured. Correspondence seized led to the London police visiting the offices of the West-End Stamp Co., Strand.

Inspector Stockley found at Lowden's premises a large number of British North Borneo stamps from one to fifty cents of various issues; also 92,490 British North Borneo stamps ranging from $\frac{1}{2}$ cent. to ten cents. of the 1887-90 issue. The officer found also at Harmer's house a very large number of Borneo stamps of different issues. Lowden explained that the West End Stamp Company had purchased £13,000 worth of stamps from another company. Evidence was called, and the trial was adjourned.

A Journalist's Jealous Envy.

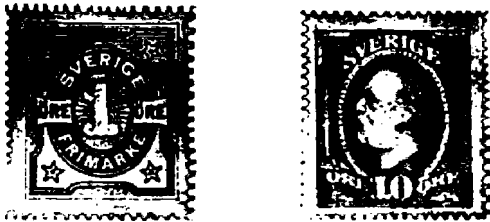
I see that the Postmaster-General has presented a heart of flint to the appeals of Mr. Horniman, M.P. Mr. Horniman, as a member for Chelsea should, takes a deep interest in matters æsthetic. He asks Mr. Buxton whether or not the near future might see some alteration in the colour and design of British postage stamps. The reply, as Ministers love to say, is in the negative. Of course one has to admit, although philatelists may not, that the stamp is primarily a stamp, and only secondarily a coloured engraving. Yet, for myself, I confess that I often gaze with jealous envy upon the stamps of the Congo, beautifully designed and printed in splendid reds and greens, with charging elephants and wallowing hippopotami to attract eyes and educate minds. Or again, there are the Sudan and Somaliland specimens or those of Costa Rica and its minute neighbours; Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like unto one of them. Why should England choke the world's mail-bags with the ugliest stamps in the world?—*Bristol Mercury*.

Bargains in Stamps.

If you want real bargains in Postage Stamps read the advertisement pages of *The Postage Stamp* every week. Every week there is something new, and many special bargains. If you miss a week you may miss the very stamp you want to complete a series.

Sweden's New Stamps

H.M. the King approves Olle Hjortsberg's Designs for New Stamps expected at New Year



The current Stamps which are to be superseded by new designs.

THE Swedish General Post Office has accepted designs for the new series of stamps, one type of which is to bear the portrait of H.M. the King. The successful designs have been submitted by the artist, Olle Hjortsberg, and are of three kinds.

Type 1 shows a full face portrait of the King in a circle of pearls, with the crown above and side frames of oak and laurel leaves, and the name SVERIGE (Sweden) at the bottom. The value is in figures in the top angles.

This type will be used for the following denominations:—

- 5 ore.
- 10 "
- 15 "
- 20 "
- 25 "
- 30 "
- 50 "
- 1 krona.
- 5 kronor.

Type 2 shows the small Swedish crest and will be used for the lowest denominations including—

- 1 ore.
- 2 "
- 4 "

Type 3 with the royal arms of Sweden will be used for all the values of the official stamps (*Tjänstefrimärken*). The stamps of the first (portrait) type will be produced

in *taille douce*, the others will be surface-printed.

Nothing has yet been definitely decided with regard to the colours of the new stamps. But here without question the international arrangement concluded by the parties to the Postal Union Conventions will be strictly adhered to, and it may therefore be assumed that the stamps of 5 ore and upwards will be in the same colours as the stamps of like denominations now current.

A change will be made in regard to the 1, 2 and 4 ore stamps, each of which will henceforth be printed in one colour instead of being bicoloured as they are at present.

The impressed stamps on wrappers, postcards and letter cards will be of the same kind as the respective adhesive stamps of the same values. For instance, on ordinary postcards the King's portrait type will be used, and the small royal crest in the left top corner.

The General Post Office has decided to issue a new denomination of postage stamps of the value

35 ore

and new official stamps of the values

- 1 ore.
- 15 "
- 25 "
- 35 "
- 5 kronor.

As will be seen from the illustration of type 3 the official stamps will hereafter be of the same size as the ordinary stamps intended for the use of the public. At present they are double the size of the ordinary stamps.

Prints of the new designs were shown to the King on Thursday, June 17th, when His Majesty was pleased to signify his approval and satisfaction with the designs.

No decision has yet been arrived at with regard to the placing of the order for manufacturing the stamps. The question to which the authorities are giving every attention is as to whether there is in Stockholm or elsewhere in Sweden a sufficiently experienced engraver. It is recognised that it is of the highest importance to have the portrait in Type I well executed.

It is doubtful whether the new stamps will be ready before the new year.



TYPE I.



TYPE II.



TYPE III.

Stop Press News

COLONIAL POST OFFICE FIRE.



The General Post Office at Belize, British Honduras, together with several other buildings, was completely destroyed by a fire which broke out at midnight on May 29th.

All the post office records were destroyed.

Belize is the capital and chief port of British Honduras, which is, as most stamp collectors are aware, a Crown Colony, situate between Yucatan and Guatemala.

The loss of the records is the more to be regretted as the documents available in London when the Royal Society's *West Indies* was compiled were of a very meagre description, and, so far as we are aware, no search had since been made of the postal records in the Colony.

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION AT EARL'S COURT.

THIS SATURDAY'S FESTIVITIES.

American Independence is to be celebrated at "The Golden West" Exhibition, Earl's Court, on July 3rd—the famous Fourth being a Sunday. It is to be an old-fashioned "Fourth of July," and the festivities will begin early on the Saturday. A brilliant programme has been arranged, including orations by well-known American and British speakers, which should strongly emphasise the Anglo-American entente. National airs will be sung by Madame Kate Webb's extensive choir, accompanied by Coughlin's National Guard Band of New York. In the afternoon there is to be a concert by the massed military bands of the Exhibition. An American banquet is to be given at the Quadrant Restaurant, Western Gardens, when six hundred guests are expected to welcome the toasts of American and British reciprocity. Following the banquet there will be a fine display of fireworks.

Stewards of the Stamp Section are requested to be in attendance as much of the time on Saturday as possible.

BRIGHTON PHILATELISTS ON HOLIDAY.

SUCCESSFUL "COUNTRY GATHERING" AT ANGMERING.

In spite of the uncertainty of the week-end weather the party of members of the Brighton Branch of the Junior Philatelic Society, who journeyed out to Angmering on Saturday, had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

The "Country Gathering" was held at Malta House, Angmering, the residence of Mr. Herbert Clark, by whose invitation the members and friends, numbering about twenty-four, assembled there early in the afternoon of Saturday.

The President of the Junior Philatelic Society, and Mr. H. H. Harland, were present representing the London Society.

Among the Brighton members present were Mr. W. Mead, the Chairman of the Branch, Mr. J. Ireland, the local Hon. Secretary, Miss Olive E. Woodley, Miss K. Foster, Rev. Bond, and Messrs. Tom I. Blake, Chas. J. Smith, D. C. Smith, J. Corner-Spokes, E. J. Baldwin, B. Morley, J. Markwick, Geo. A. Dell, and G. Lumgair.

Among the Visitors were Miss N. P. Woodley, Mrs. Markwick, and Miss G. M. Davanport.

A most delightful afternoon was spent in the grounds and in inspecting the vineries and glasshouses. Several exciting croquet games were played, and Mr. Clark's extensive library of philatelic works was the object of much interest; as also were the portions of his stamp collections which were displayed.

After tea, Mr. Mead, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. H. Clark for his kindness in inviting the members for the third time to his beautiful country home, said that Mr. Clark had been a very good friend to the Branch Society, and that but for his generous support, and his very active interest the Society could not have attained the success which it undoubtedly had attained.

He referred in kindly terms to the presence with them of Mr. Melville, the President of their Society. They heard a good deal of him as Editor of the *Stamp Lover*, and latterly also as Editor of the weekly *Postage Stamp*, and had a dim idea that he published a new book every day, but they were heartily glad to have him with them.

Mr. Blake seconded the vote of thanks, confirming the Chairman's appreciation of the services of Mr. Clark to the Society, and expressing, on behalf of the members, their pleasure at having the President amongst them on this occasion.

Mr. Fred. J. Melville, who was then called upon for a speech, said it seemed a shame to keep them all indoors just at a time when the sun was trying to show itself after an absence of some days. But he was glad to add his word to the appreciation which had already been voiced as to the work Mr. Clark had done for the branch, and, he would add, for the parent society also.

Mr. Clark, responding, assured the members that he was delighted to have them all with him once again, and that the weather had been kinder to them than on the previous occasions.

The party returned to Brighton about 9 p.m.

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Articles, Contributions and Correspondence, should be addressed to the Editor, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the correspondent. *Articles, etc., not accepted, will be returned when postage is prepaid.*

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THE POSTAGE STAMP may be obtained through *Newsagents* or will be forwarded from the publishing office to any address at the following rates of prepayment: Yearly, 6s. 6d.; Half-yearly, 3s. 3d.; Quarterly, 1s. 8d.; Single Copy, 1½d.

Our Advertisers' Offers.

Messrs. Bridger & Kay offer special bargains in British East Africa and the Orange Free State.

Messrs. Harmer Rooke & Co. announce that their season's auctions will be continued to the end of July.

Messrs. Hamilton & Co. offer a big packet for 6d.

The Victoria Stamp Co. has some interesting and inexpensive stamps on offer this week.

Mr. W. Ward, who seems to understand how to make the best use of a small space, always makes his copy interesting. His advertisements are always well worth reading.

Our Publishing Day and Advertisers.

In order to meet the requirements of the publishing trade our publishers now distribute copies to the *Newsagents* on Wednesdays instead of Thursdays as before. This compels us to go to press on Saturday morning. Hence it is absolutely necessary for our printers to have all advertisements at latest on Friday morning; consequently, copy must be in the Advertisement Manager's hands not later than Wednesday, 5 o'clock p.m.

The POSTAGE STAMP

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all Classes of Stamp Collectors

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Edited by
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Gossip of the Week

BY CORNELIUS WRINKLE



Royal Society's Report.

THE Annual Report of the Hon. Secretary of the Royal Philatelic Society was read at the meeting at the beginning of last month. The full text has only just appeared in the *London Philatelist* and it is reproduced in *The Postage Stamp* (in extenso). Quite apart from the statistical matter Mr. Tilleard's Report is always interesting reading, forming, as it does, a well

considered review of the year's events.

Fifteen New Fellows Elected.

I note that fifteen new members have been elected as Fellows of the Society, and two Associates have been added to the list, which, however, only makes a total of four Associates. It is rather surprising that more of the younger generation have not been induced to join under the facilities afforded by associateship. The average attendance (21) at the meetings Mr. Tilleard does not consider as satisfactory as it should have been, but this must always be a difficult matter to improve where, of necessity, most of the work done is on specialist lines.

The Society's Prosperity.

I need not dwell on the report here as none of my readers should fail to read it in its entirety elsewhere in this issue. But I rejoice to see that the Society's prosperity is maintained and its fellowship progressing steadily. In every respect philatelists must feel that the Royal is a worthy upholder of all that is highest and best in our cult.

The Surcharge Terror.

It is indeed a sign of the times when the Expert Committee of the Royal Society announces that it will charge double fees for expertising a surcharge or overprint. None can complain at such an innovation for a surcharge is undoubtedly the trickiest thing the philatelist has to

expertise. The modern mechanical methods of exact facsimile reproduction, while conferring an immense boon on the world of journalism and many other sections of the community, have placed a dangerous tool in the hands of the maker of spurious surcharges, or as Mr. Bellows so quaintly called them "those whose love for the quaint outweighs their desire for the true."

Another U.S. Stamp Change.

I learn from various sources that the new green special delivery stamp of the United States has been hurriedly withdrawn, and a return has been made to the old familiar blue stamp showing a messenger mounted on a bicycle. In the great rush in which the mails have to be handled many letters bearing the new stamp have escaped treatment as special delivery matter because of the similarity of the new stamp in size and colour to the ordinary 1 cent stamp. In some instances I am told the delay in delivery of such letters has caused serious loss to the public and embarrassment to the P.O. Department. The old design with a boy on a wheel is so distinctive and so well-known to post office and railway mail clerks that it attracts instant attention and a letter bearing it is expedited by every employee of the postal service who handles it.

Philatelic Politicians.

Things are beginning to hustle or be hustled in the matter of elections, and voting on amendments, to be taken at the Annual Convention of the American Philatelic Society. In this country where so few of us will ever express any keenness in taking honorary offices in connection with society work it must come as quite a wholesome rebuke to find the elections so keenly contested over the water. The nominations for the new Board of Directors are thirteen in number, of whom nine will be elected. The nominations are:—H. S. Adair, Ohio, (Secretary); Charles Beamish, Penn. (Vice-President); Gen. C. A. Coolidge, Mich. (At Large); F. R. Cornwall, Mo. (Vice-President); A. F. Henkels, Penn. (Vice-President); L. H. Kjellstedt, Penn. (International Secretary); Henry N. MUDGE, Ill. (President); Chester Myers, Mo. (Vice-President); Julian Park, N.Y. (International Secretary); J. A. Steinmetz, Penn. (Vice-President); A. Strauss, Mo. (Vice-President); A. H. Webber, Cal. (At Large); Dr. W. P. Wherry, Neb. (Treasurer).

Cornelius Prophecies.

It would not serve any useful purpose for me to comment on the excellent qualifications of these gentlemen, although there is abundant material at my disposal in the various election circulars to hand. I may, however, prophesy the re-election of Mr. H. S. Adair as Secretary, for this is a post which, once well and capably filled, it is unwise to tamper with. Good Secretaries are as rare as Hawaiian Missionaries, and I am confident that none can complain of the zeal and energy of Secretary Adair in the execution of his duties for the Society. Another office, too, which we may rest assured will go without question is that of the International Secretary, than whom no Society could wish a better than my good friend Harald L. Kjeilstedt. He is a linguist of no mean ability, and, what is still more important in a Society of the size of the A.P.S., he has initiative.

A Prospective Quarterly Publication.

There are some important amendments to be made in the Bye-Laws of the Society on which probably some of the British members will vote. One of the innovations is to establish the *American Philatelist*, hitherto published as a year-book, as a quarterly magazine and organ of the Society. I am glad to note that provision is being made for the Editor's Compensation. "The Editor's Compensation shall not exceed \$50.00 per number in addition to postage and printing expenses." There is a laudable desire on the part of many of the members of the Society in America that they should have a journal which will be a repository of the study and research which is plentiful in the States but which has had no outlet since the demise of the *American Journal of Philately*.

Stamps in an Old Garden.

No more delightful spot could have been desired for the County Gathering of the Brighton Collectors than that of the home and gardens of Mr. Herbert Clark of Angmering. As we strolled through the gardens plucking green gooseberries and greener apples for—to stave off grim starvation it made one think more of Elizabeth and her German garden than of Gibbons' catalogue and the prospect of a rise in West Indians.

A Stamp Collector's Dream.

It is a good thing sometimes to forget stamps. But like all good things it is difficult of accomplishment. We nearly did it at Angmering; never have I attended a philatelic gathering where there was so little stamp talk and which was quite void of "swapping." Perhaps we speculated more on the possibility of a return visit when the grapes would be ripening and the trees laden with fruit. Or perhaps some of us thought of the ideal combination of stamps and gardening we could arrange for ourselves did we live in such an out-of-the-way corner of the world.

Simple Lifers or Whole Heggors?

The question arises, would the simple life in stamp collecting go well with the real simple life? We had in that pleasant garden disciples of all phases of the stamp collectors' fancy. We had the King's-head-er and the devotee of old Europeans. We had the simplified exemplified by a gentleman whose patronymic at once marks him down as "agin the catalogue," and we had the out-and-out specialist. And everyone must have realised that there was nothing of the simple life stamp collecting about the philatelic hermit of Angmering. He showed us stamps in specialised collections, and an extensive reference collection of genuine originals, reprints and forgeries worked out on an eminently practical

basis, and, above all, a library of books on stamps which is one of the best in this country, particularly rich in the rare early works which are a real delight to those who are heart and soul in the pursuit of stamps. No, the simple life philately would not suit me in the country I should want to go the whole hog.

The Land of Regrets.

Mr. E. W. Wetherell strikes a mournful note in his editorial in the *May Philatelic Journal of India*. He records the death (already mentioned in *The Postage Stamp*) of Mr. C. S. F. Crofton, who preceded him in the editorial chair of the Indian Society's journal. He also states that he is officiating, *pro tem.*, as Hon. Secretary of the Society owing to the ill health of Mr. Wilmot Corfield. Another collector, Col. G. H. Robinson, died a few weeks back, and Lieut. A. E. Stewart, Hon. Secretary of the Dum-Dum Stamp Club, has been ordered home from India on sick leave. "We are very short of officers now, with the President, Sir David Masson, in England, Mr. Corfield resigning his post as Secretary, and the Hon. C. F. Larmour resigned after many years of service on our Council."

As Mr. Wetherell says in an article on the late Mr. Crofton, "Verily, verily, India is the Land of Regrets."

New Crown Agent.

I note the following interesting Colonial appointments mentioned in the daily press:—

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has appointed Mr. Reginald L. Antrobus, Assistant Under-Secretary of State in the Colonial Office, to be a Crown Agent for the Colonies, in the room of Sir Ernest Edward Blake, retired.

His Majesty has been pleased to approve of the appointment of Col. Sir Percy Girouard, R.E., Governor of Northern Nigeria, to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the East Africa Protectorate, in succession to Sir James Hayes-Sadler. Sir Percy, who is now in his forty-second year, has had a busy and varied career, ranging from a puisne judgeship in Canada to the presidency of the Railway Board in Egypt, and subsequently in the Transvaal. He has been in Northern Nigeria for the last two years.

The South African Union.

Everything appears to have gone well with the plans for the unification of South Africa, which event it is clearly understood will have an enormous effect on the philatelic aspect of this huge portion of the Empire. The Bill which is to bring the Union into being is to be brought before the Imperial Parliament this month, and the officials of the various colonies who have been deputed to represent their respective governments in London during the passage of the Bill through Parliament, have already sailed from South Africa at the time of writing.

There may be just time for Rhodesia to produce a new "permanent" set before the union is established. But we can forgive a good deal if it should be the last separate series for this territory.

Prospective Arrangements.

Mr. O. Reginald Gum, who has been enjoying a brief holiday, returns this week. He has been interviewing several dealers in the north on the subject of their summer business, and will continue his investigations among the dealers in town. His article "Does Summer Advertising Pay?" will be of interest to both dealers and collectors.

A special serial article on New Hebrides will be started shortly. It has been specially contributed by a well-known collector who writes under the pseudonym of "Single CA." Needless to say he is a bachelor.

The Postage Stamps of Dominica

BY BERTRAM W. H. POOLE

(Continued from page 150)

All these values were printed from the head-plate and duty-plates previously in use, and thus call for no special comment.

The following is a synopsis of the varieties :—

1886.

Wmk. Crown C.A. Perf. 4.

½d. green (shades).

1d. lilac (shades).

4d. grey (shades)

(a) With small "CE" in "PENCK."

IX.—The 1887-88 Issue.

The 1d. lilac on "C.A." paper did not have a very long life, for in May, 1887, a supply of this value in the Postal Union colour of red reached the island, and was at once placed on sale. In September of the following year the 2½d. was also issued in the proper Postal Union colour, and in October the 6d. was issued in orange—presumably to prevent confusion with the ½d. stamp. Later in 1888 the 1s. was issued in a somewhat duller tint than before, and with the "C.A." watermark.

The 2½d., 6d., and 1s. call for no special comment, for they were printed from the same plates as before, and so exhibit all the little idiosyncracies in the alignment of the values, &c., as are found in the earlier issues.

There were two distinct printings of the 1d., one in rose and the other in deep carmine. In the sheets of this denomination there are two interesting varieties in the words of value. On the first stamps in the third and fourth rows (Nos. 13 and 19 on the sheet) the "o" of "ONE" is distinctly larger than on the other stamps. This variety is plainly shown in the accompanying illustration.



I believe the same duty-plate was used for this value throughout the whole of the Queen's head series, so that this variety should also occur on the 1d. lilac stamp on both "C.C." and "C.A." papers, but I have not yet come across specimens. If they do not exist, then either a new duty-plate was made before the 1d. rose and carmine stamps were printed, or the "o" on these two particular stamps was retouched.

All the stamps of this series may be found with yellowish and white gum.

On the 31st October, 1890, the stamps of Dominica were superseded by the general issue for the whole Colony of the Leeward Islands.

The following is a synopsis of the varieties of this issue :—

1887-88.

Wmk. Crown C.A. Perf. 14.

1d. rose (shades).

(a) With large "o" in "ONE."

1d. deep carmine (shades).

(a) With large "o" in "ONE."

2½d. ultramarine (shades).

6d. orange (shades).

1s. dull magenta (shades).

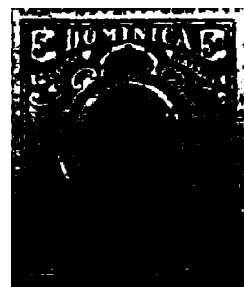
X.—The Pictorial Issue of 1903.

After about thirteen years unimpeachable behaviour Dominica could not resist following the bad example set it by the other presidencies of the Leeward Islands, so in 1903 a set of ten unnecessary stamps was issued, these being in concurrent use with the regular Leeward Islands series.

The stamps are all of large size and the design of the values from ½d. to 2s. 6d. inclusive shews a view of the island in the centre taken from the sea. In the surrounding frame "DOMINICA" appears at the top, the value in words at the base, "POSTAGE" reading upwards at the left, and "REVENUE" reading downwards at the right. The corners are filled with conventional ornamentation.



The 5s. stamp is similar in design to the corresponding value for Montserrat and Antigua. In the centre is a portrait of King Edward VII. (evidently printed from the same head-plate as was employed for the 5s. stamps of the other two Colonies mentioned above), surmounted by a crown. On each side of the crown are "POSTAGE" and "REVENUE" at the left and right respectively, and at the top is "DOMINICA." The value is displayed on small tablets in the upper corners and also in words at the base.



All the values were in two colours, though those of the ½d. were probably intended to be alike, the centrepiece in all but the 5s. being printed from the same plate.

The stamps were all printed in sheets of thirty arranged in six horizontal rows of five for the 5s. and in five horizontal rows of six for the other values. There is a Jubilee line around each sheet broken into strips the exact length or width of a stamp and the plate number is shown four times in the side margins—opposite the end stamps in the top and bottom rows in the case of the 5s.; and above and below the end stamps of the top and bottom rows respectively in the other values. This plate number consists of an uncoloured figure "1" on a solid circle of colour with a ring around.

The stamps are all watermarked with a crown over the letters "C.C." and this is sideways in relation to the design on all the values except the 5s. The perforation is the usual De la Rue 14 in each case.

The stamps were engraved and printed by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., Ltd.

The first supplies of these stamps were printed on ordinary unsurfaced paper, but new supplies issued after the end of 1905 had the paper chalk-surfaced. This chalk-surfacing does not mean that entirely new paper was manufactured, as was somewhat generally supposed at the time the first value made its appearance. The stock of the large "C.C." paper remaining on hand late in 1905 was treated with the solution that gives the paper its highly glazed finish to correspond with the similar "multiple" paper then being used.

The following is a synopsis of the varieties, the stamps existing on chalk-surfaced paper being indicated by a "C," while "O" is used to denote the varieties on ordinary paper. The second colour given is that of the centre of the stamps:—

1903.

Wmk. Crown C.C. Perf. 14.

- ½d. grey green and green OC.
- 1d. carmine and grey OC.
- 2d. brown and green OC.
- 2½d. blue and grey OC.
- 3d. grey black and purple OC.
- 6d. chestnut and grey green O.
- 1s. grey green and magenta OC.
- 2s. purple and grey black O.
- 2s. 6d. maize and grey green O.
- 5s. brown and black O.

XI.—The Multiple Watermark.

A new supply of 1d. stamps reached Dominica in May, 1907 and these were printed on the paper with multiple watermark thus shewing that the old "C.C." paper had at last been used up. At varying times during 1907 the ½d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., and 1s. values appeared on similar paper, and in 1908 the 6d., 2s., 2s. 6d., and 5s. denominations were issued. All were printed on chalk-surfaced paper, but the ½d. may also be found on ordinary paper.

The stamps were all printed from the same plates as before so they call for no further comment.

The following is a synopsis of the varieties:—

1907-8.

Wmk. Multiple Crown C.A. Perf. 14.

- ½d. grey green and green OC.
- 1d. carmine and grey C.
- 2d. brown and green C.
- 2½d. blue and grey C.
- 3d. grey black and purple C.
- 6d. chestnut and grey green C.
- 1s. grey green and magenta C.
- 2s. purple and grey black C.
- 2s. 6d. maize and grey green C.
- 5s. brown and black C.

XII.—The Postal Union Colours.

The ½d. value has all along been printed in the correct Postal Union colour of green, and in 1908 the other values, 1d. and 2½d., were issued in carmine and blue respectively in accordance with Postal Union requirements. These values were printed from the same plates as before so that it sometimes occurs that the centres differ in shade from the colour of the surrounding borders. Following the usual rule for low-valued single-colour stamps both denominations were printed on ordinary unsurfaced paper.

Dominica has decided to adopt the new official colour scheme, so that future supplies of all values except the ½d., 1d. and 2½d. will appear in new colours.

Possibly, also, the design of the stamps from ½d. to 2s. 6d. will be slightly modified so as to show the values in numerals to agree with a recent suggestion of the Postal Union authorities.

The following is a synopsis of the varieties:—

1908.

Wmk. Multiple Crown CA. Perf. 14.

- 1d. carmine O.
- 2½d. blue O.

To be concluded.

The "Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The Postage Stamp is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:

- Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C.
- F. C. Ginn, 143, Strand, London, W.C.
- Lewis May & Co., 15, King William St., Strand, W.C.
- W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.
- James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.
- Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.
- The Court Stamp Co., 10, Marriott's Court, Manchester.

Back Nos. of "The Postage Stamp."

Those of our friends who are lacking any back numbers of the present vol. will do well to write direct to our Publishers, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, 1 Amen Corner, London, E.C., for what they require. Many newsagents do not care to bother about back numbers. Any number still on sale may be had for the published price and postage, *i.e.*, 1½d.

Annual Report of the Royal Philatelic Society, London

For the Season 1908-9

By J. A. Tilleard, Hon. Sec., in the "London Philatelist"

BY a happy coincidence the holding of the Annual General Meeting of the Society in the present year synchronizes with the anniversary of the birthday of our president.

I am sure that under these circumstances I shall be expressing the feelings of all his fellow members in commencing my fifteenth Annual Report by offering to His Royal Highness with our respectful duty our very best wishes, in the good old English birthday greeting of "Many happy returns of the day."

The season of 1908-9, although somewhat uneventful, has been marked by quiet but useful work worthy of the traditions of the Society, and the progress made in all directions is satisfactory.

Membership.

In the course of the year that has elapsed since my last report fifteen new members have been elected as Fellows, viz:—

Lieut.-Col. P. J. Melvill, Major F. Young, Mrs. H. Jones, and Messrs. V. Miles, A. Laceby, J. A. Leon, O. K. Trechmann, G. Francis, A. S. Mackenzie-Low, F. Knuckey, F. A. Edwards, U. H. Alsop, C. E. Severn, W. A. Sisson, and H. Woodlands; and there has also been an addition of two associates, viz.: Messrs. C. Reppien and G. E. V. Crutchley.

Losses.

On the other hand, I have to report the resignation of five Fellows, viz.: Lieut.-Col. W. C. Barratt, Major C. F. Harrison, and Messrs. W. L. Chew, M. Jonas, and B. W. Neave, and it is with very great regret that I have to record the death in the course of the year of three members so well known as Sir Wm B. Avery, Bart., Mr. E. J. Nankivell, and Mr. W. Moser.

The Council have also had occasion to remove from the register the name of one member, so that the total membership now stands as 271 Fellows and four associates, showing a net gain for the year of six Fellows and two associates.

The losses sustained by death, although happily few in number, have all occurred amongst members of some prominence in the Philatelic world who could ill be spared.

The Late Sir William Avery.

Sir Wm. Avery, whose death at the comparatively early age of fifty-four we all deplore, was known to most of us. He had been a member since 1891, and for many years he assisted in the Councils of the Society as a member of the Committee and Council, at whose meetings his sound business knowledge proved of great value. He was a keen and enthusiastic follower of Philately at the time when he was forming his valuable collections, which have been frequently exhibited and described. He always took the greatest interest in the Society and its work, and by his courteous and genial personality he endeared himself to those of his fellow members who were privileged to claim his friendship, and the Society is distinctly the poorer for his loss.

The Late E. J. Nankivell.

Mr. E. J. Nankivell, from the time of joining the Society in 1889, took an active part in its work, and was for some time a member of the Committee. He was the first to propose the establishment of a permanent home for the Society, and it was largely due to his suggestion that the Society embarked on the undertaking of the *London Philatelist*, the editing of which journal was in his hands for nearly a year during the absence of Mr. M. P. Castle from England. A journalist by profession, Mr. Nankivell was throughout his Philatelic career a voluminous contributor to Philatelic literature, having acted at various times as editor of the *Philatelic Record* and *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*, and more recently of *The Postage Stamp*, while contributing regularly to other journals in India and America, and at the same time being responsible for the Philatelic pages of the *Connoisseur* and the boys' paper, *The Captain*. As a collector he will principally be remembered as one of the first specialists in "Transvaal" stamps and from his earliest days he was a great advocate of the importance of condition in the forming of a stamp collection. A keen debater, and ever ready with propositions of reform in matters affecting the interests and work of the Society, his cheery disposition always introduced an element of brightness into the discussions in which he took part, and his death will long be regretted by his fellow members.

Mr. W. Moser, who joined the Society in February, 1902, resided principally abroad, and was consequently not so well known to his fellow members. To those who had the pleasure of his personal acquaintance he will be remembered for his amiability and charm of manner, and his work in connection with his collections of the stamps of Japan and some of the South American countries, as shown at our meetings and at exhibitions in this country, stamped him as an able and painstaking Philatelist whom we could ill afford to lose.

Meetings.

Sixteen ordinary meetings have been held during the season, and the following papers have been read, viz.: by the Earl of Crawford (Vice-President), "Notes on the 10d. and 1s. Embossed Stamps of Great Britain," "Notes on an Essay of the 1d Stamp (1839-40)," and "Notes on the Abnormal Plate-varieties of the Surface-printed Stamps of Great Britain"; by Mr. M. P. Castle (Honorary Vice-President), "The Lithographed Stamps of Trinidad," and "The Early Stamps of Mauritius"; by Mr. Wickham Jones, "Retouches of the Issues of Swiss Stamps (1882-1908)"; by Messrs. L. W. Fulcher and F. J. Peplow, "The Plating of the First Two Issues of Japan"; and by Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg, "The Plating of the First Type of the 6d. Value of Victoria."

The papers were in each case illustrated by a display of the stamps under review, and there have also been nine special displays of stamps unaccompanied by papers, but with verbal explanations and comments by those undertaking the display. These have consisted of "The

Stamps of Grenada," by His Royal Highness the President; "South Australia," by Lord Crawford; "Fiji," a special collection formed by Mr. C. J. Phillips, and shown by Mr. E. D. Bacon; "Unused British and Colonial Stamps," by Mr. R. Reid; "The Earlier Embossed Stamps of Portugal (1853-70)," by Mr. R. B. Yardley; "Victoria," by Mr. H. Grey; "The Waterlow Series of New Zealand Stamps," by Mr. W. B. Edwards, on behalf of Mr. E. J. Nankivell; "A Portion of the Collection of the Society," by Mr. H. R. Oldfield; and Mr. Duveen's unused collection of the stamps of the "U.S.A.," shown by Mr. E. D. Bacon in Mr. Duveen's unavoidable absence.

An Interesting Innovation.

In addition to the above, one meeting was devoted to a display of "Twelve Interesting Stamps," to which all members able to attend were invited to contribute, and in which the following eighteen members took part, viz.: the President, the Vice-President, the Honorary Vice-President, and Messrs Harvey Clarke, R. Reid, A. J. Warren, J. E. Joselin, J. R. Laing, C. E. McNaughtan Colouel Bonhote, F. Ransom, R. B. Yardley, B. Pinner, T. G. Wayman, J. C. Sidebotham, F. Matthews, T. W. Hall, and L. W. Fulcher.

Most of the members showing stamps had prepared written descriptions of the points of interest to which attention was desired to be called.

The meeting proved a distinct success, and it is hoped that in the ensuing season the programme will provide for at least two meetings on similar lines. In my opinion they are likely to prove of the greatest value in enabling a larger number of members unable to contribute papers or to give general displays to participate personally in the work of the season to the great mutual advantage of all concerned.

In addition to the papers read at the meetings, contributions by members of the Society have been published in the *London Philatelist*, and in this connection I would refer to the interesting history of the stamps of British South Africa by Mr. Melland, a colonial member, that has supplied material for six of the monthly numbers of our journal published during the past season.

Attendance.

The attendance at the meetings has averaged twenty-one, a slight reduction on the average for the previous year. I do not consider that this is entirely satisfactory, and I cannot help feeling that we are entitled to expect a larger attendance, if only out of deference to those who take the trouble to prepare valuable papers and to give the magnificent displays to which we are treated. The encouragement of a larger audience to those who are good enough to assist at the meetings for the benefit of their fellow-members would be a stimulus to improve, if it is possible, upon the admirable work to which we are accustomed, and members generally, by more frequent attendance, would improve their knowledge of what is required for the carrying on of the business of the Society, and would no doubt find themselves more competent to assist in the work which, it must be admitted, falls somewhat heavily upon the few who at present can be relied upon to provide material for the meetings in each season.

Retirement of Mr. C. N. Biggs.

At the end of the financial year of the Society Mr. C. N. Biggs, to the great regret of the Council, found it necessary, from considerations of health and other reasons, to relinquish the office of Treasurer of the Society, a position that he had occupied with conspicuous ability for twenty years. Throughout this long period our late Treasurer had been indefatigable in his endeavours to further the interests of the Society. He was most eminently suited for the post, and it is largely due

to the conscientious and careful manner in which he safeguarded the financial interests of the Society, especially at times when the position was such as to give serious ground for anxiety, that the affairs of the Society are in their present satisfactory condition.

The arduous work of such a Society as ours is for the most part unseen, and it redounds the more to his credit when it is carried out as satisfactorily as has been the case in the past by Mr. C. N. Biggs. I think that the greatest testimony to the courtesy and the tact and consideration with which he has performed his duties is the fact that, in the somewhat unpleasant task of collecting dues, Mr. Biggs has not only never made an enemy, but has always been esteemed as a friend by all the members with whom he has had to correspond. It will be generally agreed that the Society owes a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Biggs for his long and valuable services.

On the retirement of Mr. Biggs, Mr. C. E. McNaughtan was elected to fill the vacancy, a choice that has been generally approved as securing a worthy successor to our late Treasurer.

The Financial Position.

The accounts to the 31st March last will presently be submitted for consideration, and I have reason to believe that, notwithstanding an increase in the general expenses of the Society, the financial position is shown to be satisfactory. The thanks of the members are due to Mr. A. W. Chambers and Mr. J. G. Langton, who have audited and reported on the accounts, for their services as Honorary Auditors in the past year.

The present is the last occasion on which the accounts will be made up to the end of March as heretofore. By virtue of the resolution passed at an Extraordinary General Meeting held last month, and confirmed to-day, the accounts to be submitted at future Annual General Meetings will be made up to the 31st December preceding the meeting. The object of the change is that the accounts may better show the true position at the end of each financial year. Hitherto the credit balance shown has been to a certain extent misleading, as in it there is included a considerable sum representing subscriptions for the period ending on the 31st December following the date of the account, and one has been apt, perhaps, to forget that these subscriptions are required for the expenditure of the Society for a period of nine months from the date of the accounts, and consequently to imagine from the large balance shown that the Society is in a more flourishing condition than is really the case. The change is a distinct improvement, if only for the reason that those responsible for the financial affairs of the Society will always be able to judge, without the necessity for elaborate calculations, whether there is justification for any special expenditure to which it is proposed to pledge the funds.

Library Matters.

Mr. L. W. Fulcher and Mr. F. J. Peplow, who has been indefatigable in helping the Honorary Librarian, have both devoted a very large amount of time to the task of arranging the Library so as to render it available for the use of members. Although both busy men, they have even given up a considerable part of their leisure hours to the work. I am informed by the Honorary Librarian that the work of sorting and arranging the periodicals has been continued during the year, and that Mr. Peplow has finished those in the French language, and also those in Italian and Spanish.

Two hundred and forty books have been bound, and now that these have been received, it is hoped that by October next the portion of the library dealing with all works in the English language, and the monographs and

chief periodicals in all other languages, will be classified and arranged in their proper positions on the shelves. When this is done there will remain only the minor periodical literature in foreign languages to sort up and classify. I am sure that members will recognize and cordially appreciate the invaluable services rendered by Mr. Fulcher and Mr. Peplow in this important part of the Society's work.

"He gives twice who gives quickly."

The response to the appeal for contributions to the Society's collection of stamps has not in the past season been so large as was anticipated. I have reason to believe that many members are keeping back their gifts of duplicates for information as to what is required. It should, however, be remembered that at the commencement of the formation of a general collection almost everything is acceptable, and that a considerable period must elapse before any list of wants can be usefully prepared. I hope that in this connection the old adage "bis dat qui cito dat" will be borne in mind, and that in the coming season a larger number of members will send in contributions sufficient to keep the Honorary Assistant Secretary, who kindly acts as custodian of the stamps, fully occupied in the work of classification and arrangement of the collection, which ought to form a valuable and useful feature of the Society's possessions. It has been suggested that members might confer together with a view to giving what they can spare in particular countries or issues so as to avoid as far as possible the duplicating of gifts and so to aid in the work of sorting and classifying the stamps contributed, and many other ways will no doubt suggest themselves to members in which they can assist in the formation of the collection.

The Council.

A considerable number of matters in connection with the work of the Society have occupied the attention of the Council, who have held ten meetings during the past season, at which a large majority of the members have always been present.

No notices of resignation of officers or members of the Council having been notified, and no nominations having been received, the present officers and Council will, if it meets with the approval of the meeting, remain in office for the coming season, in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Association of the Society.

Outside the immediate sphere of the Society many matters of general or special interest to philatelists have occurred during the past Season, and a very brief notice of a few of these may not be considered inappropriate in my report of events of the year under review.

The Cheapening of Postage.

The introduction of Penny Postage between this country and the United States of America, referred to in my last report, was brought into effect in October last, and the agitation for the extension of the privilege to the postal arrangements with other countries continues. At the Annual Banquet of the British Chamber of Commerce, held quite recently in Paris, the postal reform question formed the principal subject of comment by the Solicitor-General, who, in responding for His Majesty's Ministers, called special attention to the absurdity of the 2½d. rate for the short distance between London and Paris as compared with the penny rate to America and our far-distant colonies and possessions. In this respect, as I observe that Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P., the champion of postal reforms, who has been a regular attendant at the banquet in question in the past has written to say that he will not accept future invitations to attend until the establishment of a penny postage rate between Great Britain and France, we may venture to hope that the time is not far

distant before this much needed reform becomes an accomplished fact.

The increasing tendency towards the cheapening of postage generally will no doubt be reflected upon Philately in somewhat limiting the number of values comprised in the issues of the countries affected, the higher values being no longer required for postal purposes. We have seen this in our own country in the discontinuance since the commencement of the present reign of the £5 postage stamp, and in the United States of America it has been announced that the \$2 and other higher denominations of stamps will cease to be employed in the new issues.

The absorption of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria will, it is to be presumed, result in the cesser of the issue of special stamps for these countries, and relegate them, from the philatelic point of view, to the position of the old Italian states and other countries no longer employing postage stamps of their own.

Cayman Islands Inquiry.

The result of the inquiry into the issue of the Cayman Islands "Provisionals" was no doubt a disappointment to those who deprecate the abuse of authority and the stamp-dealing proclivities which, even in some of our own possessions, appear to be considered compatible with the dignity of a government postal service. Although, however, the persons responsible for what is rightly considered a philatelic scandal were "whitewashed," it is, I believe recognized by those in authority that such proceedings should be avoided, and there is likely to be in most of our colonies a more careful supervision of matters connected with the issue of provisional stamps in the future.

Other Societies' Work.

Good work has been done by the Provincial and other Philatelic Societies in the past year, and some of them have been specially active, particularly in the way of exhibitions.

The Manchester Junior Philatelic Society duly held the contemplated Exhibition referred to in my last Report, and it is satisfactory to record that it proved a success both philatelicly and financially. An interesting feature of the arrangements for the Exhibition was the holding of a Philatelic Congress, and the promoters of the Exhibition are to be congratulated upon the fact of the first Congress of this nature to be held in this country being due to the enterprise of the youngest of all the Philatelic Societies in Great Britain. The Congress was largely attended by delegates from most of the English Societies, including Mr. M. P. Castle, Mr. L. W. Fulcher and Mr. Franz Reichenheim, the delegates appointed to represent the Royal Society. The most important question that was debated was that of the "Catalogue of the Future." The subject being one that has always proved of the greatest difficulty, it is no discredit to the Congress that no definite conclusion could be come to, and the public ventilation of the points to be considered in attempting to solve the problem will possibly pave the way for some reasonable solution in the near future of the difficulties—hitherto apparently insuperable—in attaining "the ideal." Although no decisions were come to on any matters of special importance, the utility and value of such meetings was fully demonstrated and appreciated, and it is anticipated that a beginning having been made means may be found for the holding of a similar Congress as an annual institution. At the invitation of the Herts Society, it was decided that the next Congress should be held in London in the coming year, arrangements for the meeting being left in the hands of that body.

Another successful Exhibition was that held at Newcastle-on-Tyne under the auspices of the North of

England Society, while the Junior Philatelic Society have already had in London a novel and interesting Exhibition illustrating the art and process of paper making, and have also organized an Exhibition of the stamps of the United States of America, to be held at the Earl's Court Exhibition during the present summer.

Abroad, an important Philatelic Exhibition commences to-day at Amsterdam, and we offer our best wishes for its success to the philatelists in Holland by whom it is being promoted.

Philatelic Literature.

A noticeable feature of the past year is the increasing interest shown in the collection of philatelic literature. Some evidence of this is seen in the large number of occasions on which philatelic works are included in auction sales of stamps as compared with similar sales in previous years.

While on the subject of literature, I may be permitted to refer to the change in the proprietors and editor of *The Philatelic Record*, the oldest of existing journals devoted to our hobby. All of us will wish for our old friend, *The Record*, a new lease of life, and as great a success in the future as it has attained in the past, and the fact that the editorship is in the able hands of Mr. L. W. Fulcher should be sufficient to secure this result.

Amongst other works in the English language published in the past season, I would refer to the monograph on the stamps of Fiji by Mr. C. J. Phillips, who is to be congratulated on the production of a work of the highest philatelic attainment and interest. Attention may also be called to the publication by the Philatelic Society of India of the admirable work on the stamps of "Afghanistan," by Sir David P. Masson, in collaboration with Mr. Gordon Jones, and also to the work by our fellow member, Mr. Henry J. Crocker, on "Hawaiian Numerals," both of which reflect the highest credit on the respective authors.

Philately in the States.

I gather from all accounts that philately in the United States of America is in a very flourishing condition, and the announcement that the American Philatelic Society—the new name of the American Philatelic Association—is looking forward to a membership of over two thousand, is some evidence of the popularity of the pursuit amongst our American cousins.

Stamps at Auction.

The tale told by the auction sales continues to be one of the increasing importance attached to "condition," and the gradual absorption of fine copies of the older issues. It is only occasionally that really choice examples are brought under the hammer in the present day, and when very fine copies are offered the prices realized are often in excess of catalogue values.

Amongst other important public sales of the season may be mentioned the sale, in England, of the "Reid" collection of unused stamps, which occupied several days, and, in France, of the "Koch" and the "Mirabaud" collections, exclusive in the latter case of the "Mauritius," "Swiss," and a few other portions which were disposed of privately.

June 3rd, 1909.

Abstract of Accounts of Receipts and Expenditure for the Year ending 31st March, 1909.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
To Cash Balance at Bank and on deposit 1st April, 1908	...	296	9	7	By Rent, etc.	...	84	13	3
.. Subscriptions	...	326	0	6	.. Office Expenses	...	82	10	0
.. Entrance Fees	...	15	15	0	.. Printing, Stationery, Postages, etc.	...	53	10	7
.. Sale of Society's Works and Library Duplicates...	...	86	12	5	.. Subscription to <i>London Philatelist</i>	...	70	0	0
.. Sundry Receipts...	...	9	3	8	.. Library Expenses	...	73	13	4
					.. Sundry Payments	...	18	15	8
					.. Cash Balance at Bank and on deposit 31st March, 1909	...	350	18	4
		<u>£734</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>			<u>£734</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

End of the Stamp Case

Both Defendants acquitted at the Old Bailey

THE trial was continued on June 29th before Judge Lumley Smith, K.C., of the two men, Jno. Stewart Lowden, Villiers Street, Strand; and Henry Revell Harmer, Preston Street, Southend, upon the indictments charging them with conspiracy to defraud in connection with the sale of alleged forged British North Borneo stamps.

Mr. Bodkin and Mr. Leicester prosecuted, Mr. Curtis-Bennett and Mr. Eustace Fulton defended Lowden, and Mr. Walter Frampton appeared for Harmer.

It was stated that the stamps were printed in Paris, and that the French police seized between 700,000 and 800,000 of them, and also correspondence with the Western Stamp Company and Mack and Co., stamp dealers, with which firms it was said the accused were associated.

In defence Lowden emphatically denied that he had any

knowledge that the stamps, the subject of the charge, were forgeries. He had for a long time carried on an extensive business as a stamp dealer, and at the time the police visited the premises he had 20 millions of stamps in stock. He had bought £7,000 worth of stamps of the British North Borneo Company. The police took away three millions of his stamps, but most of them had been returned as genuine. He was the editor of *Mack's Magazine*, which had exposed numerous forgeries of stamps. The police only retained certain British North Borneo stamps, but these were specimens only, and were bought and offered for sale as reprints only.

Harmer also gave evidence, and the jury found the accused not guilty, and they were discharged. The case has occupied the attention of the Court three days.

The Stamp of the Jacobites

SOME fifteen years ago the London Jacobites, a body whose gravity has added much to our light-heartedness, issued a few sheets of a Jacobite stamp. The idea was that Jacobites, while franking their letters with a stamp bearing the head of a usurping lady, should neutralise the ill by gumming beside it a shabby but loyal little stamp with the head of

Queen Mary of Great Britain and Ireland, Archduchess of Austria-Este, and Princess of Bavaria.

The Jacobite stamp never came into general use in England, legitimism's adherents are few though passionate. Even the Jacobites brought all their delightful seriousness to debate the question whether the use of it was really in the interests of the dynasty by divine right.

But it has now had its imitators in France, and that select group which would replace M. Fallières by King Philip has now its royalist stamp to put beside the republican sign which carries the letter through the post.

This stamp is certainly a better specimen of engraving than that which severely refused to flatter our legitimist Queen. It bears the bust of a stout gentleman in a white waistcoat, his hair and beard carefully arranged to imitate those of the great ancestor who hoped that every

Frenchman would some day have a chicken in the pot. Round the edge is the device: "The Duke of Orleans will be King of France."

But it was a Frenchman who said that his countrymen of the provinces wrote few letters, failing to see the advantage of a practice which meant parting with pennies. When loyalism runs so high in France that even the additional expense of the Orleanist stamp is gaily faced we shall look for the fulfilment of the stamp's prophecy.

—*Evening News*, June 30th.

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

Chili.—(Vol. IV, p. 130).—We take the following interesting paragraph from the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* regarding the new issue to which we made a brief reference on page 130:—"The Ministry of the Interior has called for tenders for the provision during five years of postal matter. The stamps will bear the portraits of Columbus, Valdivia, and of various Presidents of Chili. The stamps from 1c. to 50c. will be of the same size as the present ones, and those of \$2 and \$5 will be of the same size as those of \$1, and will bear at foot, in small letters, the name of the person represented; they must be engraved on steel and perforated. The models of the entire will be as at present, the engraving to be at tenderer's option. Delivery of the accepted tender to commence within 180 days of the date of the corresponding decree, under deposit of 5% of the value for the year as guarantee. Tenders may be made of stamps commemorating the centenary of our political emancipation. Tenders will be opened on 26th July next."

From the above extract it would appear that there are to be two new sets—one for the "permanent" issue, and one to commemorate the centenary of Chili's political emancipation.

Costa Rica.—(Vol. IV, p. 104).—On page 104 we mentioned the 5c. of the current type with a compound perforation gauging $11\frac{1}{2} \times 14$, and we now learn from *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* that the 1c., 2c., 4c. and 10c. have been found with similar perforation. We therefore have to record the following:—

1900. No Wmk. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 14$.
 1c. chestnut brown and indigo.
 2c. yellow green and black.
 4c. carmine red and indigo.
 5c. orange buff and indigo.
 10c. blue and black.

Eritrea.—(Vol. III, p. 250).—The current 10c. stamp of Italy, with the usual "Colonia Eritrea" overprint, is reported by several of our contemporaries. The pictorial set which was stated to be in preparation nearly two years ago, does not seem to have materialised yet. Our list of new stamps is now as follows:—

Italian Stamps of 1906-8 surcharged.		s.	d.
5c. green	0 1
10c. rose	—

Jamaica.—(Vol. IV, p. 44).—*Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* reports that the current 6d. Queen's head stamp on the multiple watermarked paper exists in two distinct shades—dull orange and dull orange-yellow.

Gold Coast.—(Vol. IV, p. 104).—A correspondent informs *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* that he has the 1s. in the new colours—black on green paper—with multiple watermark on chalk-surfaced paper. This makes the

complete list of varieties with multiple watermark as follows:—

Wmk. Multiple Cr. CA. Perf. 14.			
		s.	d.
1d. purple and green	0 3
1d. green	0 1
1d. purple and carmine	0 3
1d. carmine	0 2
2d. purple and orange red	0 4
2d. grey	0 3
2½d. purple and blue	—
2½d. blue	0 4
3d. purple and orange	0 6
3d. purple on yellow	0 5
6d. purple and violet	1 0
6d. purple	0 8
1s. black on green	1 3
2s. 6d. green and yellow	3 3

Peru.—(Vol. IV, p. 56).—We take the following interesting paragraph from *Mekel's Weekly Stamp News*:—"It will interest philatelists in general to know the status of the 2 soles stamp of Peru, issue 1907, blue and black, with monument of Columbus, illustrated in Stanley Gibbons' 1909 catalogue. I wrote to a correspondent in Lima and am in receipt of the following reply: 'The 2 soles stamp, blue and black, with monument of Columbus, was never sold for postage to the public here, nor at any other place in Peru; if you have seen a copy of this stamp it is one of the few, belonging to the only 100 that were printed, which were sold at auction with the purpose of giving market value to the balance on hand.' I do not understand from this, where the balance is held, but as the stamp was never sold over the counter, I fail to see its philatelic value, and it should therefore be omitted from the catalogues."

But if only 100 were printed, and these were sold at auction, it seems to us that the balance for which a "market value" is required must be rather a small one! Perhaps one of our readers in Peru can give us some information regarding this stamp.

Southern Nigeria.—(Vol. IV, p. 45).—The *Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidskrift* chronicles the 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s. and £1 stamps of this Colony in the new colours agreeing with the official scheme from "specimen" copies, so doubtless some, if not all, will be actually issued before very long.

NOTE.

The Prices affixed are those at which Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. will supply any of the stamps chronicled that may be in stock.

The stamps are supplied at lower rates to subscribers to their New Issue Service, particulars of which can be had on application to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich.

The Prices quoted are for unused.

Is a Classified Catalogue Desirable

A Paper read by J. Ireland at the Brighton Junior Philatelic Society

SINCE this item was put down on our programme, the question of a Collectors' Catalogue has been raised and discussed at Manchester, with the usual result that nobody had a practical remedy to suggest, and that things remain much as they were.

Ten years ago a "Classified Catalogue of Colonial Stamps" was published in serial form in *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*,—which will be found on the table to-night—and, in my opinion, this is the most satisfactory form of catalogue that has been published. Designs are given first place instead of watermarks and perforations, as in the usual priced catalogue, and any stamp can be instantly found.

I will take Straits Settlements as an instance, and show how it is listed in the Classified Catalogue.

1867. During this year Indian stamps of $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 4 and 8 annas were issued. They were surcharged with a crown and new values: $1\frac{1}{2}$, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 24, 32 cents.

First Issues, 1868.

2c brown	8c. orange
2c rose (1883)	8c. blue (1892)
4c. rose	10c. slate (1882)
4c. brown (1883)	12c. blue
5c. purple brown (1882)	12c. purple (1892)
5c. blue (1883)	24c. green
5c. brown (1892)	30c. claret (1872)
6c. lilac	32c. vermilion
	96c. grey

Provisional issues of same types printed in new colours and surcharged with new values:

1c. on 8c. green (1892).
3c. on 32c. violet (1887).
3c. on 32c. rose (1892).
4c. on 5c. carmine (1899).

Varieties, 1868, C.C. wmk. perf. 14. 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 24, 30, 32, 96 (first colours only). Perf. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$, 96c.

Overprinted 3c. on 5c., 5c. on 4c. and 8c., 7c. on 32c., 10c. on 6, 12 and 30c.

1883, C.A., perf. 14. All except 5c. purple brown and 12c. blue, overprinted: 2c. rose (1c.), 4c. rose (2c.), 4c. brown (1c.), 5c. blue (2, 3, 4c.), 5c. brown (4c.), 6c. lilac (1c.), 8c. orange (1c.), (2c.), 8c. blue (4c.), 12c. blue (2c.), 12c. purple (1c.), (8c.), 24c., green (10c.), 32c. red (2c.), (30c.).

Various types of surcharge exist, and one sheet of 32c. rose is said to exist without the surcharge.

Second Issue, 1892. New values and types.

1c. green	25c. brown and green
3c. rose	50c. olive and rose
3c. brown (1899)	\$5 orange and rose

(The King's head stamps were not issued until after this catalogue was compiled, but they would be listed like this):—

Third Issue, 1902, King's head (small type).

1c. green	25c. lilac and green
3c. lilac and yellow	30c. grey and rose
4c. lilac on red	50c. green and rose
5c. lilac	\$1 green and black
8c. lilac on blue	\$2 lilac and black
10c. lilac and black on yellow	\$5 green and orange
10c. lilac on yellow (1908)	

Fourth Issue, 1904, King's head, new designs.

1c. green	4c. rose (1907)
3c. lilac	4c. lilac (1908)
3c. rose (1908)	8c. lilac on blue
4c. lilac on red	8c. blue (1906)

1907. The stamps of Labuan were temporarily overprinted for use here.

This method of arrangement makes Straits Settlements intelligible to anybody, and is of equal value to the beginner and the specialist.

Commemorative stamps, where issued, should be classified after the regular issues, as Japan in Stanley Gibbons' catalogue.

I have said nothing about prices, but this would be a standard reference list, and dealers wishing to supply the varieties would list them in smaller type after the standard set and price them. This would found a proper basis for collecting, and a sound one for prices. It is useless for collectors to think they can fix the prices for stamps. The person who is selling is the one to fix the price, and if each dealer—who wished to—issued this standard list with his prices attached, there would be no question of "rigging the market."

Before closing I will just offer a suggestion for an intelligible list of New Zealand pictorials. The perforations are most carefully classified in the catalogue but not so the designs. This is how I arrange these stamps myself:

1898, Pictorial Issue.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. purple brown	5d. brown
1d. blue and brown	6d. green
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. khaki (1900)	6d. rose (1900)
2d. lake	8d. blue
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. blue (Wakitipu)	9d. purple
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. blue (Wakatipu)	1s. red
3d. ochre	2s. green
4d. rose	5s. vermilion

1901, designs reduced in size.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. green	4d. blue and brown
1d. rose	4d. " " " on bluish (1907)
2d. mauve	6d. rose (1907)
3d. ochre (1907)	1s. red (1907)

The list of perfs. would of course follow.

Owing to their being classified by watermarks and perforations, Australian stamps are much neglected by the majority of general collectors who use ordinary ruled albums, because they never know when a set is complete. There are, of course, numbers of countries to which this applies. You probably all have certain countries which are pet aversions, and I will undertake to say that this is only because of the unattractive lists in the catalogue. Therefore, there are certain stamps whose value remains stationary in the catalogue because nobody collects them. As classification would remove the disabilities referred to, I unhesitatingly vote in favour of a classified catalogue.

Bargains in Stamps.

If you want real bargains in Postage Stamps read the advertisement pages of *The Postage Stamp* every week. Every week there is something new, and many special bargains. If you miss a week you may miss the very stamp you want to complete a series

Notes and News

Lecture on Stamps.

There was a fair gathering of juvenile philatelic enthusiasts at Howard Gardens Secondary School, Cardiff, on Wednesday evening, when Mr. H. Perkins, a well-known Cardiff collector, lectured on the stamps of the Orange Free State. The lecturer dealt with the older stamp issues, and the effect upon them of the late South African War. Mr. Dyche, the Headmaster of the school, thanked Mr. Perkins for his interesting lecture.

—*South Wales Daily News, June 24th.*

A French Provisional.

The recent postal strike in Paris has produced some curious philatelic results. Even with the assistance of the military the authorities were absolutely unable to keep the ordinary postal service in operation, and the city was in danger of being cut off from communication with the outside world. Various agencies stepped into the breach, among them the Parisian Chamber of Commerce, which opened an office in the Place de la Bourse, the centre of the commercial life of the capital, and established a service which, however, only contrived to exist for two days, March 22nd and 23rd last. It seems that this brief enterprise had an official character. It was served by clerks of the Post Office, and letters were stamped, according to the customary rates. The cancellation was done with an old hand stamp, supplied from the French G.P.O., which impressed the words "Paris—Depart." Any of our readers who have friends in Paris would do well to request them to hunt up specimens of stamps so cancelled, as they have every claim to rank as special varieties, and may be of considerable value in the future. The stamps on letters forwarded by private agencies during the strike have a different status, and will never be anything but curiosities. In order not to infringe the Government monopoly, and so expose themselves to the pains and penalties of the law, everyone who forwarded correspondence through any private channels affixed the ordinary stamps to the envelopes, and specimens are found "postmarked" with the rubber stamps of banks, stockbrokers and business firms of all kinds.

—*Hobbies, June 26th.*

Roman States.

The detection of reprints of the imperforate "centesimi" stamps is often difficult, but some authorities have asserted that the perforated reprints never have the "13" gauge of the originals. The investigations of Capt. Ohrt shows that Gelli and Tani's earliest reprinted impressions (1890) were correctly perf. 13. The fact is to be regretted, but Capt. Ohrt lays stress on the great rarity of these particular reprints, and for all practical purposes collectors may assume that their sets gauging 13 are originals. Even if they are proved to be reprints the consolation will remain that such specimens are worth more than originals to the specialist.—*Monthly Circular.*

J.P.S. New Season Plans.

The Junior Philatelic Society content with its access of 403 new members in the season just concluded has closed its membership roll for 1908-9, and has straightway opened upon its campaign for 1909-10.

The Sub-Committee which elects new members will hold regular sittings throughout the summer, and will give early attention to new applications.

It is earnestly hoped that individual members of the Society will actively recruit their stamp collecting friends

who are not already members. A supply of application forms will be gladly supplied by the Hon. Secretary, A. Selinger, 44, Digby Road, Finsbury Park, N., or from the Hon. Treasurer, H. F. Johnson, 44, Fleet Street, London, E.C.

Applicants for membership from this date only pay the usual subscription and entrance fee for the year 1909-1910, although there will actually be fifteen months' interval before the expiry of their first subscription. Thus an adult applying now pays

Entrance Fee	- - - - -	2/6
Subscription to September 30th, 1910	-	2/6
		5/-

Juniors under 21 years of age and lady applicants pay no entrance fee, their 2/6 subscription maintaining their membership from now to September 30th, 1909.

New Hebrides on Fiji.

The New Hebrides Condominium is producing a curious philatelic result. It seems that the Resident Commissioners have decided that the stamps shall not be sold in quantities to dealers for re-sale to collectors, and it is consequently exceedingly difficult to get supplies for trade purposes. While those surcharged on Fiji stamps are only to be had on the island, those surcharged on New Caledonia stamps can be purchased freely in Paris. This is somewhat unfair to the British side of the Condominium so far as philatelist are concerned; but the fact remains that we sell a dozen sets of the Fiji Condominiums to one of the surcharged New Caledonia, and the demand everywhere for the former is very much in excess of the latter.—*Australian Philatelist.*

The Puzzle of Heligoland.

In his paper on Heligoland read at the J.P.S. (and now published in the *Philatelic Adviser*) Mr. F. Oliver gave the following tests for distinguishing originals from the reprints:—

(a) The Rouletted Issue.

1. The $\frac{1}{2}$ schilling of 1867-8, both types must have the frame and medallion in blue green.
2. There are no reprints of type one of the $\frac{1}{2}$ schilling.
3. The 1 schilling has a narrow chignon and curl, and narrow "o" in the word "Heligoland."
4. The centre of the 2 schilling and the frame of the 6 schilling must be in a shade of yellow green.
5. There are no perforated originals of the 2 and 6 schilling

(b) The Perforated Issue.

6. The perforated issue, consisting of the $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, 1 and $1\frac{1}{2}$ schilling must be on very coarse thick paper shewing the "web" as if it was a close quadrillé watermark. The $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 and $1\frac{1}{2}$ schilling must have medallion as type one of the $\frac{1}{2}$ schilling.
7. The colours of the 1 and 2 pfennig of 1875 are carmine-lake and deep green.
8. The colours of the 3 pfennig of 1876 are either deep green, yellow and red, or green to yellow green, yellow brown and red. The paper is a dull white to a very slight toned. Reprints are in different shades or combinations of shades to those given, and may also be found on deep toned paper and on very white paper.

Editor's Letter Box

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Articles, Contributions and Correspondence, should be addressed to the Editor, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the correspondent. Articles, etc., not accepted, will be returned when postage is prepaid.

Business Communications should be addressed to the Manager, and Advertisements to the Advertisement Manager, 1, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

THE POSTAGE STAMP may be obtained through Newsagents or will be forwarded from the publishing office to any address at the following rates of prepayment: Yearly, 6s. 6d.; Half-Yearly, 3s. 3d.; Quarterly, 1s. 8d.; Single Copy, 1d.

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Correspondence

F. MELVILLE, Esq.,
c/o Postage Stamp,
Amen Corner, E.C. June 30th, 1909.

Dear Sir,

Further to our letter re refusal of the Post Office to transmit registered letter to France containing postage stamps we enclose herewith copy of their letter in which they decline to allow the packet to be delivered through the post. Having regard to the importance of the case we shall be glad if you would take the matter up in your journal, as this, of course, if insisted upon, will effectually prevent all dealings in that country. We shall be glad to have your reply.

Yours truly,
HARMER, ROOKE & CO.

[ENCLOSURE.]

26th June, 1909.

Gentlemen,—With reference to your letter of the 12th of this month, concerning the treatment of a registered letter, said to contain used postage stamps of foreign countries, addressed to Mr. E. C., Angers. I am directed by the Postmaster-General to inform you that, as will be seen on reference to page 729, column 9, of the Post Office Guide, all articles, whatever their nature, which have any market value are prohibited from importation into France by letter post.

The Postmaster-General regrets that in these circumstances the enclosed letter cannot be forwarded to its destination.

The enclosure to your further letter of the 21st instant is returned herewith.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

For the Secretary.

Messrs. HARMER, ROOKE & CO.

Answers to Correspondents.

J. H. R.—You do not mention the country of issue. Please send stamp or fuller details.

J. P. (Hucknall Torkard).—The collection has no special value. The only nice stamps in it are badly damaged. Kindly remit 5d. for registered return postage.

H. P. (Ormskirk).—Cannot identify your stamp from your description.

E. C. (Burgess Hill).—Your stamps have been printed on the margins of the water-marked paper getting portions of the letters of the marginal inscription. That is why they are not catalogued. Only the specialist would note such varieties.

W. T. R. (New Brunswick).—Many thanks for Plate No. 70 Canada 2c. The inscription "70" being backwards is curious, but will scarcely constitute a rare error, as this only affects the margin of the sheet, which is not intended for public use, it is not sufficient to justify any withdrawal of the plate, which will probably be used to print as large an impression as Plate 69, and all the rest.

H. P. (Southport).—1. The stamps are fiscals, and quite common fiscals too. 2. The letter sheet might be interesting to a collector of postmarks, but you do not mention what marks it bears. 3. The next handbook by the late Mr. Nankivell will deal with the stamps of the Cape of Good Hope. 4. The cheap handbooks on Great Britain are "The Postage Stamps of Great Britain," is., and "Great Britain: Lined Engraved Stamps," 6d., postage extra. They can be had from W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand. Am glad you find *The Postage Stamp* so interesting. You need not apologise for the number of questions, and I shall be glad to answer your "plenty more anon," if I can.

W. B. R. (Chiswick).—Sorry I cannot make appointments to view stamps for valuation. You should take the collection to some reputable dealer.

N. B. (West Didsbury).—I must confess your conundrum baffles me. As an invalid you meet no collectors, and if you did you have no stamps to exchange. You are not able to buy stamps, and you would consider it a great kindness on my part to offer you some suggestions for you to increase your stamp collection. I am very sorry that you feel discouraged, but I am baffled to reply—in fact it surprises me that you have got a collection of 2,000 varieties even in ten years. I will ask Mr. Wrinkle to discuss your letter. He may be able to offer some suggestions. I too, should like to know how to increase my collection without either buying or exchanging.

S. Y. (Cricklewood).—Thanks for your kind offer, but I have the books in question. You might offer them to H. F. Johnson, 44, Fleet Street, E.C., or to Victor Marsh, 389, Brixton Road, S.W.

T. B. C. (Leicester).—Your suggestion is an excellent one, and I thank you for your courtesy in offering it to me. To go fully

into the subject will take a little time, but it will be dealt with in due course, when I hope to be able to offer you some hints of practical value.

C. F. H. (Hull).—Thanks for photograph of your G.P.O.

Our Advertisers' Offers.

Mr. Harry Firth, of Bradford, offers British New Guinea and Papua in complete sheets.

Messrs. P. L. Pemberton & Co. offer cheap sets of British South Africa and Hong Kong.

Our Publishing Day and Advertisers.

In order to meet the requirements of the publishing trade our publishers now distribute copies to the Newsagents on Wednesdays instead of Thursdays as before. This compels us to go to press on Saturday morning. Hence it is absolutely necessary for our printers to have all advertisements at latest on Friday morning; consequently, copy must be in the Advertisement Manager's hands not later than Wednesday, 5 o'clock p m

Advertisers' Proofs.

We are anxious to consult our Advertisers' convenience to the greatest possible extent, but where proofs have to be supplied and returned our printers must have the "copy" by Thursday morning at the latest, as we now have to print off a portion of our issue on Saturday morning.

"The Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The Postage Stamp is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:—

- Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C.
- F. C. Ginn, 143, Strand, London, W.C.
- Lewis May & Co., 15, King William Street, Strand, W.C.
- W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.
- James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.
- Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.
- The Court Stamp Co., 10, Marriott's Court, Manchester.

Examination of Stamps.

So many of our readers have asked us to undertake the examination and identification of their stamps that we have made arrangements to accede to their wishes.

We shall be pleased to express an opinion as to the genuineness or otherwise of any stamps submitted to us, or identify them according to any catalogue at a charge of 6d. per stamp (minimum 1/-). All fees must be paid in advance with sufficient added to pay for return postage and registration.

Stamps upon which an opinion is desired should be mounted on a separate sheet from the letter accompanying them and addressed to "The Expert," c/o The Editor of *The Postage Stamp*, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton London, S.W.

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The POSTAGE STAMP

An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors

Founded by
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.
Edited by
FRED. J. MELVILLE.

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Gossip of the Week

BY CORNELIUS WRINKLE



Collectors BEWARE.

MY attention has been called to an article under the above title in a very nice little journal, *The Hobbyist*, published at Winnipeg, Canada. This journal has been quite careful hitherto in the choice of the material it has published, but the article to which I refer is quite extraordinarily ridiculous and is from the pen of an English writer, who writes under a name

which is similar to that of a really esteemed philatelic author. It is the more unfortunate for the distinguished philatelist that occasionally when initials only are used in conjunction with the surname the suggestion may arise that the said distinguished philatelist may be assumed to be the author of rubbish which he certainly would never have written.

Shall we Sign the Pledge?

I must point out before quoting from the article in question that we must make an allowance for the printing, which may not be precisely as the author wrote it in matters of detail, e.g., "to co-operative" in place of "to co-operate." But the sentiments can scarcely be those of the compositor, as we shall see. The italics, be it understood, are mine.

"One reads that in nearly every philatelic journal week by week, that (*sic*) so many new issues have arrived. Are these new issues necessary? I say without fear of contradiction, that *these issues are only for dealers to make a good harvest out of*. Being a real heart and soul collector does it not appeal to my many readers, that we ought to put a stop to *governments making use of collectors to raise revenues*. Now let us one and all put a stop to it by all agreeing to co-operative (*sic*), and if necessary sign a pledge that we will not collect a stamp issued after 1908. *Oh what would those greedy dealers do? And what will this mean? That, instead of our grand hobby 'dying out' as it is fast doing, it will land us into making many*

collectors take to collecting again, instead of hearing on all sides, collect stamps, not I."

A real "Heart and Soul" Collector.

I pause for breath, and incidentally to wonder what untold wealth the dealer amasses out of new issues, and to ask what prescience tells our author that our *grand hobby is fast dying out*. But perhaps Cornelius who is only a "postage stamp" collector cannot be expected to fathom the inner recesses of the mind of a "real heart and soul" collector, whatever that may be.

Drivel.

The next item I can find no justification for whatever. Our author says: "There is no hobby where there are more 'rogues' in it than in stamp collecting."

This of course is mere drivel, but it is extraordinary to find it published in a decent stamp journal. Taken in conjunction with the rest of the article it is not dangerous drivel. We can't seriously believe that the world is grown so bad that wrens may prey where eagles dare not perch.

Truths that wake to perish.

To quote our author again: "These remarks no doubt will appear bold, but they are true. While on the other side you find dealers who are in a big way of business able to plant large orders with governments controlling new issues as they please, and we poor fools are silly enough to pay them hundreds per cent. profit, on pieces of paper that cost so many pence to print per hundred."

There is more of the same sort, but I go on to a paper which is appended to the article, and which the author states he had "the pleasure of reading . . . before a society." The subject of the paper is "The Real Market Value of a Stamp." Not to weary my readers I will only give one or two extracts.

An Unknown Quantity.

"I have known two exactly similar stamps fetch at auction, on different occasions, prices which vary 50 per cent.; and in some cases where several articles of the same kind have been put up at the same sale, they fetched various prices owing to bidders dropping out."

Here indeed we can detect a deep insight into the cause of prices of any kind being attained in an auction room.

"One dealer may sell a stamp at a loss, and have more profit out of it than he who sells a similar stamp at 20s."

Is this algebra?

Finally to sum up we are told:

"Collectors and dealers must, therefore, use their own judgment and discretion in buying and selling."

Cornelius may be permitted to hope that the wisdom of Solomon may be bestowed on all collectors that they may have both the judgment and the discretion which is essential to the effective carrying out of our author's sapient injunction.

A Holiday from Stamps.

There are as I hinted last week occasions when one really does try to escape stamps and stamp collectors. But bless your soul escape is impossible. You meet them in mid Atlantic even and of course they swarm in the Antipodes. I really thought I should be quite away from them the other afternoon if I did a little punting on the Cherwell. The only stamp man in the punt I thought we should indeed be immune from philatelic intrusion. We picknicked near Marsden Ferry, and scarcely had the fire been lit when lo and behold another punt with a well known Oxford philatelist manipulating the pole hove into sight. Like a trained territorial (or is it an ostrich?) I fell flat on my face burying it deep in the grassy bank, and so remained until the danger had passed. But it was a narrow escape and next time I want to get right away from the philatelic world I'm going to make for the interior of the Sahara or the North pole. The South pole would scarcely be secure, for who knows some of the members of the Shackleton party may have educated the Penguins on King Edward VII. Land into keeping their old stamps.

The Future of Rhodesia.

Since I gave a little inkling in my gossip last week on the likelihood of Rhodesia being included in the South African Union, the matter has come prominently before the newspaper-reading public. All the newspapers mention that General Botha, who is representing the Transvaal in London during the passing of the Unification Bill through Parliament, is to open negotiations for the acquisition of Southern Rhodesia by the Transvaal so that it may be incorporated in United South Africa. The price mentioned for the transfer is £20,000,000, but this price does not apparently include Northern Rhodesia, which it is said will be retained by the Chartered Company for future developments—and, query, future issues of fancy type surcharges. What a pretty opportunity for selling off any surplus of the "Rhodesia" on B.S.A. issue by an additional overprint "Northern Territory!"

A Dutch Centenary.

I gather from *l'Annonce Timbrologique* that Holland, not profiting by the lesson of its De Ruyter commemorative issue, is proposing to have a series of pictorial stamps in 1914 to celebrate the centenary of the country's independence which was attained upon the abdication of Louis Napoleon. I preserve a fairly open mind on the subject of the utility of commemorative stamps within modern bounds as to frequency and extent, and if such issues are ever justifiable, no more proper occasion could be found than the centenary of a nation's independence. But I should hope that our Dutch friends will take sufficient interest in the proposed issue to save us from such cheap and nasty productions as the Charity Stamps of 1906, and the De Ruyter's of 1907. If we must have commemoratives let us have decent engravings which will not be blots on the fair pages of our albums. There is time between now and 1914 to prepare something worthy of a notable occasion.

Brussels Exposition, 1910.

The same journal states that there will be no special stamps issued in connection with the World's Fair Exposition in Brussels next year, an Exposition which, by the way, is being extensively supported by English firms, and by the British Government. Instead of stamps however, there is a suggestion which is receiving the consideration of the postal administration, to have all letters and postcards despatched from Brussels, Antwerp, Liege and Ghent obliterated with a very distinct inscription, "Exposition de Bruxelles, 1910," by way of advertising the show.

Is M. Simyan a Stamp Collector?

According to *l'Intransigeant* quoted in *l'Annonce Timbrologique*, M. Simyan, the individual who has been the centre of disturbance in the Paris postal strikes, has a fondness for collections, and has, since taking office in the Postal Department, formed a fine collection of stamps. The journal goes on to say that employes have been ordered by him to turn out rare varieties for him. Further, the journal states that he has had sheets of essays of stamps "which are unique, for, the essays not having been issued, M. Simyan is the sole possessor of the types not put into circulation." Very probably the statement is made by some of the Minister's enemies, and in any case it scarcely seems likely that so high an official should stoop to such a petty means of making a stamp collection, though we have known private agents for foreign postal departments who have not hesitated to have a few fresh varieties made for themselves.

Re-spacing of U.S. Stamps.

It is stated to be the intention of the U.S. authorities to have the stamps of the current issue of the United States spaced more widely apart, and placed with mathematical accuracy on new plates as such are required. Perhaps the authorities in question have made up their minds to try and bring their perforating up to civilised standards. Any way, for the specialist, blocks showing the spacing will probably be necessary, and the stamps with the present spacing might as well be secured while they are still easily accessible.

A Possible Maldivé Change.

By the way, whatever has induced the authorities at Male in the Maldives to have their 10 cents stamp in red the Postal Union colour for a penny value? Ten cents is nearly twopence. In Ceylon the 6 cents stamp is the equivalent of the 1d. value, and in any case the Maldivé 3 cents stamp (½d) is printed in the right colour for the Postal Union requirements, and if 3 cents is right for the ½d., it cannot be that 10 cents is meant to serve as the 1d. value. So we may look out for a possible speedy change and the probable addition of a 6 cents stamp in the colour of the present 10 cents, when the colour of the latter will be changed to something else. Perhaps in the confusion caused by altering the Arabic inscriptions at the last moment may have caused a blunder on someone's part in connection with the colour of the 10c.

Handbills for Circulation.

We have prepared and shall now be glad to send any number of neat handbills of *The Postage Stamp* to any of our friends, post free, on application. These little handbills include a specimen page, and being only leaflets are very suitable for enclosing in letters to philatelic friends.

Applications for supplies should be addressed only to Mr. Baldwin, Printer of *The Postage Stamp*, Tunbridge Wells, and friends should say how many they can use. They can be had in dozens, or hundreds, and even thousands, if desired.

The Postage Stamps of Dominica

BY BERTRAM W. H. POOLE

(Continued from page 172)

XIII.—Postal Fiscals.

At various times the 1d., 6d. and 1s. values surcharged "REVENUE" in block letters were used for postage, but whether these were officially sanctioned or not I cannot say. The 1d., 6d. and 1s. of 1877, with "C.C." watermark, and the 1d. and 1s. of 1886-88 with "CA." watermark are all known with this surcharge used postally.



The first mention I can find of these revenue stamps used for postage is in the October, 1879 issue of the *Philatelic Record*, viz. :—"Some time ago we saw a solitary specimen of the 1d. fiscal (which is merely the postage stamp of that value surcharged with the word 'REVENUE'), which had passed through the post, but we forgot to chronicle it. There appears to be once more a dearth of the ordinary 1d. postage stamp in Dominica; for by the mail which reached England on the 13th instant many letters and circulars arrived franked with the 1d. Revenue stamps."

From this it would appear that these 1d. stamps were used as provisional postage stamps. The 1s. similarly surcharged and used for postage does not appear to have been recorded until 1884 though of course specimens may have been used some time before this.

In 1889 the usual revenue stamps ran out of stock and a number of the then current 1d postage stamps were surcharged "Revenue" in ordinary type, locally, to make good the deficiency. A number of these were used for postage though there could have been no necessity for this as there were evidently plenty of the ordinary postage stamps in stock.



Again I am indebted to the *Philatelic Record* for an account of this provisional, and quote as follows from that journal :—"We have received by the last West Indian mail a letter franked with stamps to

the amount of fourpence, one of which was the one penny in lilac, overprinted in block type with "REVENUE," while another was a current one penny, carmine, also overprinted with "Revenue," but in small thick type. Regarding this latter stamp our correspondent informs us that in August last, pending the arrival from England of a fresh supply of the one penny lilac, the Treasurer of the island ordered six sheets of the one penny carmine to be overprinted with 'Revenue.' About one-fourth of these were used postally and most of the remainder for receipts, etc., before the supply of lilac arrived."

According to the above this stamp was issued in August, 1889, but in the Royal Philatelic Society's book the date is given as June. There is evidently some error regarding the number of these provisionals for if only six sheets (360 stamps) were overprinted, and only about 90 of these were postally used they should be worth considerably more than the 10s. at which they are at present quoted in Gibbons' catalogue.

The 1d. lilac referred to in the above paragraph is evidently the one with "CA" watermark.

Apparently the different presidencies in the Leeward Islands group used their own revenue stamps for some years after the postal issues were withdrawn, but at the end of 1896 it was decided to do away with the separate fiscal issues also. Early in 1897 the whole lot of remainders of these revenue stamps were offered for sale by the Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands, and these were eventually purchased by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.

This lot included the following Dominican stamps :—

1d. lilac, perf. 14	-	-	10,511
6d. green, perf. 14	-	-	9,786
1s. magenta, perf. 14	-	-	1,402

Although no further particulars were given it is evident that the 1d. and 1s. were the varieties with "CA" watermark.

The following is a synopsis of the varieties :—

1879-88.

Wmk. Crown CC. Perf. 14.

1d. lilac.
6d. green.
1s. magenta.

Wmk. Crown CA. Perf. 14.

1d. lilac.
1s. magenta.

1889.

Wmk. Crown CA. Perf. 14.

1d. carmine.

XIV.—Postmarks.

The postmarks used in Dominica do not present any difficulties to the philatelic student. At first the ordinary "A07" mark, of flat oval shape, which had been in use for some time prior to the issue of

postage stamps, was used as an obliterator and this seems to have been pretty generally used until 1884 and perhaps later.

About 1879 a new type of obliterator was introduced, and this was used concurrently with the foregoing for a time and then almost exclusively after 1884 (?) This stamp, which was upright oval in shape, also had "A07" in the centre but in much larger type than in the first cancelling mark.

The date stamp used with these obl iterators consists of a small circle with "DOMINICA" curved at the

top and the date in two lines in the centre, thus:—"MR 26—83." It seems to have been little used for cancelling purposes, for Queen's head stamps with dated postmarks are scarce.

With the advent of the pictorial series of 1903 a combined dating and obliterating mark was brought into use. This consists of two concentric circles having between the rings "GEN. POST OFFICE--DOMINICA," while in the centre the date is shown.

THE END.

Advantages of Summer Advertising

BY O. REGINALD GUM

I HAD just headed half a sheet of notepaper for my regular outline of the Trade Aspect of Philately, when a curt communication from the Editor informed me that I must find out what the principal dealers' intentions are for the Summer Season. To be ordered thus means "do" or—sack. Personally, I thought it would be futile—isn't this the holiday season, when light nights and warm weather play the very deuce with Philately?

My first query to the first dealer I went to see upon the subject of this article, "Well, when are you going for your holidays?" He stared at me for quite a minute as if I had asked him the very most last question he ever expected to be put to him. Then he replied, "Holidays! Too busy! Don't see any chance for some time, if at all this year." "But you don't mean to say that stamps will keep 'alive' until next autumn?" I questioned. "Rather,—why we're busier now than what we were before Christmas."

This was indeed news to me, and I asked for further particulars, which were as follows. Up to a year or so ago this particular dealer—who is one of the best known not only in these islands, but throughout the Philatelic section of the world—spent two or three months of the year on the Continent. Last year family affairs prevented this usual trip. He therefore found himself practically obliged to force business. To this end he opened a Summer Advertising Campaign. This year he took a short holiday abroad about May, so as to be back in time to repeat last year's venture—which he described, to use his own words, as "the slickest and best time of the year."

Another dealer echoed these views, and said when he first opened in business, summer was always looked upon as a "blind" time, but to-day there was practically no difference—unless that he preferred the Summer Season! His reason was this. Only true and whole-hearted philatelists keep their stamp albums in use during the summer. The haphazard "cold mouth" collectors, as soon as other pastimes present themselves, throw their collections aside and forsake the shrine of Philatelia. Now a dealer much prefers, naturally, the customer who is always "there." He knows just what that customer wants, and which if he gets, he can immediately "place." Further, the rush of the winter prevents the dealer giving that individual attention to each of those solid clients, because he has too much on his hands.

Still another prominent dealer sounded the whole crux of this reputed "summer slackness" by saying that the falling off of the hangers-on, or "street-corner" dealers with their loud noise of "empty cans" made it appear that philately was not popular in the "Dogdays." "Give me the summer," he said, "it's the best time,—and the time when I devote myself to the chief advertising I do.

The customers one gains in the summer are the most to be relied upon,—they don't devote half-an-hour at this hobby and half-an-hour at that hobby,—they are always real philatelists. The bonâ-fide dealer who himself is or should be a philatelist enjoys the friendship of a fellow-philatelist, but abhors a 'hanger-on.' Though necessarily the dealer is in the 'game' for his livelihood, his upholding of the hobby should be even more so than the collector,—the exploitation of such would be his ruin." I think we will all agree with those words.

To return to our title,—to a man the whole of those dealers whom I interviewed ridiculed the idea that philately is dead in the summer months; if it is, they said, it is the fault of those of the dealers who suffer from it. One trader told me that he had rarely advertised during the winter months for the past four seasons, as his ordinary shop business kept him and his staff fully occupied; but, he said, "I make a regular practice of advertising for buying and selling lines from July to November,—it does not hardly pay to devote time to the regular repliers of advertisements during the 'Season.'"

As a still further point in favour of summer advertising let me point to the continental press. How much decrease does one see in those large advertising "three-a-month" publications from Germany and Austria? None. Yet the scale of their advertising rates is twice as much as the average English organ. True, there are more people interested on the continent, but then there are also more publications. These papers are quite dissimilar to our own. They for the most part cater nothing for the literary philatelist like our English magazines. They are advertisements from cover to cover. But they must pay, or their promoters could not afford to run, year in, year out. Certainly this article is written for an end,—the promotion of summer advertising in this country. The greater the advertising support we get the better and greater the contents of the "inner." But from the reader's point of view—a trial this summer of a regular advertisement would be money spent to good advantage.

The collector wanting various things for a specialised collection gets the pick of the possessions of the non-philatelist—the ordinary will-o'-th'-wisp collector of to-day and gone to-morrow. The dealer gets an opening for intercourse with the bonâ fide philatelist, whom he is able to study, since he is unhampered with the attentions of the person who suddenly thinks he will collect stamps because so-and-so does it, but who just as suddenly gives up because he can see "nothing in it."

[Next week we shall give an article on "Philatelic Advertising," by Mr. O. Reginald Gum, which should appeal to most readers generally and the dealers in particular.—ED.]

Collectors in Council

BY R. E. TOUCH

Subject: Condition

WE had not met for quite a time and it is not surprising that our discussion the other evening was a bit dull. You see we have lost one of our company, good old Sir Charge; and then we have changed our meeting place—in itself enough to disturb the free flow of the words of wisdom which Sir Charge used to follow with his lightning stenography.

The first subject we discussed was condition.

The Lesson of Recent Sales.

Mr. Charles Perf introduced the subject, fingering a priced catalogue of the Mirabaud sale in Paris. Some of the prices he said were eye-openers, one could scarcely have imagined that prices would range so uniformly high throughout a tremendous sale like this. It showed what a vast amount of money was lying ready to be invested in good stuff. But it could all be put down to the wonderful condition of the stamps. That was a point he was always trying to drive home to any stamp collectors he met that if they were ever going to realise financial profit from their stamps they must look to their absolute perfection of condition when purchasing them. Just look at these gems, he said, turning over page after page of the illustrations, showing imperforate stamps with wide margins all round, perforated stamps well centred, and their designs all evidently clean and unaltered for they made very effective reproductions.

Absorption of Fine Old Stamps.

Mr. Tête Bèche ventured the opinion that the craze for condition was perhaps becoming just a trifle too severe on some stamps. He instanced numbers of early Europeans which, he said, if one did not relax the condition rule one would have to do without the stamps altogether. Mr. Tilleard, in that excellent report which appeared in *The Postage Stamp*, had, in referring to this same matter, told of the gradual absorption of fine copies of the older issues. And what is the new collector to do when the absorption is complete?

A Stamp is Known by the company it keeps.

Mr. Wide Roulette said that it was his opinion that no relaxation of the condition strictures should be considered for a moment. The solution of the absorption difficulty lay in the increase of specialism. A collector would simply have to limit his studies to one or two groups, and the absolute futility, from the financial aspect, of generalising in these days was becoming more and more evident to every reasonable collector. Look, for example, at the Reid sale. The results would not compare with those of the Mirabaud auction, because in attempting to cover the whole world the compiler of the general collection had not been able to give the unflinching attention to every detail of his stamps' condition. The very presence of poor copies in a collection lowered the selling value of perfect stamps which were alongside of them.

Mr. Charles Perf took up the discussion, saying that he had been much struck by the remark of Mr. Castle in an editorial on the Reid collection, that it may have been (*noscitur a sociis*) that the good copies suffered from their juxtaposition with their inferior neighbours. He (Mr. Perf) himself, when he got a stamp which had the slightest defect, did not put it in his collection to wait

until he had the opportunity of replacing with a better copy. He knew plenty collectors who did this, but his experience was that only very rarely did they ever trouble again about the stamp once it had been inserted in the collection. It was one of those little things about which folk were foolish enough to cheat themselves. In most cases when the damaged stamp was put in the collector had no intention of putting in a better copy in its place—and certainly, whether his intention were really to do so or not, he practically never did it. And so a collector working on these lines was simply cheating himself and lowering his standard of perfection in condition instead of raising it, missing, as he must do, numbers of opportunities for getting good copies because he was sure he had the stamps already, though in what condition he could not remember.

The Lethal Chamber for Mutilated Stamps.

Mr. Wide Roulette said that he thought that that remark of Mr. Castle's had much more in it than met the eye. He knew a dealer of the old school who, when he bought collections for selling again, first went through the album picking out all the damaged stamps and fakes before he would let any customer see it. He found plenty of buyers in this way for all his collections which were thus made to look as choice and perfect as it was possible to have them. And those damaged stamps which he took out of such albums he did not put in a box for sale as damaged stamps. No. With a merry twinkle he would damage them still more and if there were a fire handy he would watch them burn remarking, as he did so, "hence varlets and trouble me no more." He used to enjoy these days of his purification as he called them and would never allow any of his assistants to do the burning—he came from the land of the "Leaks." Certainly a few more dealers of the same type would help to dredge the "muck" out of the hobby and sometimes when he, Mr. Roulette would see a badly damaged stamp offered at a "great sacrifice" in an exchange packet he would buy it and out-Nero Nero by soaking it in oil and burning it.

What of the Youngsters?

Mr. Tête Bèche said that all this was very well but that it was rather a snobbish attitude. You see, you are men of means, you don't appear to consider the man with the limited purse and the junior, who cannot pay the price to have everything in the prime of prime condition.

These esteemed collectors said Mr. Perf are as much in our thoughts as are men of equal means with ourselves—in fact the condition question is more important to them, for a serious reverse in business is much more liable to happen to them and is much more serious to them when it should occur than to us. With them their whole livelihood may be lost at one blow, with us an investment or two may go wrong without seriously dwindling our incomes. So they are much more likely to be in a position when they will have to make their collections into money, and they will want all the money they can get by the sale. When a wealthy collector sells out he often has very little thought or care of the financial result. He is perhaps tired of his stamps, though in such a case it would be his sheer inability to give them the study and attention they demand and deserve. Stamps will never tire the real student and lover of stamps. So

it must be seen that if condition tells in the selling the collector with modest means and the junior too must comply with the ruling demands of the market, and demands which are so sound that they must stand for good. Fashion will not say to-day we must have our stamps absolutely in the pink of condition, and then tomorrow say that a perf. missing and a string hole in the centre if not actually improving a specimen at least makes no difference to its interest or value.

Collecting for Pleasure.

But, interposed Mr. Tête Bêche, you are both arguing solely from the money-grabbing idea. Does it never strike you that there are hundreds and thousands of collectors who are in stamps for the sheer pleasure of collecting them, and who rarely—many of them never—give a thought to what they will bring when—if ever—sold.

I am sure, remarked Wide Roulette, such collectors deserve all honour for their unmercenary motives in philately, but, even disregarding the monetary side of the question, does it not strike you that the interest and the enjoyment of the possession of stamps lies to a very great extent in their being fine copies—as fine as you can get them? Were it otherwise, one might as well collect tram tickets.

The Case of Other Hobbies.

That is not the case with other hobbies, retorted Mr. Tête Bêche. Do you think that a wealthy collector of statuary would think any the less of the Aphrodite of Melos, did he have the chance of buying it from the Louvre, because the goddess is minus her arms?

Your argument is very weak, said Charlie, for the position is very different. But still we may use it to our own ends. I should not say that he would think any the less of the Venus of Milo because she is armless, but I am positive he would think a great deal the *more* of it were she in full possession of her limbs. But I should be very sorry if our British Museum, for instance, were to continue the Tapling Collection by the inclusion of stamps which are minus any portion of their "anatomy." And you, too, my friend, would be sorry enough if we had to take a leaf out of the book of the sculpture or picture collector. Suppose some kind friend were to offer you a cast or a "copy" (in the art collecting sense) of your favourite Swedish trefle error. I am sure you would be indignant enough to want to consign the vendor to everlasting perdition. And yet there seemed nothing very strange about that to even our earliest stamp collectors. I well remember reading a suggestion that a society should be formed to undertake the reprinting of stamps which had gone out of issue, just as literary societies reprint old classics.

The Sad Story of a Collector of Damaged Stamps.

Mr. Wide Roulette ventured to suggest that Charlie was diverging from the immediate subject for discussion, but there was no doubt that Mr. Tête Bêche was under the impression that a man who collected any old thing that had once been a stamp got as much fun out of the pursuit as his neighbour who only took perfect copies. I have come across collectors of both classes, but I have only come across one really cultured collector who collected on the lines which Mr. Tête Bêche would seem to advocate. My friend used to say, when I protested that he was buying rubbish, that he was merely collecting for pleasure, and the stamps he was after he would never have been able to get *except* as damaged specimens, with the money that he was prepared to expend on them. What was the end of it all?—for such collecting does and must have an end. He spent a couple of years (and

doubtless enjoyed the pursuit) collecting damaged stamps, rejoicing when he got a rarity for a quarter or a third of catalogue value, and then his ardour began to wane. There was nothing substantial, nothing sound, about his system of collecting. He had the excitement of the hunt; but his album was not a thing of beauty, and he could extract no pleasure from it after the first spasms of interest and semi-satisfaction that the filling of the spaces afforded him. The collection did not grow into a composite whole. It was a motley accumulation of fragments. In those two years (rather less by a couple of months or so) he spent £150. He came to me and told me that his collection had been shelved for some time, and that he did not intend to go on with it; would I care to make an offer for it, or to sell it for him? Of course I could not buy it—I should have wanted to burn everything except a few stamps in it. But I took it in his behalf to a dealer, who offered, I think, £11 for it. I brought the collection back, and he told me in a dejected way that he thought the offer was absurd—he had kept an account of his expenditure on it, and it was approximately fifteen times the amount offered. He laid the book away for a little, and then told me a few weeks later that he *grudged* letting a dealer have it at a price so ridiculous, but he did not mind letting me have it as a friend at £10. I was sorry for him, because it was a small pamphlet of mine that had started him collecting. I had been consulted by him frequently about his specimens, though he would take no advice on the condition question at all; he had quite worked out a line for himself in that respect.

Advice on Approval.

Mr. Perf said that it was an old story—he had met collectors like that—they sought advice, got it on appro. as it were, made their selection as it suited them and returned the balance.

The only difference being that they send no postal order to cover amount taken, interposed Mr. Wide Roulette. But Mr. Touch has not said a word!

Fine Used better than Bad Unused.

I explained that I could not pick up the words of wisdom that had fallen from their mouths and contribute any of my own at the same time. Besides we are not all so rapid stenographers as was old friend Sir Charge. But my ideas on the subject very largely coincided with those expressed by Charlie and Wide. I thought, too, that so far as the young collector and the man of moderate means were concerned they should not worry themselves so much about unused stamps. With the absorption of fine unused stamps of early issues, the future lay very largely in the really fine used copies with only slight postmarks but ample margins. The absence of the gum question in collecting used was here an advantage. I have stamps in my collection which are all but unused. Some novices have even regarded them as unused until I proved to them that they were used. And in many cases these being used have cost me a few pence and are better copies than many of the unused ones sold by big firms at as many pounds.

Mr. Tête Bêche bit the end of his cigar, flung himself back in a basket chair, and said "Well, I think we've had enough of this subject for to-night and I am quite prepared to admit that the argument has been all on your side; now for another subject. You read in *The Postage Stamp* last week that Brighton chap was advocating the Simple Life in Stamp Collecting. What is it? How to collect stamps on a diet of nuts and porridge?"

"No," I replied (a little huffily, I admit), "its nothing of the sort. Buy the paper at your bookstall and read the article. Then we can discuss the subject another night."

The Post Office Lady Clerk

The Humours and Annoyances of her position—The Postmaster-General on Condescension

BY THE EDITOR

COUNTER-IRRITANT.—The haughty Post Office Official (female).—*Punch*.

The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton) has issued a notice which has brought into prominence the lady of moods who dispenses postage stamps to all and sundry over the post office counter.

Mr. Buxton himself a most charming man has already shown by his instructions to telephone attendants that he is desirous of securing courtesy and prompt attention to the millions of clients of the British Postmaster-General.

The new instructions to employees in our post offices are as follows:—

"The Postmaster-General receives from time to time complaints of inattention and, incivility on the part of post office servants of both sexes employed at the public counters, both in London and in the provinces. The complaint as a rule is not so much of actual rudeness on the part of the counter clerks in question as of the indifferent or condescending attitude which they adopt in the performance of their duties.

"The Postmaster-General is fully satisfied that the very large majority of counter clerks deserve nothing but commendation as regards their relations with the public, but he fears that there are exceptions, and that certain individuals fail to act up to the high standard of courtesy, attention, and promptitude that is rightly expected from the service. The Postmaster-General recognises that members of the public may be on occasions exacting or unreasonable, and misunderstanding may arise, but he would impress upon the staff that it is one of their chief duties to avoid friction and to exercise unfailing civility in their dealings with the public in all circumstances.

"He would add that he regards courtesy, good humour, and obliging disposition, whether shown towards the public or colleagues in the post office, as qualities that should have considerable weight in the selection of officers for supervising appointments."

In the comments on these instructions one cannot help noting that the post office lady clerk is credited with being the real cause of the issuance of such a notice. But I am inclined to think the commentators are wrong. The smart—ultra smart—post office lady is a personage of the past, she only dwells in the pages of the comic journals. That she has had her prototype we do not question. But our own experience is that the men are often the "condescenders." We well remember on a visit to a resort in the Isle of Man, taking a telegram to the telegram division of the counter, and the attendant, a very bumptious individual, would insist that it was our duty to take up our position in a long queue of people waiting at the postage stamp selling part of the counter. We naturally refused and insisted that a telegram demanded immediate attention. It took over twenty minutes to get the telegram accepted, and how long it would take to get despatched heaven only knows. We never had any such experience with a lady clerk.

It must be admitted that at times the duties of the post office counter must be very trying. Numbers of people have extraordinary ideas of what may be demanded of the attendants. We remember the case of a very amiable customer.

A lady clerk had been asked to accept a parcel that was insufficiently sealed. The man then explained he had no wax but would the clerk oblige him by sealing the parcel? That she explained was against orders. Thereupon the man lifted the counter flap, walked round the counter to the place where the official wax and burner were kept and did for himself all that was necessary. Returning to the clerk he said:—"Now miss we've got over that little difficulty, haven't we?"

Complaints made by the public are not always just. In one of the metropolitan offices where the pneumatic tube is connected for sending the telegraph forms to C.T.O., a woman complained to the postmistress that a clerk had screwed up her message and put it in a hole in the counter, and it had been thereby considerably delayed.

Which reminds one of the old country woman, who spent days watching the post office, and then explained that "it was a weird go, she had heard them wires humming but could not see one of them yellow envelopes come up."

Another female complainant was a servant girl. A parcel she handed to the lady clerk went astray for some reason or another. She entered the office in high dudgeon and furiously demanded of the lady who had attended to her, that she should surrender the muslin apron with the straps over the shoulder. She had sent it to a friend for a birthday gift and it had not yet been received.

"You know," she said, "you know very well what you've done with it. You've taken it home."

The *Daily News* prints the following story:

"The question of civility in Post Offices is much to the fore at present. Some time ago a lady clerk in a London office, who was more distinguished for good looks than good temper, was asked by a man who had just purchased a stamp: 'If I post this letter now, when will it be delivered in Manchester?' 'By the last post to-night,' was the curt reply. 'No, it won't,' retorted the man, 'for it is going to Plymouth.'"

The story reminds us of another.

A man went into a post office and asked the clerk how he should send a letter to a friend who was travelling through Salisbury.

She explained by way of illustration, and wrote it down:

<p>JOHN SMITH, Esq., Poste Restante, Salisbury.</p>

"But," protested the customer, "his name is 'nt Smith, its Reilly."

What would the average intelligent member of the public say to the following conundrum which has been propounded in various ways scores of times to my lady of the counter:

"Will you please tell me when I'll have to post a parcel to reach my son in Jannesberg in time for his birthday?"

We are very glad to note that most post offices are now supplied with moistening pads for customers to use and for clerks to use when necessary to affix stamps to letters or telegrams. It used to be rather bad for the girls, but they could generally hold their own.

A haughty dame after purchasing a stamp asked the clerk:

"Must I put it on myself?"

"Not necessarily mam, it will probably accomplish more if you put it on the letter."

Which reminds us of the old lady who always had her maid with her, and when she had purchased a stamp she would turn to the maid saying:

"Maria, your tongue!"

Whereupon the girl would meekly put out her tongue at her employer. We hope she enjoyed the impropriety of putting out her tongue at her ladyship.

While on this subject it may be recalled that a Sub-Postmistress, when asked to reply to the question "Are you satisfied from personal observation from time to time that the rule requiring the public to affix stamps to forwarded telegrams is strictly observed?" said: "Yes, quite, except on one occasion when Lord Londonderry (the then P.M.G.) sent a telegram, for whom the stamps were affixed by the counter assistant."

We trust she may do the same for Mr. Buxton.

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

Antigua.—(Vol. IV. p. 96).—We gather from the *Colonial Office Journal* that a supply of 1d. stamps printed entirely in red and on the paper with multiple watermark is about to be forwarded to this colony.

Barbados.—(Vol. III. p. 20).—We understand from the *Colonial Office Journal* that this colony has adopted the new colour scheme, and that new ½d., 1d., and 6d. stamps have been supplied, all on unsurfaced paper.

Bermuda.—(Vol. III. p. 56).—We learn from the *Colonial Office Journal* that a supply of 2½d. stamps, printed entirely in blue, is about to be despatched to this colony.

Bulgaria.—(Vol. III. p. 56).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. and Mr. W. T. Wilson send us two new provisionals—the current 15st. and 30st. stamps surcharged "5" and "25" respectively. The first of these is surcharged in black and the other in red.

Provisionals.

- "5" on 15st. lake and black
- "25" on 30st. bistre-brown and black

Cochin.—(Vol. III. p. 8).—The *Philatelic Adviser* chronicles a provisional 2 pies stamp formed by printing the 3 pies in violet and then surcharging it with a large figure "2" in black.

Provisional.

- Wmk. Umbrella. Perf. 11½.
- "2" on 3 pies. violet

Congo. (Vol. IV. p. 162).—Most of our Continental contemporaries list the new stamps, and we find that they are inscribed "CONGO BELGE." The designs and colours are similar to those of the stamps they supersede.

Inscribed "CONGO BELGE."

- No. wmk. Perf. 12½ to 15
- 5c. green and black
- 10c. carmine and black
- 15c. ochre and black
- 50c. olive green and black

Dominica.—(Vol. IV. p. 44).—We take the following from the *Colonial Office Journal*:—"In applying the new colour scheme, it has been thought advisable to reverse the colours in which the centre and border are printed, in order that the larger portion of the stamp may be in the doubly fugitive colour. New 2d., 3d., and 6d. stamps have been supplied, but the reversal of the colours is not

very perceptible in the case of these values, as the appearance presented is practically that of a single colour stamp."

Elobey, Annobon and Corisco.—(Vol. III. p. 250).—*Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* states that a new provisional has appeared, the 10c. of 1907 having been surcharged "HABILITADO" and 25c. in black.

Provisional.

- No. wmk. Perf. 14.
- 25c. on 10c. dull lilac.

Gambia.—According to the *Colonial Office Journal* Gambia has decided to adopt the new colour scheme except as regards its 5d., 7½d., 10d., 1s. 6d., and 3s. stamps. For these particular denominations the following colours have been chosen:—

- 5d. orange and mauve
- 7½d. brown and ultramarine
- 10d. olive green and carmine
- 1s. 6d. violet and green
- 3s. bright yellow with bright green overprint

We understand supplies of all values are on order.

Italy.—(Vol. II. p. 79).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a new 15c. stamp. The design is the same as before but it has been re-engraved. The new stamp is a trifle smaller than the old one and it is printed in black instead of slate. The inscription and figures at the top are a little smaller and the whole of the background has been re-drawn. The gradations of light and shade are much more apparent, the lines in the upper left hand corner are all horizontal instead of being crossed, and the "rays" from the small circle containing the crown are more clearly defined. This small circle now touches the top label and the crown in it is a little larger. The portrait has been greatly improved, the pose is better and the features are more carefully shaded. The ornamentation in the epaulette is now quite clear and two stars are plainly visible on the collar.

- Re-engraved. Wmk. Crown. Perf. 12.
- 15c. black

Leeward Islands.—(Vol. IV. p. 151).—We understand from the *Colonial Office Journal* that a supply of the new ½d. stamps, referred to on page 151, is "on the point of being despatched," so they can hardly be issued on July 1st as previously announced.

Liberia.—(Vol. IV. p. 151).—It is stated that "only about 10,000" of the new provisional "Inland 3 cents" stamps were made and as a scrap of comfort to those collectors who are foolish enough to buy this sort of rubbish we are told that no more can be printed as the plates from which the 10c. stamp was produced have been destroyed.

Natal.—(Vol. IV. p. 82).—According to the *Colonial Office Journal* the 3d., 4d., and 5d. stamps of the "Postage and Revenue" series will follow the new colour scheme in future, "and be printed partly in doubly fugitive ink and therefore on surfaced paper." The 1½d. and 2d. stamps are now the only values concerning which no change has been announced.

Nicaragua.—(Vol. IV. p. 162).—The 5c. printed in a new colour from the old 1905 plate is now reported, thus completing the set and making our revised list as follows:—

New series. No wmk. Perf. 12.

- 1c. emerald green
- 2c. vermilion
- 3c. orange red
- 4c. purple
- 5c. Prussian blue
- 6c. brown
- 10c. claret
- 15c. grey black
- 20c. olive brown
- 50c. dark green
- 1p. yellow
- 2p. rose

Philippine Islands.—We take the following paragraph from the *Philatelic Adviser*:—"Our publishers have discovered amongst their stock a sheet of the 2½c. on ½c. provisional of 1889, with one of the stamps minus the surcharge. This is the first stamp in the second row from the top of the sheet at left side."

St. Lucia.—(Vol. I. p. 228).—*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* reports the 1d. carmine and 2½d. blue as novelties which is certainly a *wee* bit belated considering these two stamps were issued in 1907! The *Colonial Office Journal*

states that a supply of 3d. and 1s. stamps in the new colours have been despatched.

St. Vincent.—(Vol. IV. p. 45).—The *Colonial Office Journal* states that the next supply of 2d. stamps will be printed in grey instead of orange so as to agree with the new colour scheme. "We are also told that the stop under the "d" representing "pence," which has been omitted from the 1d. and 6d. stamps of the revised type, will be inserted in all future printings.

Sierra Leone.—(Vol. IV. p. 105).—The same journal tells us that supplies of the 2d., 3d., 4d. and 5d. stamps in the new colours have been despatched to the Colony.

Transvaal.—(Vol. III. p. 299).—We take the following paragraph from the *Colonial Office Journal*:—"The next issue of 6d. Postage and Revenue stamps will be in singly fugitive ink on unsurfaced paper, and that of £1 postage stamps in doubly fugitive ink on surfaced paper. Stamps of both sorts are in course of manufacture, and the colours will not be materially changed. 2d. stamps are also on order printed entirely in grey."

Turks Islands.—(Vol. III. p. 251).—From the *Colonial Office Journal* we glean the interesting information that this Colony is preparing to issue a set of King's head stamps similar in design to those of the Falkland Islands. The colours will follow the new official scheme except as regards the 4d., 2s. and 3s. stamps. These will be in red on yellow, red on green, and black on red paper respectively, so that each stamp will be printed in one colour only. They will be produced by the line-engraved method and will, of course, be on unsurfaced paper.

Trinidad.—(Vol. IV. p. 45).—The same journal informs us that "in order to comply with the Postal Union requirements, new plates have been ordered for the ½d., 1d. and 2½d. values showing the duties in Arabic numerals. A supply of stamps from the new plates has been requisitioned, and also of 4d., 6d. and 1s. stamps in the new colours. The last-named have been despatched."

Rhodesia's Future

GENERAL Botha, the Transvaal Prime Minister, now on his way to England, is expected to open negotiations in London for the acquisition of Southern Rhodesia by the Transvaal in order that it may be incorporated in the new South African Union.

CAPETOWN, Sunday.

A report is in circulation at Bulawayo that General Botha, the Transvaal Prime Minister, at the request of the South African National Convention, will make an offer to the British South Africa Company for the taking over of Rhodesia by United South Africa.

The *Bulawayo Chronicle* says it believes the report is correct, and mentions £20,000,000 as the price. —Reuter.

General Botha's Mission.

A director of the Chartered Company made the following statement last night to a representative of *The Daily Mail*:—

"It is understood that General Botha will open the question of the acquisition of Rhodesia while in England. Parliament is sure to give permission for the Act of Union,

and in order to include Rhodesia the assent of the Chartered Company will have to be obtained, and the directors of the company have promised not to act without consulting the people of Rhodesia. They would accept fair terms for the territory south of the Zambesi, which is the only part that would come into question.

"Northern Rhodesia will be retained by the company for future developments. Southern Rhodesia is the white man's country and can be occupied by a white population, and is therefore capable of self-government. Southern Rhodesia would not be absorbed by the Transvaal but would be a fifth State.

"The transaction will take the form of compensation given by the Transvaal to the Chartered Company for their rights and for what has been spent on the country."

In City circles, although some scheme to include Rhodesia in the South African Union would surprise no one, the price mentioned is considered ludicrous, the total share and debenture capital of the Chartered Company, with the premiums on its value established by the recent "boom," amounting to very much less than £20,000,000.

Daily Mail, July 5th.

The Nankivell Library

Sale of Philatelic Literature at Glendining's

THE library of stamp books formed by the late Mr. Nankivell was not an extensive one, and contained practically none of the rarities in philatelic literature. The only out-of-the-way items were vols. I. and II. of the *Philatelic Journal of India*; *Le Timbre Poste*, vols. I. to XXX.; a copy of the second edition of Gray's catalogue, which, however, was not listed by the cataloguers, but was thrown in with other books; two copies of Mirabaud and Reuterskiold's Swiss book; and the Stamps of Greece, by W. D. Beckton.

The French works might have been better catalogued, for such books as Moens' Wurtemberg (2 vols.) and Moens' Argentine (2 vols.) were each broken up into separate lots, the second volume in each case being described as a second edition, the words "Tome Second" (volume two) being apparently mistaken for second edition.

The prices realised are not uninteresting, as shewing that there is a growing interest among collectors in the literature of philately, which is displaying itself in the form of a desire to acquire at least a representative working library.

All volumes are bound, except where otherwise stated.

	£	s.	d.
Gibbons' <i>Monthly Journal</i> , vols. 1 to 17 ...	1	10	0
<i>American Journal of Philately</i> , vols. 1 to 15 ...	5	0	0
<i>Philatelic Journal of Great Britain</i> , vols. 1 to 8 ...	0	15	0
<i>London Philatelist</i> , vols. 1 to 13 ...	1	8	0
<i>Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly</i> , vols. 1 to 6 and 9 to 12 ...	0	12	0
<i>Philatelic Record</i> , vols. 1 to 20 ...	1	12	0
<i>Philatelic Journal of America</i> , vols. 3 to 13 ...	1	15	0
<i>Gibbons' Stamp Weekly</i> vols. 1 to 5 ...	1	8	0
<i>Philatelic Journal of India</i> , vols. 1 to 4 ...	1	0	0
<i>Stamp News</i> , vols. 1 to 8 and 10, 11 ...	1	11	0
<i>Stamp News</i> , vols. 2 to 8, 10, 11 ...	0	12	0
<i>Philatelic Record</i> , vols. 18, 21, 22 ...	0	10	0
<i>Philatelic Journal of Great Britain</i> , vols. 2 to 5, and <i>London Philatelist</i> , vol. 1 ...	0	15	0
<i>London Philatelist</i> , vol. 1, <i>Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly</i> , vols. 1 and 2, <i>Gibbons' Weekly</i> , vol. 1, <i>Philatelic Review</i> , vols. 2 and 3, <i>Stamp News Annual</i> , 1891-96, <i>Philatelist</i> , vol. 8 ...	0	14	0
<i>Philatelist</i> , vols. 1 to 7 and 9 bound, and vol. 8 unbound ...	2	12	0
<i>Stamp Collectors' Magazine</i> , vols. 1 to 12 ...	2	10	0
<i>Le Timbre Poste</i> (Moens), vols. 1 to 30 ...	3	5	0
Smith's <i>Monthly Circular</i> , 1884-8, <i>Philatelic Journal</i> , 1872-5, <i>Stamp Advertiser</i> , vol. 1 ...	0	12	0
Vindin's <i>Monthly</i> , 5 to 7, <i>Australian Journal of Philately</i> , vol. 1, <i>Philatelic Journal</i> , Nos. 1 to 16 (5 vols. in all) ...	1	0	0
<i>Ninth Report of Post Office Commissioners</i> (1837) ...	1	6	0
<i>Life of Sir Rowland Hill</i> , 2 vols. (De la Rue) ...	0	11	0
<i>Sir Rowland Hill</i> (Fisher Unwin) ...	0	5	0
<i>Catalogue for Collectors</i> (Evans), <i>Gray's Catalogue</i> (6th edition), <i>Postage Stamps Illustrated</i> , 1864 (Moens), <i>Gibbons' Catalogues</i> , 1896-7, '99, '00, '02, and <i>West End Philatelist</i> , vol. 5 ...	0	16	0
<i>History of Railway Letter Stamps</i> (Ewen) ...	0	10	0
<i>Philbrick & Westoby's Great Britain</i> ...	0	16	0

	£	s.	d.
<i>Stamp Collector</i> (Hardy & Bacon), <i>How to Collect Stamps</i> (Smith), <i>Philatelic Index</i> (Long), and <i>Stamp Fiends' Raid</i> (4 vols. in all) ...	0	7	0
Westoby's <i>Europe</i> , 2 vols., <i>Postage Stamps and their Collection</i> (Firth), <i>Album Weeds</i> (Eares) ...	1	3	0
Luff's <i>United States</i> ...	1	8	0
Tiffany's <i>United States</i> ...	1	1	0
Moens' <i>Catalogue</i> , 1892 ...	1	0	0
Album of Press Cuttings and Nankivell's <i>Stamps of the Transvaal</i> ...	1	1	0
Bacon & Napier's <i>Barbados</i> (1), <i>Grenada</i> (1), <i>St. Vincent</i> (1) ...	0	17	0
Thornhill's <i>Shanghai</i> , Harrison & Napier's <i>Portuguese India</i> , and Napier & Smith's <i>South Australia</i> ...	0	11	0
Nankivell's <i>Transvaal</i> , Bacou's <i>Reprints</i> , and 3 other works ...	0	13	0
Phillips' <i>Fiji</i> ...	0	19	0
Masson & Jones <i>Afghanistan</i> and Nankivell's <i>Transvaal</i> ...	1	0	0
Diena's <i>Sicily</i> ...	0	17	0
<i>Nesbitt Envelopes and Wrappers of the U.S.A.</i> (Harrison & Bacon) ...	0	5	0
Moens' <i>Spain</i> ...	0	10	0
" <i>Heligoland</i> ...	0	6	0
<i>Switzerland</i> (Mirabaud & Reuterskiold) ...	3	3	0
" another copy ...	3	15	0
Colson's <i>Postage Stamps and their Collection</i> ...	0	11	0
Brown's <i>Straits Settlements</i> ...	0	18	0
" (presentation copy) ...	0	14	0
Philatelic Society's <i>Africa</i> , Parts 1, 2 & 3 ...	5	10	0
" " Part 1 ...	1	0	0
" " " ...	0	15	0
" " " ...	0	11	0
" " " ...	0	10	0
" " Part 2 ...	0	7	0
" " " 2 ...	0	7	0
" " " 2 ...	0	6	0
<i>British Isles</i> (Wright & Creeke) ...	1	1	0
<i>West Indies</i> (Philatelic Society) ...	2	0	0
<i>India</i> " " ...	1	1	0
<i>North American Colonies</i> (Philatelic Society) ...	1	10	0
<i>Tasmania</i> ...	0	13	0
<i>Oceania</i> ...	1	12	0
<i>Surcharged Indian Stamps</i> (Parts 1 & 2), and <i>Jammu and Cashmere</i> (Phil. Soc. of India) ...	0	16	0
Beckton's <i>Greece</i> ...	1	7	0
<i>Argentine</i> (Moens', 2 vols.) ...	0	16	0
Moens' <i>Belgium</i> (1), <i>Thurn and Taxis</i> (1), <i>Saxony</i> (1), <i>Schleswig and Bergedorf</i> (1) ...	0	10	0
Moens' <i>Prussia</i> (1), <i>Mecklenburg</i> (1), <i>Wurtemberg</i> (1) ...	0	9	0
Moens' <i>Wurtemberg</i> (1) ...	0	8	0
Moens' <i>Tuscany and Roman States</i> (1), <i>Croissant Tougbra</i> by Mongheri (1) ...	0	9	0
Moens' <i>Natal</i> (1), <i>Egypt and Sues</i> (1) ...	0	8	0
<i>Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly</i> , vols. 1 and 2, <i>Stamp Collectors' Handbook</i> (1), and 2 other books ...	0	15	0
Large number of various catalogues and philatelic works ...	0	8	0

In the Stamp Market

The Values of Early Austrians.

THE 1850 issue is now much more comprehensively catalogued than it used to be, but the 1 and 2kr. on thick papers are still very cheap at 6d. and 4d., and are below the prices now asked in Vienna. The 2kr. of the 1858-9 issue is a bargain at 6d., and I would gladly pay this myself for fine copies on pieces of original.

And here I may perhaps remark that in Austria a collector is not satisfied unless his specimen be in this condition. When a specimen is removed there is a constant tendency for the embossing to get flat, and it is this very embossing which is the characteristic feature of such stamps as Austrians, German Empires, Wurtembergs, and the like, and collectors who have seen specimens retained on pieces will agree with me about the freshness and the prominent outlines of such copies.

The 2kr. of 1861 in fine condition at 4d. is a veritable bargain, and in my opinion a really fine—and all collectors who appreciate the difficulty of getting yellow or orange stamps will know what I mean by really fine—copy on piece is worth more like 1s. 6d. than 4d. The 2kr. of 1865 is cheap at 1s., which I suppose is what is intended by the 1d. in the 1909 catalogue, and the 2kr. of 1864 is now catalogued by Senf at 5½d., and I see is being advertised for by Austrian dealers. It is, however, fairly common in Great Britain, and Gibbons' price is quite high enough. So much for yellow stamps.

I have purposely omitted the 3kr. black of the 1858-9 issue, as it has had a most remarkable rise on the Continent, and in a wholesale list which I received a few days ago from Vienna is offered at 35s. for ten copies, or 8s. 6d. each. It does not state whether these specimens be on "pieces" or not, but as Gibbons' retail price is only 2s. 6d. it cannot be unduly appraised in Great Britain.

With regard to later issues, time alone can show

whether present catalogue prices reflect their comparative scarceness, and my present object is to deal with the earlier issues of each country. If the personal factor be of any use, and I have handled thousands of the later Austrians, I might just remark that the 50kr. arms of the 1863 issue, arms, perf. 10½, wants a good deal of finding compared with the same value perf. 9½ at 6d., and that in buying quantities the 10½ represented less than 10 per cent. in the parcel, also that the 12kr. of 1890, perf. 12½, must be worth a great deal more than the 15kr., also priced at 3d., as in two large parcels which I am at present examining I have one specimen only, whereas the 15kr. seems comparatively common.

The 20kr. green, 1891, 11½, is not at all easily found, nor is the 50kr. mauve, 12½, but its price, 6d., would indicate this. The newspaper stamp of 1851 on thick paper at 9d. is cheap enough, and there are a few unpaid stamps difficult to get, but I am writing away from home and my notes, of which I intended to make use, are not available. In Austrian-Italy—Shakespeare's country, one might almost call it, as so many of the towns are the scenes of his plays—the 2sld. yellow, Type I., of 1858, is a very scarce stamp, and Type II at 1s. 3d. is an excellent investment. The 15sld., Type I., is also uncommon, but I would gladly give fifteen of the 15sld. blue, Type II., for one of the 2sld. yellow, Type I.

Fortunately for them, dealers are not obliged, as they are on our London Stock Exchange, to deal at their own quotations. The 2sld. yellow of 1865 is wanted on the Continent, and the 2sld. of 1864 is worth a great deal more than 3s. 6d. on piece of original with guaranteed postmark. Other values do not call for much comment, but the 5pi. on 50kr., 1890-2, perf. 11½, is a scarce stamp, and may be perhaps worth its catalogued price, which is more than I can say for the same value, 10½, which seems common everywhere and can be bought for 4d. or 5d.

—A. H. Dingwall in *The Stamp Lover*.

Two Stamps as a Dower The Latest Philatelic Romance

Two Stamps as a Dower.

Dot, dower, or tocher is the bride's portion, whether she happens to be French, English, or Scotch. In different countries and times it takes various forms, dogs, for instance, forming a Chinese girl's marriage portion, the animals having a marketable value. What seems at the first sight the most modest dower on record is the bridal portion of the wife of a sergeant in the French Army, lately stationed in Crete. He had seen service abroad, and married a creole girl from Mauritius, and her dower was an old envelope bearing two used stamps. They were what is known as "Post Office, Mauritius," the stamps being of little artistic beauty and bearing the words quoted. They were only current a very short time, and most of them were used, we believe, in sending invitations for a ball, consequently but few of the letters were preserved, and there has followed the usual law of supply and demand as regards value.

A Chance for Rich Collectors.

The sergeant, not being a sailor, did not dispose of them for a few francs to the first dealer who offered, but he obtained expert advice. This was to the effect that they would enhance in value as time goes on, and that their selling price to-day would be about £1,600, or 40,000 francs. The worthy sergeant, so a Paris contemporary informs us, put them in a little box, and takes them with him where he is stationed. He formed one of the French contingent lately in Crete. As soon as he arrived there he placed his treasure for security in the strong room of the bank of Canea, and there it lay during the time of the foreign protectorate. When the time came for the troops to withdraw, the sergeant reclaimed his stamps. It was an event in Crete. The sergeant, being a good fellow, was accompanied by his comrades, and a goodly number of Cretans, and the precious stamps were borne away in triumph, so if the story has foundation we may expect a sensation in the philatelic world ere long.—*Globe*, July 8th.

Items in Brief

British stamps IS our speciality. A trade announcement of Nissen & Co.

Stamps Free.—Set of 5 pictorial U.S.A. COLOURLESS issue, post free 1d.—Butler Bros., Clevedon. *Daily News Advertisement.*

Some of the English visitors to Amsterdam had visions of unique inverted centres on the voyage.

Naturally they were much interested in the Anatomy Lesson picture in the Rijks Museum.

The Trans Siberian Railway which has considerably reduced the period required for transmission of mails between Europe and the Far East, is only used for letters and cards, but not newspapers or printed matter.

It is useless therefore to write "Via Siberia" on the wrappers of newspapers or books.

The Swiss National Council on June 15th decided against the introduction of a 5 centimes letter card.

The American Philatelic Society has now a membership of 1642 with 35 applications pending.

The American Society of Curio Collectors is planning a memorial to Roy Farrell Greene who was for many years its President.

The memorial is to take the form of a handsomely framed portrait of Mr. Greene, to be presented to the Arkansas City, Kan., Public Library—Arkansas City having been Mr. Greene's home.

In the early days Roy Farrell Greene was well known as a writer on philatelic subjects.

The philatelic sale in aid of the sufferers from the Italian earthquake took place in Rome, on May 6th, and produced 2000 francs.

Answer to O. K.—(1) No, *The Arcadians* is not a philatelic play. It has no connection with the Bond Street firm you mention. (2) No, there are no postage stamps issued in Cadonia.

The establishment on May 20th of a parcel post service in connection with the Russian post offices in China should make the used high values more accessible to collectors.

The Bathing Station of the Brighton J.P.S. has not been much patronised yet on account of the weather.

It is not correct that the J.P.S. diploma will be included among the prizes for swimming at the Brighton Regatta.

The stamps of the Amiens Chamber of Commerce issued during the French postal strike were, it is said, printed in sheets of 25. Each sheet contained two errors: *sèche bêche*, and without the letter "C" after the numerals "10."

The 15 centimos stamp of Spain will shortly be withdrawn and replaced by one of new design. The portrait of King Alfonso will be reduced in size, and a royal crown will be introduced into the design. There will be no change in colours.

Editor's Letter. Box

Publishing Offices:—1, AMEN CORNER, LONDON, E.C.

Editorial Address:—FRED J. MELVILLE, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

Articles, Contributions and Correspondence, should be addressed to the Editor, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the correspondent. Articles, etc., not accepted, will be returned when postage is prepaid.

Business Communications should be addressed to the Manager, and Advertisements to the Advertisement Manager, 1, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

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Our Publishing Day and Advertisers.

In order to meet the requirements of the publishing trade our publishers now distribute copies to the Newsagents on Wednesdays instead of Thursdays as before. This compels us to go to press on Saturday morning. Hence it is absolutely necessary for our printers to have all advertisements at latest on Friday morning; consequently, copy must be in the Advertisement Manager's hands not later than Wednesday, 5 o'clock p.m.

Advertisers' Proofs.

We are anxious to consult our Advertisers' convenience to the greatest possible extent, but where proofs have to be supplied and returned our printers must have the "copy" by *Thursday morning at the latest*, as we now have to print off a portion of our issue on Saturday morning.

"The Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The Postage Stamp is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:—

Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C.
 F. C. Ginn, 143, Strand, London, W.C.
 Lewis May & Co., 15, King William Street, Strand, W.C.
 W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.
 James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.
 Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.
 The Court Stamp Co., 10, Marriott's Court, Mancheste,

Examination of Stamps.

So many of our readers have asked us to undertake the examination and identification of their stamps that we have made arrangements to accede to their wishes.

We shall be pleased to express an opinion as to the genuineness or otherwise of any stamps submitted to us, or identify them according to any catalogue at a charge of 6d. per stamp (minimum 1/-). All fees must be paid in advance with sufficient added to pay for return postage and registration.

Stamps upon which an opinion is desired should be mounted on a separate sheet from the letter accompanying them and addressed to "The Expert." c/o The Editor of *The Postage Stamp*, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton London, S.W.

Our Binding Covers.

In navy blue buckram, gilt lettered side and back, for binding any volume of *The Postage Stamp*, price 1s. 6d., from Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

Collectors' Wants and Exchanges.

Our friends will note that we have opened a column for collectors to advertise their wants, at the nominal charge of 1d. per word. Many collectors even in London have not time to hunt about for stamps, whilst others resident in the country, have not the opportunity.

By using this column Collectors' Wants will catch the eye of all who are likely to be able to supply the stamps needed, for dealers watch such advertisements very closely, and collectors who want to dispose of duplicates will not fail to note the opportunity for exchange or sale.

Advertisements of stamps for sale are not admitted to this column.

A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION to THE POSTAGE STAMP would be an excellent gift to any friend who is interested in stamp collecting. If you will send a postal order to the publishers (Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd., 1 Amen Corner) they will see that your friend gets a copy regularly, post free. You will thus be saved all trouble yourself, and have the satisfaction of knowing that your friend is reminded of your remembrance every week of the year. If you prefer to send the copy of your first week's subscription yourself, the publishers will send this to you gratis.

	s.	d.
Yearly	6	6
Half-Yearly	3	3
Quarterly	1	8

TO SIR ISAAC PITMAN & SONS, LTD., 1 Amen Corner, London.

I enclose herewith postal order for being months' subscription (post free) to THE POSTAGE STAMP. Please send a copy weekly beginning with the issue dated 10:—

The POSTAGE STAMP

Founded by
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.
Edited by
FRED. J. MELVILLE.

*An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors*

No. 17. Vol. 4.
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24 JULY, 1909.

Price 1d.

Gossip of the Week

BY CORNELIUS WRINKLE



My Favourite Quarterlies.

AMONG the most welcome of my philatelic visitors are those whose visits are, like those of angels, few and far between. They are the quarterlies, chief of which are the *Journal of the Philatelic Literature Society* and the *British Guiana Philatelic Journal*. No. 6 of the latter journal is just to hand, and is a capital budget of interesting

items, as usual, although its Editor-in-chief, Mr. A. D. Ferguson, is at present on holiday in England, and a deputy—a very efficient one—is in charge of the blue pencil, and, if we mistake not, of the pen which (as in most philatelic journals, alas!) has to perform most of the duties of a staff of contributors.

Specialised Catalogue of British Guiana.

One cannot but be impressed by the strength philately has attained in the Colonies. True, we had in Dolf Wyllarde's *Uriah the Hillite* a not too complimentary picture of the part stamp collecting may occasionally play in the life of the British community in a small colonial possession. But that was not the same serious pursuit as we find evinced in the *British Guiana Philatelic Journal*. At present the chief serious work before the British Guiana Philatelic Society is the preparation of a specialised catalogue of British Guiana stamps. This, I take it, will be somewhat on the lines of the similar works being undertaken by the American Philatelic Society and the Swedish Philatelic Society.

Stamps 250 Years Old!

Some very entertaining gossip is provided by a contributor to the current journal.

"During a recent transatlantic voyage a philatelic table companion was speaking of West Indian stamps, when a gentleman from one of the islands, joining in the

conversation, said: 'Yes, I believe some of the old St. Lucia stamps are very valuable, but, unfortunately, I did not know this when, some years ago, I was looking through old family letters and papers 250 to 300 years old, on which there were many of the original old postage stamps of St. Lucia, which I destroyed!'"

Posts in Paradise.

It is surprising the number of people who, if they stopped to think, are not so ignorant as to be unaware of Howland Hill and the introduction of adhesive stamps, yet make these absurd claims. There is about as much excuse for them as there is for the individual who once wrote to me saying he possessed a stamp of the reign of Henry VII. (he had the Newfoundland 60c. Jubilee) and for the scores of correspondents who tell editors of newspapers and magazines that they possess stamps of the United States of America as old as 1492, which date figures on the Columbus series. It is not a bad plan to carry about with you a copy of the Danish Viborg local so that when you meet an ignorant boaster who has the stamp used in Egypt just after the completion of the pyramid of Khufu, you can show him one that was used by the postal administration of Paradise before the fall.

A Common Mistake.

Often enough, however, quite cultured people who have seen a good deal of the world get curiously erroneous notions as to dates and other circumstantial details. A friend of mine, who is quite a well-known man, was touring, professionally in those same West Indies in the eighties. Just a few years ago he came to me with a big parcel of unused stamps. He had, he told me, invested fifty pounds as a mere speculation when fulfilling that engagement in the West Indies in the eighties. He had absolutely nothing later than 1889, because he had nothing but what he had purchased on the spot. He produced among other things sheets of the Turks and Caicos Islands (1900), Virgin Islands (1899) and others which were of quite recent date. I pointed these out but he still maintained that he *must* have got them during that 1889 trip. What was proof to a philatelist was no proof to him. But ultimately he did remember that he must have bought some of them at a stamp dealer's since his return.

Not a Nose Bag!

But to return to our British Guiana gossip:—

"When in England last year I had the pleasure of meeting for the first time a lady in Kensington with whom I had been for some years previously in stamp correspondence. This lady has told me a funny story of the King of the Belgians, vouched for by the best authority. He has, as shown on the Belgian stamps, a fine long beard, of which it is said he has always been very proud; every night this is carefully combed and brushed and then placed into a *silken bag* before he retires to bed!"

Elderly juniors please note the bag must be made of silk!

Life's Little Pleasures.

Another of our friend's correspondents was a young stamp collector of Montreal, Canada, who wrote:—

"I am sorry that I shall not be able to send you any more exchanges as I have just sold my collection for a very good price and bought a residence for myself as I am about to get married."

A Shop Window Exhibition.

The Trenton (U.S.A.) Philatelic Society is, I hear, to hold an annual stamp show, the first of which was to take place on July 12th to 15th. I trust it all went off well and stirred up a good deal of latent philatelic fire. A novel feature was that it was to be partly arranged in a large shop window on one of the main thoroughfares in Trenton City. Here's an excellent idea for some of our provincial Societies to help to popularise philately in their localities. It should not be an expensive business either. The only thing against it being done in London is that if the Juniors got their huge crowds looking at a shop window exhibition the police would kick up a dust about them blocking the traffic.

Stamps under the Microscope.

Pope—the poet, not the philatelist—it was who asked the conundrum:

"Why has not man a microscopic eye?" and answered it himself:

"For this plain reason—man is not a fly."

Unless I be mistaken with regard to the St. Lucia referred to in an earlier paragraph, the poet with the pontifical name knew nothing about postage stamps. Had he been acquainted with some philatelists he would have known more than one who was "fly," and many more who have the microscopic eye. But a contributor to this month's *Strand Magazine* has outdone the philatelic specialist on his own ground. He has treated us to an article on "His Majesty" under the microscope, or, to explain the title, on an ordinary current penny stamp viewed through a microscope.

A Minute Study.

The contributor in question has given illustrations produced by the aid of the microscope and depicting specified portions of the stamp as seen through magnified pinholes. He tells us that he made the punctures with a fairly large pin, an inch and three quarters long. The effects produced are grotesque in the extreme. The fine lines of shading which appear to be drawn with the most wonderful precision are coarse and irregular, the nose is like a large tooth comb, and the coarseness of the actually fine piece of work on the cheek is such that the figuring produced in the diagram could very well be labelled "a heap of stones." But the most comical results are shewn in the micro-photographic illustrations of the chief gem and the Maltese cross in the crown. The Maltese cross in particular is shewn to be all awry and lopsided, and the tiny dots in it look as though they might have been inserted after the fashion of the favourite game at Christmas parties of drawing a pig blindfolded.

Man's Handiwork v. Nature's.

The article has not been penned for any philatelic purpose, but it is well worthy of the stamp collector's attention. The real point of the article is explained by the author: "I am repeatedly drumming into people's ears that minute Nature, when magnified, discloses wonderful symmetry of design and detail. It may not be inopportune therefore to inspect, as a contrast, this example of man's handiwork."

Originality in Advertising.

My colleague, Mr. O. R. Gum, has an interesting article in this issue of *The Postage Stamp* on Philatelic Advertising. Far be it from me to venture into the domain of our market expert, but I must confess I do not altogether agree with the Americanisms he uses as exemplifying the crisp, short, to-the-point method of the up-to-date advertiser. Certainly, however, the advertiser has much to gain by being *original*. I see no objection also to the use of catch lines, though a home advertiser in a British journal might not be well advised in heading his advertisement

"SEEN THESE SNAPS?"

Catch Lines that don't catch.

The catch lines are really to take the place of posters or shop signs, placed there so that "he who runs may read." But they should be in terms which are explicable to the bulk of the readers (and some Americanisms are certainly not very familiar to the British), and further they should not be vulgar. And last of all they should be *to the point*. I cannot understand any advertiser insulting the intelligence of his prospective client by such an announcement as

"HEY DIDDLE DIDDLE!

Can we sell you a razor strap?"

Systematized Advertising.

Another point which I think might be enlarged upon is systematized advertising. My esteemed *confre* has recommended the keying of advertisements, and this is certainly to be advised where a dealer has identical announcements in various journals. But an important point too is to form a definite line of campaign in one's advertising. Decide upon a policy and carry it through. Occasional and spasmodic advertising has but a slight effect compared with the persistent pursuit of a definitely laid scheme of advertising extended over a definite period. If one's resources are limited it is wiser far to concentrate on one journal, or one scheme, than to flutter here and there dribbling away one's advertising funds in homoeopathic doses without any appreciable result. Customers need angling for with skill and discretion. Fix your pitch and give it a good sustained trial.

The Shop Windows.

One more point, advertisement is the shop window of business. In stamp dealing the ordinary shop window usually receives a great deal of attention from the dealers. They realise that if it is going to attract the passers by it must be neat, it must be tastefully arranged, and it must be renovated constantly. But the dealer who will spend hours arranging his shop window will not give the time required to write an attractive advertisement. "Just use the same advertisement as before" he will tell the canvasser who has come round to stir him up, "I can't be bothered writing another." That's rarely any good! An advertisement that stands week in and week out is apt to become fly-blown just as a shop window would were it left for several months without re-dressing.

The Stamps of Abyssinia

BY FRED. J. MELVILLE

Introduction.

FOR many collectors the stamps of the comparatively unknown—or what we may call the “outlandish” countries—have a very special interest. In making a selection of a country to which one can devote special attention, it is a good plan to take up one in which one can take a general as well as a philatelic interest. Broadly speaking, the countries that are “curious” or “outlandish” do not possess many difficulties for the stamp collector, though on this account they can scarcely be expected to have the attraction for the seasoned philatelist that a philatelically more important country will have. Nevertheless, they form the preparatory training grounds for more serious philatelic work later on, and the general knowledge of the country which one picks up as one goes about collecting is only second to actual travel in broadening the outlook and in developing our education and experience.

Abyssinia has all the elements of ancient historical and romantic associations and of present political importance. Philatelically it may be described as interesting more by reason of the glamour those historical and romantic associations of the country communicate to the postage stamps, than by the merit of the stamps themselves.

Geographical.

Abyssinia is in the N.E. of Africa, bounded on the N.E. and E. by Eritrea and Somaliland, S. by British East Africa, and W. by Nubia and Sudan. The boundary lines between the country and Eritrea and Somaliland were fixed by an Anglo-Italian protocol (24/3/91), and between Abyssinia and British Sudan by treaty (May, 1902). The estimated area is 250,000 square miles, and the population eight to ten millions. The capital is Adis Abeba, in the province of Shoa. Menelik, King of Kings and Emperor of Ethiopia, resides here in the capital. The chief trading centre is Harrar, where the caravan routes from the sea coast converge, and where Ras Makonnen, Menelik's nephew, has his residence.

Historical and Political.

The Abyssinian Empire dates from the first century B.C. or the first century A.D., and Christianity, which was introduced into the country about 330, is still, though in its lowest form, the religion of the people. European assistance was called in as early as 1543, when Portugal assisted the reigning monarch to repel Moslem aggression. In modern times France, Italy and Great Britain have been chiefly interested in the welfare of the country.

The government is a despotic monarchy, the present head of which is Menelik II., familiar

to stamp collectors as the subject of the portrait on various Abyssinian stamps. Under him are the *Negus*, or Kings of the minor States, and the *Ras*, or governors of the chief provinces. The seat of government is at Adis Abeba.

Postal and Philatelic History.

When the first stamps of Abyssinia appeared controversies raged freely in the philatelic press as to the *bonâ fide* nature of the issue. Doubts were largely stimulated by the appearance of the stamps on sale in Paris before a supply reached Abyssinia. But letters were produced shewing that the stamps were in actual service in the beginning of 1895. M. Maury received a letter bearing four of the stamps obliterated at Harrar on January 29th, 1895, and also bearing the hand stamp of Djibouti, dated February 7th, reaching Paris February 22nd, 1895. Another letter was produced addressed to a correspondent of *Le Timbre Poste* in Russia. The first of these letters bore the earliest used specimens which have been found.

The state of the Ethiopian post at that time was unimportant. A camel post made the journey from Harrar, the chief business centre in Abyssinia, to the French settlement of Djibouti. This was done by way of the chief trade route *viâ* Gildessa and Degago. Harrar is about midway between Djibouti and the capital of Menelik's dominion, Adis Abeba. There appears to have been an arrangement between the authorities at Djibouti and at Harrar to regard the stamps as having franking power as far as Djibouti, stamps of the latter place being then affixed to defray the postage beyond the seas.

Incoming letters were sent to Djibouti, whence they were forwarded by camel post, and it was agreed that when Abyssinia joined the Postal Union the camel post should be maintained by the postal organisations of both places, the cost to be divided between them.

The development of a postal system largely depended on the promotion of railways, and as early as 1882 Menelik had addressed a communication to the President of the French Republic stating his policy of advance on approved Western lines. He wrote:

“I wish to open up, to make safe for science, commerce and industry, the routes which lead from Shoa to the rich southern countries.”

To bring about these ends he granted concessions to M. Ilg, a Swiss engineer, who occupied a position somewhat resembling that of a Prime Minister, or at rate of a very confidential adviser at the Abyssinian Court, and M. Chefneux, a Frenchman, who enjoyed the confidence of the Emperor. The first concessions for the railways, which were to bring the Ethiopian mail service to a more advanced state of efficiency, were

granted in 1894, the year of the appearance of the first stamps. The first train ran from Djibouti to Dire Daoua, which has been named by the railway company Adis Harrar (*Anglice* New Harrar), about 50 kilometres from Harrar itself, in December, 1901. On December 13th, 1906, agreements were signed between Great Britain, France and Italy, which were to regulate the extension of the railway system. The French company were to carry the line on from Dire Daoua to Adis Abeba, and to run a branch to Harrar, while railways west of Adis Abeba were to be constructed by Great Britain, and a line connecting Benadir with Eritrea was to be laid by Italy. Great Britain was also to construct a line from British Somaliland across Abyssinia to the Sudanese frontier.

The growth of these lines is gradually superseding the old trade routes, which were mostly rough tracks, covered by mules, donkeys, etc., in single file.

So far as the external mail service is concerned Abyssinia was represented at the Rome Congress of the Postal Union in 1906, and declared its hope of adhering to the Union at the next meeting of the Congress, if not sooner. This promise it has already fulfilled, having joined on November 1st, 1908.

አ	= 1	፲	= 16
፩	= 2	፪	= 20
፫	= 3	፬	= 30
፭	= 4	፭	= 40
፮	= 5	፮	= 50
፯	= 6	፯	= 60
፰	= 7	፰	= 70
፱	= 8	፱	= 80
፳	= 9	፳	= 90
፴	= 10	፴	= 100

GUIDE TO THE AMHARIC NUMERALS.

The stamps of the first types are very cheap, but the surcharges, which have been so strangely prolific in their changes and varieties, are by no means so easily procured. The Scott Stamp and Coin Company has simplified the list of these stamps in their latest catalogue by grouping the same overprint in its various colours as one series, giving as their reason that "the listing of different coloured inks used for a single issue of hand-stamped surcharges, where such inks are used indiscriminately—the colour depending on whether the operator picked up a red or blue or violet pad, and some of the mixtures which have been announced resulting

only from a mixture of two inks on a dirty hand stamp—will also bear strict limitation. Where possible (as in the case of Abyssinia, where we have combined violet and blue surcharges in one set) we shall list every such issue as one set only."

In the present year we have been given a very good reason for hoping that the long succession of overprints has at last come to an end, and that with the new permanent issue of the present year there may be no occasion or excuse for resorting to the practice, which, however necessary in the past, by reason of leakages of the regular unsurcharged stamps, should not be required or permitted in a country which has attained admission to the Universal Postal Union.

1894. Seven values. Postage stamps were first prepared and placed on sale for Abyssinia in 1894. The currency was then in *guerches* and *talers*. Sixteen *guerches* go to the *taler*, which is approximately the equivalent of 3s. 4d. in English money. A *guerche* is therefore about 2½d. The six denominations in the first issue range from ¼ *guerche* to 1 *taler*.

The designs, which are of two kinds on the stamps, were taken one from the obverse and one from the reverse, of coins which had been prepared for the Abyssinian Government by M. Legrance, of the Paris mint.

The late M. Maury, of Paris, was consulted regarding the preparation of the stamps by M. Ilg and M. Chefneux. The stamps were evidently in preparation in 1893, for the *Philatelic Record* of January, 1894, on the authority of the *Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* states: "The rumours regarding the approaching issue commence to have more consistency, and we read that it will comprise a series for use in the interior, having Arms as the design, and another for the exterior, with the portrait of the Negus. The Arms consist of a lion *gules* holding a crucifix, or on *argent*, with the imposing motto 'Vincit Leo De Tribu Juda.'"

It is not clear when the stamps were actually first put into use. In the *Record* for August, 1894, it is stated: "Although these stamps, manufactured in France, were despatched to Abyssinia in June last, yet the issue was not expected to take place before the end of August. That little circumstance does not interfere with their being on sale in Paris on terms so reasonable as to render it useless for those who require them to send to Abyssinia for them."

The first of the designs shews a profile portrait of Negus Menelik II. to right. He is wearing a tiara surrounded with rows of precious stones and surmounted by a cross, this being the royal crown, a massive golden emblem weighing nearly twenty pounds. To convey an impression of the subject of the portrait on the stamp I cannot do better than quote Mr. Herbert Vivian's graphic pen-picture of the Emperor from "*Abyssinia: Through the Lion Land to the Court of the Lion of Judah.*"

"Menelik was sitting well back in his chair with his legs crossed, toying with a coloured silk handkerchief, which he handed to an attendant. What I first noticed was that he wore clean bright blue woollen socks and new tennis shoes of a common kind, with the tongues hanging out and no laces. His face is not so much marked with smallpox as I had been led to expect. He is darker than the average Abyssinian, but his features are not those of a negro. His mouth, however, is quite negroid, and his thick lips wear an incessant grin, displaying large, very white teeth set loosely together. His small brown eyes wore an expression of fatigue, and what should be the whites of them were yellow. His forehead is narrow, but the upper part of his face appears to have much character and kindness. His voice is soft and rather oily, without any vestige of the usual Abyssinian squeak. He speaks very deliberately, showing his teeth and tongue and wagging his head a good deal. He makes no gesticulations with his hands, except that sometimes he puts the finger-tips together. Throughout the whole of my audience he impressed me as being gentle and easy-going."

We need only add that Menelik II. was born at Shoa in 1842, and became the ruler of the Abyssinian Empire in 1889. He has no son, and will probably be succeeded by his nephew, Ras Makonnen, Commander-in-Chief of the Abyssinian Army, and Governor of the most important province in the Empire.

The portrait type was used for the stamps of the $\frac{1}{2}$ guerche, $\frac{1}{4}$ guerche, 1 guerche and 2 guerches.

The remaining three values, 4, 8 and 16 guerches, bear a design showing a lion *passant gardant* with a similar crown and with banner in the left fore paw. This represents the arms of the country, the pennant being in green, yellow and red, the national colours of the Land of the Lion of Judah.

The inscriptions upon the stamps are in Amharic, that being the language of the Court, although as the Abyssinian people are a federation of a number of great races a variety of tongues are spoken. The characters at the top are Amharic for Ethiopia, the ancient designation of the country. The denomination is expressed below also in Amharic characters, though as each stamp is in a distinctive colour colour there need be no difficulty in distinguishing one from another. In this connection it may be pointed out that with regard to this issue it should be clearly remembered that the brown, claret, mauve and black stamps of this issue are of the lion type; these colours occurring later in the portrait type as errors of the unpaids with surcharge omitted.

The stamps were engraved by M. Mouchon, whose name appears at the bottom right hand corner of the design. They were printed on white wove paper in sheets of 300 stamps, arranged similarly to the French postage stamps, in twelve panes of twenty-five stamps each. The perforation is compound, 14 by 13 $\frac{1}{2}$.



	Perf. 14 × 13 $\frac{1}{2}$.	Unused.		Used.	
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
4g. green	- -	0 6	0 6	0 6	0 6
4g. red-	- -	0 3	0 3	0 3	0 3
1g. blue	- -	0 3	0 3	0 3	0 3
2g. brown	- -	0 3	0 3	0 9	0 9



	Same Perf.	Unused.		Used.	
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
4g. claret	- -	0 4	0 6	0 6	0 6
8g. mauve	- -	0 6	0 8	0 8	0 8
16g. black	- -	0 6	0 9	0 9	0 9

1901. Six values. Large quantities of the stamps of 1894 came on the market in Paris (*not*, it should be stated, through the agency of M. Maury) which had never been to Abyssinia, and these were sold in the unused state at prices much below their facial value—and this at a time when they still represented that value in the country of their validity, where they were still current. This state of affairs constituted a danger to the revenue of the postal service, so it was decided to overprint all the stamps with the word "Ethiopie," and only those so overprinted were to be recognised as possessing franking power for the conveyance of letters.

A notification on the subject was translated in the *Monthly Circular* from the journal *Djibouti* of October 5th, 1901:

"The past having shown that the prepayment of a great deal of correspondence consigned to the Ethiopian Post Office is made with stamps of unknown origin, the postal administration considers that a continuation of this state of affairs may injure the existence of the postal service, and notifies . . . the following articles for public information:

"1. All postage stamps sold at Ethiopian Post Offices are impressed with 'Ethiopie' in ink.

"2. Stamps bearing this mark are alone available for franking letters.

"3. Holders of Ethiopian stamps which admit of legalization in consequence of the pur-

chase thereof at Ethiopian post offices may either have their stamps impressed with the above mentioned mark in order to give them franking power, or may exchange them for stamps bought at the Ethiopian post offices at Adis Abeba and Harrar.

"Adis Abeba, July 18th, 1901.

"Pr. Postes Ethiopiennes.

"H. MULHE."

The overprinting appears to have been done with a hand stamp, and there is only one type of surcharge, with the initial a capital E, the remainder of the name being in lower case letters. Another type, formerly included in the catalogue, giving the inscription in script letters, is now stated to be bogus. The surcharge may be found either in violet or blue, the violet being the rarer.

The collector desiring to limit his collection of these stamps might either mix the two coloured overprints or content himself with the cheaper blue overprints.

Ethiopia

Same Designs. Overprinted "ETHIOPIE."
Violet Overprint.

	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	s. d.
½g. green	—	15 0
½g. red	—	15 0
1g. blue	5 0	15 0
2g. brown	7 6	—
4g. claret	15 0	—
8g. mauve	—	—
16g. black	—	—

Blue Overprint.

½g. green	0 9	0 9
½g. red	—	1 0
1g. blue	1 6	1 6
2g. brown	2 0	2 0
4g. claret	3 6	2 6
8g. mauve	7 6	3 0
16g. black	10 0	4 6

To be continued.

Correspondence

To the Editor of *The Postage Stamp*.

"SEPCIMEN" Error.

Dear Sir,

With reference to Mr. L. W. Crouch's article in your issue of June 5th, on the Official Stamps of the United States, it may be of interest to you to know that I have a copy of the 1 cent Navy Department Stamp with the error of overprint "Specimen" instead of "Specimen" to which he refers.

This is a value omitted from the list given by Mr. Crouch.

I received this stamp about the year 1880, in a 2s. 6d. packet of stamps sent to me by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons in exchange for a 1d. Sydney View which I forwarded to them.

Yours faithfully,

C. PERROTT'S.

5th July, 1909.

Novelties in Australians, &c.

Dear Sir,

I am sending you particulars of a few novelties (at least, novelties to me) I have recently come across which may prove of interest to readers of *The Postage Stamp*.

New Zealand. I have to-day found a specimen of the 8d. stamp, current type, perf. 14, with the watermark *sideways*. The 1d. value has recently been issued with watermark in this position, but no other so far as I have seen.

West Australia. I have a specimen of the 1d., perf. 12½, watermarked V. and Crown *vertical*. This is post-marked 1903, but I have not seen the variety chronicled.

Transvaal. King's head 2½d., single C.A. I have a mint specimen with inverted watermark.

There seems to be a good many varieties of the new 1c. U.S.A.

I have the following:—green on white, dark green on slightly toned, pale green on very marked green toned paper, green on bluish.

These four stamps present very marked contrasts when placed together, and are not simply shade varieties.

Wishing *The Postage Stamp*, which I have from the first, every success.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

July 6th, 1909.

(DR.) C. W. MAYS.

Collectors in Council.

R. E. Touch, Esq.

Dear Sir,

Noticing at the last "Council Meeting," as reported in *The Postage Stamp*, that Mr. Tête Bêche did not appear quite clear on the subject of the Simple Life as applied to philately, I hasten to define my position.

If Mr. T. B. will turn up *The Postage Stamp* for July 10th, he will find a short article on a "Classified Catalogue." The idea of a "Classified Catalogue" is to draw a distinction between "stamps" and "varieties." He will find under the heading "varieties" all variations of watermark, methods of separation, perforation varieties and overprints applied to the design. It is the latter that constitutes the stamp. The "Simple Life" consists of collecting the stamps and ignoring the varieties. By doing this a greater measure of completeness is attained and more attention can be paid to condition, the wisdom of which everyone must admit.

Yours faithfully,

"THAT BRIGHTON CHAP."

Handbills for Circulation.

We have prepared and shall now be glad to send any number of neat handbills of *The Postage Stamp* to any of our friends, post free, on application. These little handbills include a specimen page, and being only leaflets are very suitable for enclosing in letters to philatelic friends.

Applications for supplies should be addressed only to Mr. Baldwin, Printer of *The Postage Stamp*, Tunbridge Wells and friends should say how many they can use. They can be had in dozens, or hundreds, and even thousands, if desired.

The Empire's Postage

Illustrations of Dominion

From the "Manchester Courier" (10.7.09)



TWENTY years since stamp-collecting was a school-boy's hobby, encouraged discreetly by parents as a harmless and engaging means whereby young people might receive unconscious instruction in geography. To-day the pursuit has far outgrown its early limitations. It is a serious science, numbering its devotees and students by the thousand, and the subject of learned and minute discussion on the part of people far different from the average schoolboy. So vastly has the fashion of philately developed that no serious collector thinks of approaching it as other than a specialist. The day of the general collection is over, for the thousands of types of postage stamps in existence forbid anyone possessed of the true collector's spirit to undertake the hopeless task of compiling a representative number of the issues of the world at large. It has long been the fashion for a number of patriotic philatelists to specialise in a collection of the stamps of the British Empire. Even so limited the subject is becoming too vast for satisfactory treatment, for the postage stamps which are issued by the great number of territories which boast the sway of the British Monarch are so many in number that in an accepted catalogue published by an English firm of dealers they fill a volume of over three hundred pages very little smaller in size than that which comprises the types issued by all the other countries of the world put together. This is as it should be. Great Britain led the way in the issue of postage stamps, and has well maintained her lead. The system of postage which was introduced in 1840 in this country by the efforts of Sir Rowland Hill has been typical of what is perhaps the most characteristic feature of the progress of the past century. When he contemplates all that has followed in the wake of thought and ideas which has resulted from a cheap postal system, even the most cynical of the opponents of philately may be disposed to look with a kindly eye on the reverential enthusiasm with which the collector regards a Mulready Envelope or an old black penny stamp of the 1840 issue. Of old types of stamps and philatelic rarities, of the mysteries of watermarks and the various ramifications of forgeries, reprints, errors, and surcharges, let the expert speak. The commercial man has heard of the twopenny blue Mauritius of September, 1847, with its uncomplimentary profile of Queen Victoria, for which some fourteen hundred pounds was paid not very long since, and everyone knows, from his recollections of childhood, the eagerness with which the triangular Cape of Good Hope stamps were and are sought. Rarities and peculiarities beyond these narrow limits are matters for the keen philatelist alone.

Modern Colonial Issues.

But even the modern man of affairs can realise an interest, which is by no means represented by expressions of pecuniary value, in the modern stamps of the British Colonies. They have a lesson to teach which no one can be slow to apprehend. Beyond their monetary value in collections—in most cases this is trifling enough—the postage stamps of King Edward's dominions constitute what really exists in no other form so pointed and convincing—a veritable picture-book of the British Empire. Therein are commemorated deeds that won the Empire, and events never to fade from human memory while the British race shall endure. It wants but little imagination for a man regarding a well-ordered collection of British and Colonial stamps to reconstruct in his mind's eye all the romance of Empire. Here are records of brave explorers, of gallant soldiers and sailors and intrepid adventurers from the Elizabethan voyagers, who won the West for Britain, to such modern upholders of the English name as Rajah Brooke of Sarawak. Even the latest British explorer, Lieutenant Shackleton, has left a record of his bold voyage of discovery in the existence of some few New Zealand stamps surcharged with the name of his newly-discovered country, "King Edward the Seventh's Land." Of journeys through wild jungles, morasses and forests, over precipitous peaks and endless ocean tracts these stamps speak to him who would rightly read their message. Everywhere is the impress of the pioneer. He appears in bodily form on the stamps which commemorate with portraits of Cartier, Champlain, Wolfe, and Montcalm the Tercentenary of the founding of Quebec, or when New Zealand marks with pictures of the landing of Captain Cook the Christchurch Exhibition of 1906. Of commemorative series there have been many throughout the Empire, and it is safe to say that in every case the pictorial issues which have been printed are in accord with high canons of art and sentiment. Pride in a present Empire can only be justified in conjunction with a true realisation of the self-sacrifice and heroism that wide dominion has entailed on the descendants of those who founded it.

Commemorative Stamps.

It is only in the light of its past history that the import of a great empire can be properly realised, and to this historical sentiment the various commemorative series of the Empire make a most potent appeal. There is much that is picturesque and ennobling in the sentiment manifested by the Canadian people in the design of the stamp whose issue marked the Diamond Jubilee year of the late Queen Victoria. On one side of the oblong is depicted the head of the young Queen as she first came to the unsteady throne of a discontented country! On the other is painted the face of the aged lady who, after sixty years of wise and beneficent rule, could look back with pleasurable and proud recollection in the evening of her days on the developments and changes through which her dominions had passed to a wide-world Empire. Foremost among patriotic issues the fancies embodied on the stamp of Canada may be counted, and especial notice is deserved by the 1898 issue commemorating the introduction of penny postage through the Empire—a map of the

world with British possessions coloured red. Many of the Imperial issues are decorated with beautiful and interesting vignettes of local scenery. Malta has a stamp with a picturesque view of the harbour of Valetta; Jamaica displays a picture of Llandoverly Falls; while New Zealand issues pictures of Mount Cook and Pembroke Peak. From some distant parts of the Empire come pictures of animals and birds, typical of the wild life in which the various countries abound. Tigers figure on the stamps of Perak and Pahang. New South Wales has pictures of emus, lyre-birds and kangaroos. By far the most beautiful reproductions of wild animals come from North Borneo, whose stamps bear the Malay stag, the crocodile, the

Argus pheasant and the orang outang. Typical national objects are to be seen in the native canoe on the stamps of Papua, and the dhows on the Maltese issues. A special interest will attach to the stamps of the Indian native states. The Alwar dagger and the crooked knife of Nawanagar may be especially named, and all the elaborate native lettering speaks of the adventures of native bearers who carry "the overland mail." From all parts of the Empire comes the record of strange lands conquered, and wild tracts civilised. There can be no more instructive lesson in the work done by the Empire-builders of the British race than that exemplified on the various postal issues of the King's Imperial Dominions.

When is a Variety not a Variety?

Notes read at a Discussion at the Brighton Branch of the Junior Philatelic Society

BY J. IRELAND

FEAR the title of this discussion is somewhat ambiguous, or so I found it when I came to write a few notes on the subject. Therefore, as an introduction to what I have to say, I will just alter the title a little, and put it: When is a stamp not a stamp? When is a variety! Now if we take the question "When is a variety not a variety?" it becomes apparent that it all depends on the collector. Because, if one professes to be a stamp collector only, he will ignore varieties. That is to say, he will keep to designs, and not concern himself with the different kinds of paper or different methods employed to separate the stamps when printed in sheets. Therefore, if he has a clear grasp of his end in view, he will probably treat variations of watermark in the paper on which the stamp is printed, and the different methods of separating the stamps, and any overprint which may afterwards be applied to the stamp itself, as varieties, as he will consider the design only as the stamp. This is the view of the simplified, or as some will say, the simple-minded collector.

There is now another kind of collector who will possess somewhat broader views on the subject. He will probably follow Whitfield King's catalogue, and, in his opinion, a perforation or roulette is part of the stamp. Therefore in the Perkins Bacon Colonials he will at once double the number of stamps which the first collector will take. Also, he will consider that if the paper on which these stamps are printed exists with and without a watermark that they constitute different stamps. This is likely to again double the number required. Being so broad-minded he will also take overprints which may be applied to any of these stamps. For instance, he will take we will say the last set of India stamps both plain and overprinted. Zanzibar, British East Africa, British Somaliland, C.E.F., O.H.M.S., Chamba, Chamba Service, Faridkot, Faridkot Service, Gwalior, Gwalior Service, Jhind, Jhind Service, Nabha, Nabha Service, Patiala and Patiala Service. But he will consider varieties of perforation and varieties of surcharge as varieties only, and will not trouble himself with them.

We now come to the Limited Specialist, who sets out to complete a country by Gibbons' Catalogue. We will say he takes up Zanzibar. He will begin with the word "Zanzibar" overprinted on Indian stamps. The following are the varieties of this word he will collect (eight of the varieties exist in sets up to 1r.):—Variety (1) overprint in blue, (2) error "Zanzidar," (3) overprint in black, (4) overprint vertically downwards, (5) overprint

double, (6) overprint double, one inverted, (7) "Zanzidar," (8) "Zanzibarr," (9) "Zanzibar," (10) Zanibar, (11) Zapzibar, (12) Zanzipar, (13) "r" omitted, (14) "r" inverted, (15) inverted "q," (16) "p" with tail broken off for "n," (17) "i" without dot, (18) tall second "z," (19) small second "z," (20) inverted "q" for "b" and small second "z." When he has obtained these he will set out on obtaining 30 varieties of the fraction "2½" overprinted on four of the foregoing. The next item will be five of the stamps of British East Africa overprinted with the magic word "Zanzibar." Next, the 1 anna of the set with overprint double, priced, it may be mentioned, at £5! When he has obtained these he will see a note in the catalogue to the effect that "The same varieties of printer's type of the overprint can be found in the above." It occurs to me that if those former varieties are to be considered as different stamps when overprinted on the stamps of India, those on East Africa should be on an equal footing. However, this is a matter which I do not pretend to understand, and I merely draw your attention to it. The next set is the 1896 design, special designs for Zanzibar. Next, the 4 anna of this set overprinted "2½" in three types, catalogued at £3—half as much again as the whole of the previous set, which, with shades, consists of 21 stamps.

The collector will next find that the 1896 design was in 1898 printed on a paper in which the watermark occurred more frequently, so that two watermarks would come on one stamp instead of only one as formerly. As, however, there are but 13 which occur with this variation, he will consider he is let off lightly.

The next set is the 1899 issue of 19 values. Next, figure 1 in black on 4½s, also in *lake*, 2 on 4s., 2½ on 7½s., and 2½ on 8s., costing 57s. He will then only have the 1904 set to obtain—a modest 14. By the last catalogue he will then be complete, although there is now a nice long set up to R200!

I hope I have not wearied you with the description of how the Limited Specialist would collect stamps—or varieties, which you will. I have only set these facts before you to show that there are undoubtedly different ways of doing the same thing, and, that what the first collector would term varieties, the third one would consider different stamps.

There is, however, a rather serious point for consideration as a result of this question of varieties. That is, whether the collector who takes up stamp collecting as a pleasure is not put off a country like Zanzibar owing to

the inclusion in the catalogue of such a number of varieties, as most collectors think there is only one way to collect—by Gibbons' catalogue. Far be it from me to discount Gibbons' catalogue, which is a really wonderfully

compiled work for the student. But, is the catalogue the place for these minor varieties to be listed. Personally, I am inclined to think they should be consigned to handbooks on the countries in question.

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

Bolivia.—(Vol. IV. p. 140).—According to *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* half of the 20c. stamp of 1901-02 has been seen used as a 10c. label.

Bulgaria.—(Vol. IV. p. 188).—Bulgaria seems to be entering into the "provisional" business in earnest for, in addition to the two surcharges chronicled last week, Mr. W. T. Wilson now sends us the 1 stob. of 1889-90 surcharged "1909" at the top of the stamp. Possibly all old stocks will now be used up in this manner.

Type of 1889-90. Surcharged "1909."
1 st. dull mauve

Cayman Islands.—(Vol. IV. p. 116).—A correspondent, writing in *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*, points out an interesting minor variety, or series of minor varieties, that may be found in the current "POSTAGE AND REVENUE" stamps of this colony. These defects appear to be due to wear of the plate and they consist of a break in the top right-hand corner of the inner line of the name tablet. They are said to occur on stamps 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 28 on the left-hand pane and Nos. 1 and 2 on the right-hand pane, and we are told that in the first five of these "it is quite a substantial break." These varieties may be found in the stamps of other colonies—British Honduras, Gold Coast, St. Lucia, etc.—printed from the same plate since about 1907.

Congo.—(Vol. IV. p. 188).—In the new 10c. stamp inscribed "Congo Belge" the value in words "DIX CENTIMES" has had to be introduced in the centre of the lower border to replace the word "CONGO," which appeared in the old design. As mentioned on page 156, the "x" in the first word is so peculiarly engraved that it looks much more like an "n" so that the value appears to read "DIN CENTIMES"!

Dominica.—(Vol. IV. p. 188).—"Specimen" copies of the 2d., 3d. and 6d. values in the new colours referred to on page 188 have been seen so it should not be long before the stamps are now placed on sale.

German East Africa.—(Vol. III. p. 92).—We gather from *Champion's Bulletin* that the 30 heller value has been issued on the paper watermarked lozenges so the complete list of stamps on this paper now stands as follows:—

Watermarked Lozenges. Perf. 14.

- 2½h. brown
- 4h. green
- 7½h. carmine
- 15h. ultramarine
- 30h. carmine and black
- 45h. mauve "
- 60h. carmine. " on rose
- 3rup. blue-black and red

Morocco (Spanish).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the current 2c., 15c., 20c., 30c., 40c., 50c., 1p., 4p. and 10p. of Spain surcharged "CORREO ESPANOL—MARRUECOS" for use in the offices maintained in Morocco. The surcharge is in two lines and is placed diagonally (reading upwards from the left-lower corner) on the

stamps. It is in blue or blue black on the 40c., 1p. and 10p. values and in red on all the others. It will be remembered that the first four values of the set were issued so long ago as 1903. The complete set is now as follows:—

Spanish stamps surcharged "CORREO ESPANOL—MARRUECOS" in two lines.

No wmk. Perf. 14.

- 1c. green
- 2c. brown
- 5c. deep green
- 10c. rose-red
- 15c. violet
- 20c. olive black
- 25c. blue
- 30c. bluish green
- 40c. rose
- 50c. greenish blue
- 1p. claret
- 4p. plum
- 10p. orange

New South Wales.—(Vol. IV. p. 162).—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* reports the discovery of a copy of the current 2d. stamp with the Crown and double-lined "A" watermark sideways.

Papua.—(Vol. IV. p. 162).—A correspondent writes to *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* as follows:—"In looking over some specimens of the current 1d. Papua I find there are different varieties in the letters of the top label. I enclose two specimens to illustrate this. In No. 1 the lettering PAPUA is nearer the top of the label than the bottom, in No. 2 it is nearer the bottom than the top, but the chief difference is in the first 'P' of Papua; in No. 1 it measures 2 millimetres across, and in No. 2 it is 2½ and nearer the end of the label. I do not know whether this variety exists in other values as I have only a few of the 1d. value by me"

In reply our contemporary states:—"The varieties referred to occur in all values except the ½d. and are well worth the attention of the specialist, but they are hardly capable of classification as the solid ground with the word 'Papua' seems to have been either re-engraved on each of the 30 stamps separately (the old title 'British New Guinea' having been cut out) or else the word is drawn on the lithographic transfers. In the latter case the next printing of a value may have a different set of 30 varieties."

From this our contemporary would seem to infer that these stamps, produced by lithography in Melbourne, were made by adapting the De la Rue plates but this hardly seems to have been the case for on referring to the *West-End Philatelist* (Vol. V. p. 146) we find "The De la Rue stamps are 29½ mm wide and 25½ mm high, while the Victorian impressions measure 30½ mm and 26 mm respectively." This gives a difference of 5 mm in the lengths of the horizontal rows so it would not have been possible to transfer a whole sheet of British New Guinea stamps (with the name omitted) and then insert "PAPUA" on each one by a separate transfer. It is, however, difficult to account for the differences referred to in the name "Papua."

Persia.—(Vol. III. p. 812).—According to *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* a new high value stamp—50 kr.—has been added to the current set thus making the complete list of line-engraved stamps as follows:—

Line-engraved. No wmk. Perf. 11, 11½.

- 13 ch. indigo
- 26 ch. chestnut
- 1 kr. vermilion
- 2 kr. deep green
- 3 kr. pale blue
- 4 kr. yellow
- 5 kr. deep brown
- 10 kr. pink
- 20 kr. black
- 30 kr. dull purple
- 50 kr. vermilion and black

Sierra Leone.—(Vol. IV. p. 189).—The 3d. stamp in the new colours mentioned on page 189 has already been issued according to *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*, and "specimen" copies of the 2d., 4d. and 5d. values have been seen.

The complete list of values that have now appeared in the colours conforming to the Crown Agent's new scheme is as follows:—



Wmk. multiple Crown CA. Perf. 14.

- 4d. green
- 1d. carmine
- 24d. ultramarine
- 3d. purple on yellow
- 6d. purple and bright purple
- 1s. black on green
- 2s. purple and blue on blue
- 5s. green and red on yellow

Turkey.—(Vol. IV. p. 163).—We understand that the surcharged stamps referred to on page 163 are unofficial, the overprint being suggested to the government but not adopted.

Philatelic Advertising

BY O. REGINALD GUM

The Monotony of Stamp Ads.

FROM the general run of Philatelic Advertisements, one is given an unfortunate "idea" that few Stamp Dealers possess the art of advertising—that is advertising with a view to attracting fresh custom. Indeed most seemed satisfied to see their names and occupations in print. It can be to no other end. Most stamp dealers' ads. are wanting. They contain nothing to catch the eye of the prospective customer. They are a sure sign that their composer just threw various words and phrases together with his name to appear in capitals, and his goods in minute italics. The customer does not want to see a man's name, yet alone every Christian or Baptismal fore-name he possesses spelt out at length. He wants to know what sort of goods the advertiser has to offer. That is the first point. A seemingly popular mode of advertising among stamp dealers is to give a long, horrible, dry inane and mysterious list of catalogue numbers, and with a pluck and courage to be commended from an Asylum Doctor's point of vantage, expect to get and draw a custom. What is the good of referring to So-and-so's catalogue numbers, when possibly the man likely to be interested in the particular country offered, swears by somebody else's *Catalog*?

Point Two.

For the last criticism, I would draw attention to a practice of stamp dealers who regularly advertise—a practice that would not be entertained for a second by advertising firms in any other business outside philately. One sees an individual firm displaying exactly the same advertisement in several different journals, and not keyed in any way. How does that particular firm know which journal is paying them? If they rely upon what they think is a good line, why don't they key their ad.? Perhaps they never thought of that. Again the greatest monotony experienced in reading philatelic advertisements is the hackneyed headings of "fine copies," "superb specimens," "bargains," "special offers," and other whiskered varieties of head lines. No wonder some people complain about their ads. not paying. Someone may say, you must not compare philately and philatelic advertisements with patent medicine and food ads. Perhaps not,

but why do the dealers advertise? For and to the same end, eh? Be original and your ads'll pay.

Catch Ads.

Are unfortunately to be found in stamp journals as well as common dailies or weeklies. Perhaps these are the most interesting reading, if they can be understood. They are of several varieties. Some, where the reader is offered stamps worth a huge sum quite free, gratis, and for nothing *provided he sends 3d. for postage, packing, &c.* You will of course understand that necessarily the 3d. does not consist of 1d. postage and 2d. registration. The balance of 2d. is for the packing and etcetera—the most important of all. The value of the stamps is certainly quite a matter of divers opinions, differing from the seller's to the actual purchaser's, point of view. There is an old Whitechapel story of a native who met another native and said, "Vell, Ikey, how vas you?" "Oh, I vas alright, Abraham, how vas you?" "I am alright—vill you have a cigar?" "Vat's der matter vid it?" If you, dear reader, see a stamp reputed to be worth pounds offered for the miserable amount of sixpence, or less, repeat the lesson, "vat's der matter vid it?" You won't lose by leaving the bargain alone. If these sort of ads. served only to teach foolish people a little common sense 'twould be alright, but unfortunately they are liable to mislead novices and ultimately break their faith. I once saw a very impudent advertisement that ran something as follows:—

GREAT BARGAIN.

Send 2d. for our SUPERB—Packet of 100 different foreign and colonial stamps containing such rarities as the rare old half-anna blue India, Queen's head; scarce New South Wales Sydney view; Rectangular Cape of Good Hope; one dollar (\$1) United States of America; 5c. peso Philippine Islands.

And so on, finishing up with the additional bait that "Purchaser of the above packet, asking to see our Superb approval sheets will receive a free set" of some speculative rubbish!

Need I go to the trouble of analysing that artful catch? The "rare old half-anna blue India," of course refers to the very common $\frac{1}{2}$ anna 1865 issue, of the same color as

the first $\frac{1}{2}$ anna stamp—an easy mistake for the trustful. The "scarce Sydney view," the centenary penny; the rectangular Cape, not dissimilar in sound to another geometrical term often associated with the premier issues of the old Dutch Colony. The 5c. Peso Philippine Islands referring to the 5c. de peso value bearing Alfonso XIII's baby profile. The \$1 U.S.A.—both spelt and in symbols to impress the mind of the prospective purchaser, consisting of a green documentary fiscal.

Certainly the tiring and ill-written ads. of the *bond fide* stamp dealers are preferable to these hungry catchers of juvenile coppers.

Perhaps the latter style of advert. does not altogether appeal to the proper style of collector. But even the latter person can be caught. A very favourite game with some advertisers, who possess a large quantity of some cheap stamp, is to advertise together with higher and scarcer stamps of the same issue and set. For instance, we will assume the "mug-catcher" has a quantity of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and 1d. Cape Kings, and he wants to "move" them. He advertises the line as follows:—

Cape King, $\frac{1}{4}$ d., 1d., 2d., 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., 4d., 6d. or 1s., $\frac{1}{4}$ d. each.

Certainly the reader is attracted, and as there are just eight stamps at a farthing each, he sends his order along for the lot. Perhaps he does not require the $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and 1d. values, but as they are only $\frac{1}{4}$ d. each, he might as well have the complete set. By return he gets a reply, regretting that a run on that particular line has cleared it out of stock of all values except the $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and 1d., which being ordered are enclosed, and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. balance credited. Of course this dodge will not work very often on the same person, but nevertheless it is unfortunately too often practised. In addition, such ads. do a deal of harm to the legitimate trade. Taking the same example, how many people would want to pay a penny each for 2d., 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d. or 1s. Capes after seeing such an advertisement, though each of those values is cheap at the latter price. Thus the flat-catcher gets rid of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and 1d. values at the rate of 2s. a 100, that no dealer would give 1s. per 1000 for.

Thus, while I have bemoaned the fact that so many philatelic advertisements are quite unreadable, though

their writers are *bond fide*, I have taken care to show that a catchy ad. must not necessarily offer something for nothing. Surely it is within the skill of stamp dealers to draw an advert. up that serves its intended purpose of holding the attention of the reader without being misleading. It must not be forgotten, however, that few of the "sharp-practice" variety ever see publicity through a philatelic journal, the editors and publishers being too keen themselves on the point. Most of this sort are to be found in the boys' papers, and weekly and monthly magazines.

It would be opportune to draw attention to a word used by so many dealers, day by day, year in, year out. I refer to "superb." The horrible word cannot eulogise the goods offered any further than by expressing them as "fine," or "very fine." The simplest words generally express the most—that is why most American advertisers make their announcements pay. Their notes are pithy and to the point. The English dealer would start his advertisement something like this: "We offer the following rare stamps, which are really superb bargains, and well worth the attention of the reader." By the time the reader has read that much, he is tired and fast asleep, and of course hasn't read the "superb bargains" offered. If the advert. had been headed: "Seen these Snaps?" he would have had his order mailed by the time he took to get over the word "superb."

Another hackneyed way of some dealers is to start a long rigmarole about their stock, something like this:—

"We have now prepared a very fine series of stock books of all countries, priced reasonably, with numbers and varieties. These cannot be beaten [not being eggs!] and we are prepared to send out on approval, etc., etc., etc., etc. and etc."

What a waste of ink and compositors' time—when the compiler of this "hot air" might have said:

"Say, what's your pet country? We've a long suit for specialised countries. This is the joint for the specialist. What do you need?" The latter is interesting reading, full of life, not of the morgue-like dullness of the former.

Even the little two line ad. can be made attractive and readable—but it must be original, smart, and *honest*.

Sale of Rare Stamps

Arbroath Action for Value

In the King's Bench Division on Saturday, Mr. Justice Bucknill had before him a motion by Mr. George Garioch Dalgarno, North of Scotland Bank Buildings, Arbroath, as executor of the late Mr. Alexander William Dalgarno, for judgment against Mr. F. W. Lake, of South Norwood, London, Counsel stated that the late Mr. Dalgarno died in August, 1901. A proportion of his estate consisted of a collection of very valuable stamps, and these stamps were handed over by the petitioner to

the defendant, who was a dealer and collector, for the purpose of realisation by sale. The stamps included some rare three-cornered Cape Colony specimens. The defendant had accounted for £225 11s. 6d., but he had not accounted for the balance or returned the stamps. The value of the remaining stamps was put about £1,275. His lordship gave judgment for the return of the stamps or their value, which was to be assessed by a master of the Court.—*Aberdeen Free Press, July 13th.*

The "Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The *Postage Stamp* is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:

Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C.

F. C. Ginn, 149, Strand, London, W.C.

Lewis May & Co., 15, King William St., Strand, W.C.

W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.

James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.

Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.

The Court Stamp Co., 10, Marriott's Court,

Manchester.

Bargains in Stamps.

If you want real bargains in Postage Stamps read the advertisement pages of *The Postage Stamp* every week. Every week there is something new, and many special bargains. If you miss a week you may miss the very stamp you want to complete a series.

The Postage Stamp Binding Covers.

Handsome dark blue covers in buckram, gilt lettered side and back, may be had from our Publishers, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Amen Corner, London. Price 1s. 6d.

Editor's Letter Box

Publishing Offices.—1, AMEN CORNER, LONDON, E.C.

Editorial Address.—FRED J. MELVILLE, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

Articles, Contributions and Correspondence. should be addressed to the Editor, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the correspondent. Articles, etc., not accepted, will be returned when postage is prepaid.

Business Communications should be addressed to the Manager, and Advertisements to the Advertisement Manager, 1, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

THE POSTAGE STAMP may be obtained through Newsagents or will be forwarded from the publishing office to any address at the following rates of prepayment: Yearly, 6s. 6d.; Half-Yearly, 3s. 3d.; Quarterly, 1s. 8d.; Single Copy, 1d.

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Answers to Correspondents.

[N.B.—Correspondence is invited.—Editor.]

G. R. H. (Cork).—The albums you mention are both good. Either is preferable to a foreign made album.

W. F. (W.C.)—Thanks for long list of suggestions. One is adopted at head of this column. Others are very suitable but time is not quite ripe for all. Am much obliged for cuttings and promise of future communications.

F. H. L. (San Francisco) wants to know of some active collectors of U.S. entire envelopes in Great Britain.

H. P. T. (of Portland, Oregon). Thanks for suggestion re Earl's Court Exhibition. The items you mention are not postage stamps, but I take it they are exposition labels, issued to advertise the Lewis & Clark Centennial Exposition at Portland, 1905. I am glad you found the display at Earl's Court to your liking.

T. L. H. (New York City).—Thanks for picture card and greetings. You give no address, but of course I well remember our meeting in Washington.

R. M. (Falkenberg).—At the time the "ABC of Stamp Collecting" was written (1902-3 I think) there was no doubt about the so-called stamps of Benadir not having come through authorised official channels. The country was not at that time using stamps, though it would appear that the stamps referred to then as bogus afterwards were adopted and used (some time in 1903). That is why they are now in the catalogues. I should not now consider them "Album weeds" in the sense you mean.

N. B. (West Didsbury).—Thanks for further communication.

A. G. (W. Hartlepool).—The references you require are (1) C. Carles' *Valores Postales Argentinos* second volume. Pp. 340. Buenos Aires 1898 (2) Marco del Pont *Sellos postales de la Confederación Argentina*. Buenos Aires 1895 (3) Moens, J. *B. Timbres poste de la*

repub. Argentine et de ses divers provinces, 2 vols. Brussels 1882. First named is probably rare and you may not easily get access to it. It is illustrated throughout with original stamps, and stationery overprinted "MUESTRA" (specimen). The author was an Argentine postal enthusiast and the volume forms part of a series of seven or nine volumes on postal matters relating to Argentine. It is the only one of the volumes of any philatelic interest. You might consult articles in Nos. 446, 447 and 452-456 of *Le Timbre Poste*; article by T. W. Hall in *London Philatelist* IX.; article in *Monthly Journal* X.

C. F. H.—(1) Should be delighted to assist you but to compile for your especial benefit a list of "reliable philatelic publications" as you are "forming a philatelic library" is a task beyond my present leisure. (2) How to form a local philatelic society. Join one or two others and study their organisation. Adapt what is best in each and add anything original and good of your own. Write to the papers saying that you are considering the formation of a society in your district and that you would be glad to hear from other collectors residing in the neighbourhood. My recommendation to you would be to keep strictly to a society on local lines. (3) Your 3c. Straits stamp is badly discoloured, owing probably to atmospheric conditions. (4) The other Straits stamps are I believe different printings.

A. H. (Cardiff)—I certainly thought there was a philatelic society in Cardiff, but as I do not find it mentioned in the directory of philatelic societies, perhaps some Cardiff reader will supply information as to name and address of a local secretary.

T. R. (North Shields)—Your three stamps are of no value. In future, when sending stamps, please enclose stamped addressed envelope for return.

J. P. (Hucknall Torkard) is informed that his collection is still awaiting his remittance of 5d. for postage and registration. Within limits we are most anxious to assist correspondents in every way open to us.

H. W. M. (Brooklands)—You should read *Siam: Its Posts and Postage Stamps*, by our editor. Perhaps some reader will work out "a scheme for the arrangement of a small specialised collection of Siam," in which case I should be happy to print same, if of general interest. Thanks for interesting suggestions.

J. W. W. (Liverpool) would be glad if any reader of *The Postage Stamp* will oblige him with a list of the control numbers on the 4d. and 1d. Great Britain, overprinted LEVANT, and also those overprinted for official departments at home.

C. P. (Watford) and Dr. C. W. M. (Sheffield)—Thanks for interesting letters which I am printing.

"That Brighton Chap."—Thanks for letter, but Mr. R. E. Touch has already rebuked Mr. Tête-Bêche for not reading the said article (see page 186). I, however, print your letter re-capitulating your main arguments.

Our Publishing Day and Advertisers.

In order to meet the requirements of the publishing trade our publishers now distribute copies to the Newsagents on Wednesdays instead of Thursdays as before. This compels us to go to press on Saturday morning. Hence it is absolutely necessary for our printers to have all advertisements at latest on Friday morning; consequently, copy must be in the Advertisement Manager's hands not later than Wednesday, 5 o'clock p.m.

Advertisers' Proofs.

We are anxious to consult our Advertisers' convenience to the greatest possible extent,

but where proofs have to be supplied and returned our printers must have the "copy" by Thursday morning at the latest, as we now have to print off a portion of our issue on Saturday morning.

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W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.
James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.
Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.
The Court Stamp Co., 10, Marriott's Court, Manchester.

Examination of Stamps.

So many of our readers have asked us to undertake the examination and identification of their stamps that we have made arrangements to accede to their wishes.

We shall be pleased to express an opinion as to the genuineness or otherwise of any stamps submitted to us, or identify them according to any catalogue at a charge of 6d. per stamp (minimum 1/-). All fees must be paid in advance with sufficient added to pay for return postage and registration.

Stamps upon which an opinion is desired should be mounted on a separate sheet from the letter accompanying them and addressed to "The Expert," c/o The Editor of *The Postage Stamp*, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton London, S.W.

Collectors' Wants and Exchanges.

Our friends will note that we have opened a column for collectors to advertise their wants, at the nominal charge of 4d. per word. Many collectors even in London have not time to hunt about for stamps, whilst others resident in the country, have not the opportunity.

By using this column Collectors' Wants will catch the eye of all who are likely to be able to supply the stamps needed, for dealers watch such advertisements very closely, and collectors who want to dispose of duplicates will not fail to note the opportunity for exchange or sale.

Advertisements of stamps for sale are not admitted to this column.

Our Binding Covers.

In navy blue buckram, gilt lettered side and back, for binding any volume of *The Postage Stamp*, price 1s. 6d., from Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

Our Handbills.

We are still sending out hundreds of our handbills with specimen page to kind friends who are doing their best to help us to a big circulation. *We want every reader to see to it that all his stamp friends take in THE POSTAGE STAMP.* Shall we send you post free a dozen or two, or fifty, or a hundred, handbills to hand to friends and enclose in letters to collector friends? If so, write Baldwins' Printers of *The Postage Stamp*, Tunbridge Wells.

The POSTAGE STAMP

Founded by
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

Edited by
FRED. J. MELVILLE.

*An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors*

No. 18. Vol. 4.
Whole Number 96.

31 JULY, 1909.

Price 1d.

Gossip of the Week

BY CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Lord Crawford's Library Catalogue.



I AM glad to be able to state that the catalogue of the philatelic library in the possession of the Earl of Crawford is now preparing for the press.

An Editorial Conundrum.

Some of our readers may have noted (on page 180) an answer to a correspondent which I reprint so as to put you in mind of the details:—

"I must confess" writes the Editor "your conundrum baffles me. As an invalid you meet no collectors, and if you did you have no stamps to exchange. You are not able to buy stamps, and you would consider it a great kindness on my part to offer you some suggestions for you to increase your stamp collection. I am very sorry that you feel discouraged, but I am baffled to reply—in fact it surprises me that you have got a collection of 2,000 varieties even in ten years. I will ask Mr. Wrinkle to discuss your letter. He may be able to offer some suggestions. I too, should like to know how to increase my collection without either buying or exchanging."

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The Outside Idea.

Here's a nice little task to set poor old Cornelius. I like the way the Editor shirks his responsibilities on to my shoulders. But at the first glance I thought we had a correspondent to deal with who was not very well versed in philatelic affairs, and like hundreds of others, had an idea that stamp collecting consisted in buying a cheap catalogue and getting stamps given to you. Haven't you met those dear kind cynical souls who, when they hear you are a stamp collector, tell you that they have collections they formed when children, and ask you how you get so many stamps. "What, you don't mean to say you buy them? Well I never!" For my part I never had a good stamp given me.

Things That are Misunderstood.

The idea of buying stamps for collections is as extraordinary to some folk as is the undertaking of honorary positions which involve a lot of work. Both are done very often, but they are none the less generally misunderstood. I was edifying myself by reading an old volume of the *Young Ladies' Journal* (1864), and came across two extracts which show that the idea of paying money for stamps was not understood by the uninitiated from the outset—the infancy of stamp collecting.

Consider the Profits!

"The mania for collecting postage stamps has raged as violently in America as in England, if not more so. It is confidently affirmed that some traders who procured stamps from the English colonies and other distant countries have realised from £4,000 to £6,000, and that they are still making money. The French have a saying, 'Il n'y pas de sot metier,' and this stamp selling proves it. Of itself it seems wondrous silly, but consider the profits to those who carry it on." (Aug. 10th, 1864).

Who Would Have Thought It?

And again, a few months later, appears the paragraph: "We had almost heard nothing of late of the postage stamp collecting mania, till suddenly the formidable announcement is made by advertisement that an amateur is ready to sell his collection—for what sum would it be thought?—nothing less than £250." (Dec. 14th, 1864).

An Opportunity Missed.

Dear, deary me! To think of an amateur selling his collection for £250 in 1864, and Cornelius not there to have the chance of buying it. It would have filled up some gaps which have been yawning in my album since I commenced, and are likely to go on yawning till Cornelius becomes obsolete. But to get back to our correspondent. I may as well state at once that he was not imbued with the idea that the buying of stamps was foolishness, and his request was a perfectly genuine one as a further letter from him proves. I cannot do better than print extracts from his second letter as it explains his position more fully, and gives an idea of how collecting may in some way be pursued without expense.

How to Collect Without Buying.

"Many thanks for the acknowledgment of my letter in this week's *Postage Stamp*.

"You evidently think that I expect you to suggest some wonderful method of procuring stamps with very little effort.

"I am fully prepared to work hard in order to increase my collection.

"A collection was handed over to me to put straight and in payment I received one stamp out of each of the duplicates. I thought you might suggest such a method for me. There surely must be stamp collectors who have a large amount of loose stamps but have not the time to arrange them.

"Then again I thought you might suggest a few names of people like myself who are unable to join philatelic societies but who might correspond with each other. I greatly appreciate your acknowledgment and sincerely trust our experienced friend Cornelius can offer a few suggestions to collectors many of whom, no doubt, are situated like myself."

Payment in Duplicates.

In the first place let me say that if there are any of my readers who would like to be put in correspondence with the writer of the above letter I shall be glad to forward their letters to him. He certainly seems to have hit upon a very rational way of forming a collection in his straitened circumstances and I doubt if it will be possible to give him any advice beyond "do it again," or "go on in the way you have begun." I think, particularly with regard to boys who are in the early stages of collecting, but who are keen (they're as keen as razors some of them!), it is a good plan for some senior to take them up, as it were, and let them do a good deal of the preliminary arranging of the motley collection of material which chokes up the cabinets and drawers of most collectors. Of course they deserve a reward for their work and what better encouragement to their interest than to pay them in a goodly share of one's duplicates. I know several youngsters who are well on the road to being real students of stamps, who are, nevertheless, getting most of their opportunities by studying and arranging other people's stamps.

A Constant Turnover.

Then I think if I were in my correspondent's shoes I should try and use his present collection of 2,000 varieties in some way. Taking it as my stock-in-trade—and having doubtless got much pleasure in the formation of the collection—I should join a medium exchange club and use the 2,000 as my stock of duplicates. By exchanging say 1,000 of them he might manage to get say 400 new varieties of perhaps a rather better class. The resulting numerical total of his collection would be smaller, but if, as I take it, my correspondent is wanting to collect stamps for the pleasure it affords him, then the constant acquisition and passing on of new varieties would provide the desired recreation. Anyway it would be more fun than retaining a 2,000 variety collection which has become stagnant for want of new material.

Discussion and Suggestions Invited.

I think my correspondent's request and suggestion might very well open up a discussion in the columns of *The Postage Stamp* and I shall be glad if any of my other readers can offer any schemes or suggestions which may assist readers who find themselves in positions similar to that of my correspondent.

Bolivia's Capitals.

"In the telegrams concerning the dispute between Bolivia and Peru, La Paz has been referred to as the Bolivian capital" writes *Observer* in the *Observer*. That state-

ment requires qualification, for Bolivia, like the coming South Africa, has several capitals. It seems an awkward arrangement, for the official seat of Government oscillates between La Paz (which has the largest population), Sucre (the most central town), Oruro and Cochabamba. Congress is convoked sometimes at one and sometimes at another of these places, and the Government archives have to be moved hither and thither at great expense and risk. Only a few years ago a baggage train conveying many important official documents was swept away while crossing a swollen ford.

The Values of Campeches.

In a note from Mr. Walter Clarke Bellows, whose delightful work on "Campeche" was reviewed in *The Postage Stamp* some weeks ago, he says:—"For the collectors who love to get into the ledger side of things I will state that there is one gentleman in this country (U.S.A.) who, before this Campeche thing appeared, paid \$1250 for a copy of the 5 and 50c.—Campeche original issue—surcharged copies, but not on cover. These prices—say \$500 (£100) for the 5c. and \$750 (£150) for the 50c. may be regarded as pretty fair 'starters.' And the gentleman in question is a 'general' collector at that."

Great Britain 1d. Control No.

Several readers, including Mr. W. Ward and Mr. J. P. Burns, both of Manchester, have written to tell me that they have now had the current 1d. stamps with Control No. H9. The postmistress from whom Mr. Burns had his copy stated that she received the sheets with the new control number on Thursday, July 15th. Mr. Ward's letter announcing the new number was, however, posted July 13th.

Stamp Designs Open to Competition.

Mr. Van Weenen writes from Melbourne to the *Australian Philatelist* that "the desirability of inviting designs for a Commonwealth series of stamps right away is being considered by the Central Administration. The competition will be open to the World, with a preference to Great Britain and U.S.A.

"The authorities at headquarters favour the steel plate process and U.S.A. methods."

And so do we except in regard to U.S.A. perforation crudities.

Morocco and Levant Controls.

Mr. Oswald Marsh sends me the list of Morocco Control letters as published in his weekly Circular, particulars of these having been desired by a correspondent in Liverpool. The list is as follows.—

- ½d. green, F6.
- 1d. scarlet, F6.
- 5c. on ½d., F6, G7, G8, H8.
- 10c. on 1d., F6, G7, G8, H9.

The list of the Levant Controls stands thus:—

- ½d., D5, F6, G7, H8.
- 1d., D5, E6, G7, H8.

Back Nos. of "The Postage Stamp."

Those of our friends who are lacking any back numbers of the present vol. will do well to write direct to our Publishers Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, 1 Amen Corner, London, E.C., for what they require. Many newsagents do not care to bother about back numbers. Any number still on sale may be had for the published price and postage, *i.e.*, 1½d.

The Stamps of Abyssinia

BY FRED. J. MELVILLE

Continued from page 198.

1902. Seven values. Scarcely a year has elapsed when we get the same stamps of 1894 appearing with a new overprint, this time in Amharic characters, signifying "bosata" or post. The method of production is evidently the hand stamp, and it has been impressed in deep blue-black.



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Same Design. Overprinted "BOSATA" in Amharic. Blue-black Overprint.

	Unused		Used.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
½g. green	0	6	0	6
½g. red	0	9	0	9
1g. blue	1	0	1	0
2g. brown	1	6	1	6
4g. claret	2	0	2	0
8g. mauve	3	0	3	0
16g. black	5	0	5	0

1903. Seven values. A year elapses between the fall of the curtain on the last set and the rising on a brand new surcharge in Amharic characters of the word "malekathe" or "message," in blue-black, and apparently hand stamped.

Two of the values are listed with the overprint inverted, and several of the values can be found with the first character of the Amharic inscription entirely missing.

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Same Types. Overprinted "MALEKATHE" in Amharic. Blue-black Overprint.

	Unused.		Used.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
½g. green	0	6	0	6
½g. red	0	6	0	6
1g. blue	1	0	1	0
2g. brown	1	6	1	6
4g. claret	2	6	2	6
8g. mauve	3	6	5	0
16g. black	5	0	7	6

Varieties. Overprint Inverted.

½g. green	-	-	-	-
4g. claret	-	-	-	-

1904. Seven values. Another year elapses and we get our annual change of surcharge. The exact rendering of this new surcharge is questioned by some authorities, but in our opinion it is a slightly modified rendering of the same word "malekathe," the first character being the equivalent of "mo" instead of "ma." We hesitate to claim the erudition that a familiarity with Amharic would suggest, but possibly one or the other of the surcharges was the product of somebody who "cudnt spel," or perhaps both spellings may be equally proper. Or which is not quite out of the question our surmise may be wide of the mark. Anyway, you can distinguish the stamps with this surcharge, as the overprint is larger, the first character has a long tail (which is absent from it in the previous issue) and the colour is blue or violet.

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Same Types. Overprinted "MOLEKATHE" (?) Blue Overprint.

	Unused.		Used.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
½g. green	0	9	1	0
½g. red	0	9	1	0
1g. blue	1	0	1	0
2g. brown	1	6	1	6
4g. claret	2	0	2	0
8g. mauve	2	6	3	0
16g. black	5	0	5	0

Violet Overprint.

½g. green	-	-	0	9
½g. red	-	1	0	1
1g. blue	-	1	3	1
2g. brown	-	2	0	2
4g. claret	-	3	0	-
8g. mauve	-	4	0	4
16g. black	-	6	0	6

1905. Seven values. A little relief from the barbaric Amharic is afforded by the overprints in this year of new values, expressed in francs and centimes, which was due, according to the *Monthly Circular*, to a change to decimal currency, which, in view of later developments, does not seem to have been fulfilled. According to the *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* in the first printing which was issued, January 1st, 1905, the surcharge was made in various colours, blue, red, violet, grey, black; in the second printing it was uniformly in violet, but an exception was made with the 1 guerche blue, which was overprinted in red.

Next we get (in the same year) the ½ guerche, with the various "Ethiopia" and Amharic surcharges of 1901, 1902, 1903 and 1905, plus the "05" surcharge.

in violet, and is of two types, one 14½mm. long, said to have been the hand stamp in use at Harrar, and another 16mm. long, used at Adis Abeba. However, our Gibbons does not note these, and we may very properly leave them to the advanced specialist.

We do this the more readily, for we have yet another series to cover in the year 1906. This consists of the word Menelik in much larger Amharic characters, and with a final character consisting of four dots :: This surcharge, which is in addition to the European figures of value, is applied in very deep violet.

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Stamps of 1905 (with the new values) with "MENELIK" overprint in addition.

Overprints in violet except "20" which is in pink.

	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	s. d.
05 on ½g. green	0 6	0 3
10 on ½g. red	0 6	1 0
20 in pink on 1g. blue	0 9	—

40 on 2g. brown	-	-	1 3	—
80 on 4g. claret	-	-	3 0	—
1·60 on 8g. mauve	-	-	4 0	4 0
3·20 on 16g. black	-	-	7 6	—

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Stamps of 1894 with new "MENELIK" overprint in large characters and value in European characters

Overprints in very deep violet and all in the same colour.

	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	s. d.
05 on ½g. green	-	0 9 0 6
10 on ½g. red	-	1 0 1 0
20 on 1g. blue	-	2 0 2 0
40 on 2g. brown	-	2 0 2 0
80 on 4g. claret	-	— 4 0
1·60 on 8g. mauve	-	6 6 —
3·20 on 16g. black	-	10 0 —

To be continued.

Zululand, 1894-96 Issue

By B. W. H. Poole, in *The West End Philatelist*

THE stamps were printed in sheets of 120, arranged in two panes of 60 (10 horizontal rows of six), placed side by side. The panes were separated by a space of about 10 mm., and around each was a continuous jubilee line. Above the 2nd and 11th stamps in the top row and below the corresponding stamps in the bottom row, the plate number is shown on the margins. All these marginal detail are, of course, in the same colour as the main portion of the design printed from the head plate.

The plate number consists of an uncoloured figure "1" or "2" on a solid circle of colour with a ring around.

The first supplies of all values, except the 2s. 6d., were printed from plate 1. The 2s. 6d. and supplies of the ½d. and 1d. printed in 1896 were produced from plate 2.

In the case of the ½d., 1d., 2½d. and 3d. denominations, the value is shown in uncoloured figures on a ground of horizontal lines, while in the higher denominations the value is in colour on a plain tablet.

The lettering in "ZULULAND" does not appear to be exactly uniform on all the values. In the 1d. the "D" is distinctly narrow as compared with the other stamps of the set, while in the ½d. the whole type seems a trifle larger than usual.

The duty-plates were so constructed that only one pane of sixty stamps could be printed at a time, so that each sheet had to go through the press twice before the value and name were inserted on all the stamps. This fact can be easily proved on comparing a few sheets or blocks torn from the middle of a sheet so as to include parts of both panes, for the value tablet and name on the left-hand pane will generally be found quite out of alignment with the corresponding portions of the stamps on the right-hand pane. Again the shades on both panes are sometimes quite distinct, and further there are tiny defects in some values which occupy precisely the same position on both panes.

These defects are usually small, but they are of importance, as helping to prove this point in connection with the manufacture of the stamps. For instance, on stamp number 7 (first in second row), on each pane of the ½d. there is a distinct nick on the right side of the first upright stroke of the "N"; on stamp No. 21 (third in fourth row) of the 1d., the top of the "Z" is thinned and bent downwards. This latter is quite a distinct variety, and one easy to identify.

In most values shades may be found, especially as regards the colours of the values and name.

The stamps were printed upon white wove paper, and were watermarked with a crown over the letters "C.A."

The stamps did not have a very long life, for before they had been in use for five years the territory of Zululand was annexed to the Colony of Natal. This fact was announced in a Proclamation by Sir W. F. Hely-Hutchinson, which appeared in the *Natal Government Gazette* for December 29th, 1897, and in which it was stated "that from and after Thursday, the thirtieth day of December, 1897, the said territory, or possession, of Zululand shall be annexed to and form part of the Colony of Natal."

Evidently the stamps were not at once withdrawn from sale, but the following postal notice, published in the *Natal Government Gazette* for February 15th, 1898, marks the end of the career of Zululand as a separate stamp issuing country.

POSTAL NOTICE.

It is hereby notified that the Zululand Postage and Revenue stamps hitherto in use will remain on issue at the Post Office at Eshowe until the 30th day of June next, on which date they will be withdrawn from sale.

(Signed) J. CHADWICK,
Postmaster-General.

GENERAL POST OFFICE, NATAL,
14th February, 1898.

A Morning at the Melbourne Stamp Printing Office

BY E. D. E. VAN WEENEN

THROUGH the courtesy of Mr. Scott, the Secretary of the Postal Administration, and Mr. Cook, the Government Stamp Printer, to whom he gave me an introduction, I was afforded the opportunity of a visit to the stamp printing branch of the Government Printing Office in Melbourne, and on a day when a fresh supply of some of the Victorian postage stamps were being printed. As it was my first visit to the Melbourne establishment, it is needless to say I made the most of my inspection.

As is well known, Mr. Cook, who was only recently appointed, did similar duties in Adelaide, where his services, especially in the economising of expenses in the printing of stamps, were highly appreciated. He was also the first to use and to improve the triple-cutter perforating machine in South Australia, if not in the Commonwealth. Long before my visit was over I recognised that Mr. Cook has a thorough grasp of the work he is engaged on, and of future requirements. Before describing the methods of printing at present in use, I may inform my brother philatelists that he, like Mr. Scott, is thoroughly in favour of the steel plate process for printing stamps, and of designs that will be a credit to the Commonwealth, and he also recognises the fact that there must be no delay in having this question settled before the end of the Braddon clause in the Constitution Act comes to an end. Although not a collector, his sympathies are with us, especially as regards the issue of unnecessary "vagaries," such as variety of shades, quality of paper, perforations, type, and water-marks. At his request I pointed some of these out to him, and he promised to do all in his power to avoid them in the future.

At present all the stamps of Victoria, Tasmania, Western Australia, and South Australia, also the 9d. New South Wales, and Queensland are printed in Melbourne, and on the one class of paper and watermark, with the exception of South Australia, it being the intention to use up the stock of paper still on hand when Mr. Cook left Adelaide. Until a Federal stamp sees the light the Administration is not likely to alter existing designs in any of the States, nor a change of color if it can be avoided. The recent alteration of the Queensland 4d. from yellow to slate was necessitated owing to the many complaints having reached the central office that the color made the design often unintelligible. The only change likely to occur, not affecting the present postage stamps, is now under consideration, but until it is definitely settled I have been asked not to give it publicity.

The stamp printing room in Melbourne is of about the same size as the Sydney one, but not so conveniently arranged; but as soon as some new machinery ordered arrives the necessary alterations will be effected. The main press is fairly up to date and does quick work. Each sheet of the ordinary-sized stamps contains 480, divided into four panes of 120 each. During my visit a fresh supply of the 1d. Victorian postage was being printed, and I noticed what will account for the shades met with in these stamps. Whilst the supply of ink to the rollers is well kept up there is no difference in color, but as soon as it is running out the color becomes a little

lighter in shade, and with the first of the fresh supply the shade is a little darker than the normal. But this only occurs when the attendant happens to let the supply of ink get too low, which is not often. All the colors are ground and made up on the premises, and are kept of uniform shades. On my mentioning that the centre color of the Victorian Postage Dues is catalogued both rosine and carmine, I was told that one color only has ever been used, and that the so-called carmine shade is due to the attendant not keeping the rollers plentifully supplied. I am told, however, that shades will be avoided as much as possible with the new machinery to come.

As soon as printed the sheets are transferred to the gumming machine. The gum used, as I saw it in the vessels, looks like a dull white liquid, but it is pure wattle gum, and besides encouraging, as it does, a native industry, it never gives trouble, and always works smoothly. A long and broad canvas belt takes the gummed sheets from the machine to the drying-room, which is heated by electric radiators. When dry they are cut into panes and handed over to have the edges of those that may have curled smoothed down, and from that operation they go into a press, whence they emerge after a time thoroughly flat. The next process is perforating. There are at present four machines in use; two triple cutters gauging 12 x 12½, one single cutter gauging 11, and one gauging 12½; only on rare occasions, when there is a rush of orders, have the single line cutters been used. But Mr. Cook is so averse to this that he told me the 11 gauge perforator will not be used again for postage stamps, especially as additional triple cutters are to be put up. The needles in the perforator are sliding ones, and can be taken out to be sharpened. When much worn they make larger holes, and this will account for the slight variety of gauge sometimes met with. After the perforating is finished the sheets are then carefully gone over. I may mention that the work of smoothing the edges of sheets, perforating, &c., is all done by ladies. Occasionally it has been found that one or more spaces between the stamps—after the triple cutter has done its work—had been omitted. These are put aside and afterwards taken to the single 12½ machine, but it has happened that it was not available at the time, and to save delay the 11 gauge was used. This will account for the compound perforation in the ½d. green Victoria. It was whilst pointing out to Mr. Cook what a tax these vagaries were on the collector that he promised it would be avoided in future, as he desired to meet the philatelist as much as possible. Another lady goes over the stamps to see that the printing has been correctly done, and when satisfied the sheets are passed on to the numbering machine, an ingenious instrument. They are then again carefully gone over and counted, and handed over to the accountant, who sees them put into the strong-room. One key of this is kept by the Government Printer and the other by the accountant, but neither can open the door without both are present, and before stock goes out it is again counted. Thus there should not be the slightest chance of imperforated or defectively printed sheets seeing the light, as has happened occasionally in the past.

The other rooms are used for mechanical purposes, such as preparing the plates for the printer, making of dies, &c., and repairs, also storerooms. In one of the latter I saw a quantity of machinery used in the South Australian office, most of which will be utilised. When Mr. Cook gets everything in order he, as he tells me, will considerably reduce the cost of printing stamps from what it has hitherto been. When asked if it was the intention to print all the Commonwealth stamps in Melbourne he told me that nothing had yet been decided. With the present plant and conveniences, my opinion is that it could not be done, unless both day and night are utilised. Even then it is doubtful if the work could be overtaken; rather the reverse.

Until I had shown Mr. Cook the two types of "Queensland" on the same sheet of the 9d. stamp of that State

he was unaware of this peculiarity. Nor could the foreman printer enlighten me, except that it had been recently brought under his notice, and that the defect had now been remedied. There are only three of the smaller type—from the top row downwards—in each sheet. Until the stock now in hand goes out he is unable to verify my statement, as the sheets on top are all from the now correct plate. It is his intention, however, to keep back sheets showing the two types, and have them destroyed. This should be good news to those collectors who have already a pair of the two types.

In conclusion, I must say that Mr. Cook took every opportunity to enlighten me on matters of which I had but an imperfect knowledge, and personally conducted me throughout, for which courtesy I am deeply thankful.

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

Bulgaria.—(Vol. IV. p. 201).—Our Bulgarian friends are still merrily amusing themselves with the surcharging press, with the result that we have another new provisional to report this week. This is the current 15st. stamp surcharged "10" in exactly the same manner as the similar provisional of 1903, but with the overprint in blue. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a copy of this provisional and also inform us that they have had a copy of the recently issued "25" on 30st. with the surcharge in blue instead of red. This is, presumably, an error, but our Ipswich friends can, as yet, obtain no information beyond the fact that the variety exists. The full list of recent provisionals is now as follows:—

Issue of 1902 surcharged with new values.

"5" in black on 15st. lake and black.
 "10" in blue .. 15st. .. "
 "25" in red .. 30st. bistre brown and black.
 "25" in blue .. 30st. .. "

Issue of 1889-90 surcharged "1909."

1 st. dull mauve.

Chili.—(Vol. IV. p. 177).—Writing in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, Mr. J. R. Burton gives some interesting information regarding the 1901 issue from which we extract the following:—"Two scarce varieties of this issue have been found, the first was discovered by Mr. H. W. Westcott, and consists of an apparent flaw, reaching from the 'l' of 'Chile' to the forepart of Columbus' cap on the 10c. lilac, possibly caused by some object getting stuck on the plate; and the second was a find of Mr. A. H. Harris amongst the 5c. blue re-engraved stamps, two or three heavy irregular lines of shading, running slantwise from the knob at the bottom of the upper label's centre to the forepart of Columbus' hat; they are so coarse as to be plainly visible to the naked eye and quite different to the regular appearance of the rest of the background. They may be either coarse work in the original re-touching, or a second re-touch. Three of the former and two of the latter varieties are all that a most diligent search has discovered; but on looking carefully at the background, and also the shading of the cap and other parts of the 5c. blue, I notice a good many small differences, almost sufficient indeed to 'plate' the stamps by."

Crete.—(Vol. IV. p. 130).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 2dr. and 3dr. stamps with the "ΕΑΑΕ" surcharge in fancy capitals which were reported from "specimen" copies some time ago. The 25l. and 50l. which were listed at the same time we have not yet seen, so, apparently, these have not yet been issued. The varieties we have actually seen are:—

Surcharged "ΕΑΑΕ" in fancy capitals.

10l. carmine (Hermes).
 20l. blue green.
 1dr. green and black (of 1907).
 2dr. brown.
 3dr. orange and black.
 5dr. olive green and black.

Levant.—(Russian).—(Vol. IV. p. 162).—Our readers will probably have noticed that the new stamps issued to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Russian Post Office in the Levant are dated "1857-1907," so that their appearance in 1909 is a little belated. However, it appears that they were quite ready for issue in 1907, but owing to events in the Far East it was considered best to postpone "jubilation" for a time.

Western Australia.—(Vol. IV. p. 105).—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* reports the 9d. on Crown A. paper, perf. 11, making the list of varieties with this perforation as follows:—

Wmk. Crown A. Perf. 11.

1d. carmine rose.
 2d. yellow.
 3d. brown.
 4d. olive yellow.
 9d. orange.

Bargains in Stamps.

If you want real bargains in Postage Stamps read the advertisement pages of *The Postage Stamp* every week. Every week there is something new, and many special bargains. If you miss a week you may miss the very stamp you want to complete a series.

Our Library Table

Papua by a New Writer.

Papua: Its Posts and Postage Stamps. By H. G. Jobson. Published by the Author at Redlands, Sidmouth, Devon. 1s. net.

This is quite a small booklet. It is, we are told, the author's first attempt, and as such it is very creditable. Our author, for a young writer, has discreetly refrained from overloading his booklet with the mass of general information which is so ready to the hand of the writer on countries which possess some such unusual aspects as does the island in question. Philatelically we have just a crisp, rapid survey of the leading points connected with the issue, and, after the style of Mr. Nankivell's work, we find the range of catalogue values discussed. There is probably no more notable example of the possibilities of modern stamps rising in value than the 2s. 6d. value of the British New Guinea set without any surcharge, quoted at 3s. 3d. in 1906-7, not priced in 1908, and priced at £3 5s. in 1909. In the chapter on postmarks our author commences with the two types of "B.N.G." cancellations on Queensland. As Mr. Albert Ashby has shewn some time since, there is a still earlier cancellation, consisting of thick block letters, "NG," surrounded by a barred oval.

The best sign of a greater future for philately is that our literature is growing, and that an army of young writers is arising, with which it will in time be possible to expect a handbook on every country, so that no beginner, and indeed no collector, need be without a guide to his particular speciality. We welcome young Mr. Jobson into the fold.

A French Author on Greek Stamps.

Les Emissions des Timbres Grecs. By George Brunel. Published by Charles Mendel, 118, Rue d'Assas, Paris. Price 1fr. 75c.

M. Brunel is the Editor-in-chief of the French *Postage Stamp*, and he has been doing considerable service to French philately by the fairly frequent publication of inexpensive handbooks on special countries, some from his own pen, some by other writers but under his general editorship. We are informed that he has a very large number of monographs in hand.

The present work deals with a study presenting difficulties which few but the old stagers and very keen specialists have much hope of grappling with efficiently. We are told, "C'est l'étude rationnelle de toutes les émissions des Timbres Grecs, avec le moyen de les classer rapidement, avec certitude. C'est assurément l'ouvrage le plus complet qui ait été publié sur ces timbres, si difficiles à reconnaître." So much the publisher claims, but not the author, who starts off with a morose quotation from Socrates, which he freely translates, "La vie du philatliste est aveugle et remplie de misères," which may be all very well for philatelists mated to Xantippes, but one can scarcely conceive it to be applied to the philatelist who of his own free will, and with knowledge of the difficulties, takes up the burden of collecting Greece.

We fear that in the present volume M. Brunel's work will not appeal to a very large circle of readers. The specialist will have it, as indeed a specialist should have everything, good, bad, or indifferent, written on the country of his choice. It is no less certain that the

specialist will agree to differ on many points from M. Brunel in regard to the mysteries of the stamps of Greece.

Transvaal Forgeries.

Les Falsifications du Transvaal. By Leon de Raaij. Printed for private circulation.

Mr. de Raaij, who is one of the stamp dealers of Amsterdam, has provided some interesting research in a little-worked field in his studies of the forgeries of the stamps of the Transvaal. At the outset he expresses the regret that many of the articles by such specialists as MM. Emil Tamsen, Pearce, and Nankivell, have not been translated into a tongue which was readily understood by continental philatelists. Mr. Raaij has the advantage of linguistic powers, being a Dutchman who has spent many years in England, America and France.

Mr. Raaij points out that many collectors speak of reprints of the Transvaal as if all the stamps of the first issues had been reprinted. This is quite an error. There is only a small number of reprints, which can be divided into three classes:

Those of 1871 of the 3d.	
" 1874 "	6d.
" 1883 "	3d.

All the other stamps of the Transvaal said to be reprints are imitations or forgeries.

That there are many of these forgeries and that there is a great deal to be said about them is obvious from the fact that Mr. Raaij has compiled an interesting work of 63 pages, neatly printed and well illustrated.

Catalogue of Postal Stationery.

Catalogue descriptif illustré de toutes les Enveloppes et Bandes-Postales, Lettres-Telegrammes, etc., with the prices at which they are sold by A. Maury, 6, Boulevard Montmartre, Paris. Price 1fr. 25c.

This is the 25th edition of the catalogue of envelopes, which is a phase of collecting which neither the collectors nor the dealers of the continent have felt themselves justified in pruning off, as have some collectors and dealers at home. The catalogue is useful as an illustrated and priced guide for collectors who still have a warm regard for these interesting postal emissions.

The Postage Stamp Binding Covers.

Handsome dark blue covers in buckram, gilt lettered side and back, may be had from our Publishers, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Amen Corner, London. Price 1s. 6d.

Handbills for Circulation.

We have prepared and shall now be glad to send any number of neat handbills of *The Postage Stamp* to any of our friends, post free, on application. These little handbills include a specimen page, and being only leaflets are very suitable for enclosing in letters to philatelic friends.

Applications for supplies should be addressed only to Mr. Baldwin, Printer of *The Postage Stamp*, Tunbridge Wells and friends should say how many they can use. They can be had in dozens, or hundreds, and even thousands, if desired.

Philatelic Dictionary

BY B. W. H. POOLE

(Continued from page 159).

Orange Vrij Staat.—The Dutch equivalent for "Orange Free State" as shown upon the stamps of the country.

Orb wmk.—A watermark found in some of the stamps of Great Britain, notably the 2½d. printed between 1876 and 1879 and the £1 of October, 1888.

Ordinary.—A surcharge applied to various official stamps in Liberia in 1901 to make them available for use as temporary postage stamps.

Ore.—The value in which most of the stamps of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark are expressed. Its value is the same in all three countries, and is roughly equivalent to an eighth of a penny in English money.

Original.—A philatelic expression often used to distinguish (1) an original impression of a stamp from a reprint or Government imitation; or (2) an impression from a first die or plate from later printings from redrawn or retouched dies or plates.

Original Gum.—The gum with which any particular stamp was originally issued. The presence of this is, of course, an indispensable factor if an unused stamp is to be considered mint, and it is often of the utmost importance in distinguishing between the original legitimately issued stamps of some countries and worthless reprints made at a later date.

Orts Post.—The inscription shown upon the Zurich stamp of 1850 and the first 2½r. stamp of Switzerland. The words are the German rendering of Local Post.

O.S.—These letters meaning "On Service" are found surcharged upon or punctured through many of the stamps of New South Wales and other Australian colonies intended for official use.

O.S.G.S.—A surcharge found upon many Sudan stamps intended for use upon official correspondence. The letters mean "On Sudan Government Service."

Otto, Adolph.—A printer in Gustrow, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, who manufactured many of the early stamps for the first Transvaal Republic.

Ottoman Empire.—(See "TURKEY.")

O.U.S.—These letters, printed in red between parallel wavy lines, are sometimes met with on the face of various 1d. red stamps of Great Britain. They are the initials of the Oxford Union Society and the letters were applied with the object of preventing theft in the same way that stamps are punctured with various firms' initials nowadays.

Overprint.—Broadly speaking an overprint is anything printed on a postage stamp after it was to all intents and purposes complete and fit for use without such addition. An overprint may be an addition altering the facial value of a stamp; restricting it to a certain use as the official overprints of various countries; or converting the stamps of one country so as to make them available in another as in the case of certain British stamps overprinted for use in Zululand, Bechuanaland, etc.

To be continued.

How I Collect South Australians

BY J. IRELAND

[We have asked Mr. Ireland, who is one of the most active "Simple lifers," to give us some examples of the manner in which he simplifies particular countries' issues to this system. Editor]

THIS is a pretty hopeless country with most general collectors, and as it is at the same time an interesting one, if we confine ourselves to stamps and ignore varieties, these few remarks may perhaps prove of interest to general collectors.

I define watermarks, perforations and shades as varieties. By stamps I mean designs—nothing more.

If the collector uses a blank album the sets can be arranged in rows, if an ordinary printed album ruled in squares, the sets can be continued straight on. I shall take as the date of issue of the set, the year when the first stamp of the particular design appeared, and will take the type numbers from Gibbons' Catalogue.

My reference list works out as follows:—

1885 Type 1. 1d. green, 2d. red, 6d. blue, 1s. yellow, 1s. brown - 5 stamps in set.
1860 .. 3 and 4. 3d. blue, 4d. lilac, 8d. brown, 9d. lilac, 10d. yellow, 2s. rose 6 stamps in set.

1868 Type 15, 6, 7, 20, 16, 17, 21, 18. ½d. brown, 1d. green, 2d. yellow, 2½d. green, 3d. green, 4d. lilac, 5d. brown, 6d. blue, 8 stamps in set
1887 .. 19. I leave out this set entirely as they are practically unobtainable except in "specimen" sets, which I do not take.
1894 .. 24, 6, 7, 22, 23. New colours and values, ½d. green, 1d. rose, 2d. purple, 2½d. lilac, 2½d. blue, 5d. lilac - 6 stamps in set.
1902 .. 26. 3d., 4d., 6d., 8d., 9d., 10d., 1s., 2s. 6d., 5s.—10s. and 20s. are above my face value limit, the collection of these is optional
9 stamps in set.
1904 .. 27. 3d., 4d., 6d., 8d., 9d., 10d., 1s., 2s. 6d., 5s.—10s. and 20s. The same remarks apply - 9 stamp; in set.

This makes a total of 43 stamps. A small number, but not so very easy to complete in fine condition. I always give condition first place.

I do not collect surcharges, excepting where the design has been printed in a special colour for surcharging. The following have been treated in this way: 1860, 3d., 8d., 10d. 1868, 2½d. 5d. If desired a separate row can be

left for stamps of this class, but I generally include them in the set, where it is a short one.

Possibly an eagle-eyed reader may point out, that I have left out Type 2, but there is no Type 2 in the catalogue I have before me—1909.

These suggestions will probably meet with a fair amount of adverse criticism, but to anyone who has not seriously made a start on South Australia, I say, try it my

way. The other alternative is by catalogue. My way gives 43 or 47 stamps to collect, and the catalogue, 343. The average collector will find 47 quite enough to go on with.

With regard to the first set, take the perforated set, the imperf. and rouletted are merely separation varieties and make no difference to the design.

Correspondence

The Editor, "Postage Stamp."

West Australian and Tasmanian Watermarks.

Dear Sir,

Re letter in your CORRESPONDENCE COLUMN in your issue for next Saturday, 24th inst., from Dr. Mays, in which he alludes to "Novelties in Australians, etc." I write with reference to ONE of his varieties named, namely West Australia, the 1d. perf. 12½ watermarked V AND CROWN VERTICAL. This may be a "novelty" to the writer of this article (Dr. Mays), but although I don't consider it one myself, as I hope to show later on, all the same this matter of the watermark V and C being either vertical (as the Dr. names it) or upright (as I prefer to call it) on the one hand, or sideways (horizontal I presume would be the Doctor's expression), on the other hand; is a matter which I think requires still a good amount of information about which we philatelists are still in ignorance. I have recently on and off been re-arranging my collections of this Colony along with that of Tasmania, and have been looking over large lots of the later low values of 1d and 2d. West Australia both watermarked "V and Crown" as well as "Crown A," along with the ½d., 1d. and 2d. values of Tasmania, with both similar watermarks, and along with other stamps at present in my collection, have come across quite a number of varieties of the 'position' of these watermarks. My object in so doing was to try and get my notes on these Colonies, as regards these stamps, into somewhat more "ship shape" form so that when the time arrives for them to be inserted in the "Stamp Collector," (New Zealand not yet being finished), I could D.V., list these varieties with some method as far as my investigations have gone. As the Dr. says, these "positions" of the watermark are not really listed by Gibbons at all, with an odd exception or so, and then only with a few words printed to the effect that the watermark is generally sideways, but exists upright on an odd value or so, as regards West Australians and as regards the 1d. PALE RED V. & C. of Tasmania; nor have I come across any catalogue listing these varieties in anything like clear and concise form, doubtless because, as before remarked, not much is known at the present time as to what stamps had the watermark UPRIGHT ONLY; what stamps had the watermark SIDWAYS ONLY, and what stamps were issued with the watermarks in BOTH THESE POSITIONS.

Although I have not yet finally got together into concise form the varieties I have come across, as this matter has been named in your paper, perhaps it may prove of interest if I send you tables showing so far, what I have got together. I would here add that this matter also deals with the "Crown double lined A" wmk., as well as the "V and Crown" one, both for West Australia as well as for Tasmania, as in both colonies are these wmk. to be found both upright as well as sideways. Further, the matter is made more complicated in the case of West Australia because the perf. 12½ stamps really can be

divided into two divisions, namely perf. 12½ by 12½ and perf. 12½ by 12; both here again wmkd. "V and C" as well as "Crown double lined A."

The enclosed tables will amply show my meaning. Generally speaking the perf. 12½ by 12½ variety is far scarcer than the 12½ by 12, and the upright position of the wmk. scarcer than the sideways, with a few exceptions of course according to the shape of the stamp. The shape however is more applicable to the Tas. stamps, (Pictorials), as the 1d. and 4d. being similar, are in themselves, quite different to the remaining values of ½d., 2d., 3d. and 6d., whereas the West Australian stamps (Swan designs) are similar shaped stamps in all cases.

Faithfully yours,

E. HEGINBOTTOM,

22nd July, 1909.

B.A., F.R.P.S., Lond.

P.S.—If any collector reading these notes happens to have in his possession any of the varieties I have named in italics, that is those values I have neither as yet come across or seen, I should be pleased to see them, either with a view to purchase, if for sale, or else with a view to ticking them off as really existing. A few of the italic marked values I know exist, but many of them I believe there is considerable doubt about; thus I question if the 5d. West Australia watermarked either V and C or Crown A exists in the perf. 12½ by 12 variety, divisions 2 and 5, Table A, or divisions 2 and 5, Table B, probably only perf. 12½ by 12½. Again in Tasmania, owing to the shape of the 1d. and 4d. stamps (both similar) differing from those of the ½d., 2d., 3d., and 6d. (all similar), I question if the 1d. and 4d. exist watermarked "Crown A" under divisions 3 and 4, Table D.

Still, we have no authentic information telling us they DON'T exist, and perhaps some reader may have them, or have at any rate seen them, and I shall be pleased to have any sent me.

E. H.

TABLE A, SHOWING THE POSSIBLE VARIETIES OF THE STAMPS WMK. WITH THE "V & CROWN" WATERMARK.

N.B.—Where I have not seen the stamps or got them represented in my collections I name their values in Red. [These are shown here in blacker type.—EDITOR.]

WEST AUSTRALIA. SWAN TYPE.

V AND C. UPRIGHT—

1. Perf. 12½ × 12½, 1d., 2d., 4d., 5d., 8d., 9d., 10d.
2. Perf. 12½ × 12, 1d., 2d., 4d., 5d., 8d., 9d., 10d.
3. Perf. 11 × 11, 1d., 2d., 4d., 5d., 8d., 9d., 10d.

V AND C. SIDWAYS Perf. 12½ × 12½—

4. "V" to left, 1d., 2d., 4d., 5d., 8d., 9d., 10d.
- "V" to right, 1d., 2d., 4d., 5d., 8d., 9d., 10d.

Perf. 12½ × 12—

5. "V" to left, 1d., 2d., 4d., (5d.), 8d., 9d., 10d.
- "V" to right, 1d., 2d., 4d., (5d.), 8d., 9d., 10d.

Perf. 11 × 11—

6. "V" to left, 1d., 2d., 4d., 5d., (8d.), 9d., (10d.)
- "V" to right, 1d., 2d., 4d., 5d., (8d.), 9d., (10d.)

QUEEN'S HEAD.

V AND C. UPRIGHT—

- 7. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, (2s., 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s.)
- 8. Perf. $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, 2s., 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s.
- 9. Perf. 11×11 , 2s.

V AND C. SIDEWAYS. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ —

- 10. "V" to left, 20s.
- "V" to right, 20s.
- Perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ —
- 11. "V" to left, 20s.
- "V" to right, 20s.

I doubt stamps under division 7, and the 5d. under divisions 2 and 5, and the 20s. under division 10.

Where I have either the "V" to left or "V" to right it is probable the one "wanting" exists.

Inverted watermarks exist on many of the 1d. and 2d. values. Fairly scarce upright and commoner sideways. Also on the Queen 2s., 2s. 6d., 5s. and 10s. stamps. V and C watermark.

TABLE B, SHOWING THE POSSIBLE VARIETIES OF THE STAMPS WATERMARKED WITH THE "CROWN DOUBLE-LINED A" WATERMARK.

WEST AUSTRALIA. SWAN TYPE.

N.B.—Where I have not seen the stamps or got them in my collections, I name their values in black type.

Crown A, UPRIGHT—

- 1. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 9d.
- 2. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 9d.
- 3. Perf. 11×11 , 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 9d.

Crown A, SIDEWAYS, perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ —

- 4. "A" to left, 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 9d.
- "A" to right, 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 9d.

Perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ —

- 5. "A" to left, 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., (5d.), 9d.
- "A" to right, 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., (5d.), 9d.

Perf. 11×11 —

- 6. "A" to left, 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 9d.
- "A" to right, 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 9d.

8d and 10d. not issued to date, July, 1900, with Crown A watermark.

- 7. ?? position of watermark Crown A, compound perfs., $12\frac{1}{2} \times 11$, 1d., 2d.
- ?? also if compound 12×11 .

QUEEN'S HEAD.

Crown A, UPRIGHT—

- 8. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$.
- 9. Perf. $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, 5s.

NOTE.—I rather doubt any stamps under division 1 and all but the 1d. under divisions 2 and 3, also the 1d. and 1d. under divisions 4, 5, and 6, and the 5d. under divisions 2 and 5.

Where I have either the "A" to left or right, it is probable the one "wanting" exists.

Inverted watermarks "Crown A" seem very scarce on any values, upright, but commoner in sideways position.

TABLE C, SHOWING THE POSSIBLE VARIETIES OF THE STAMPS WITH THE "V AND CROWN" WATERMARK.

TASMANIA. PICTORIALS.

N.B.—Where I have not seen the stamps or got them in my collections, I name their values in black type.

V AND C. UPRIGHT—

- 1. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, 1d., 1d., 2d.
- 2. Perf. 11×11 , 1d., 1d., 2d.

V AND C. SIDEWAYS—

- Perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$,
- 3. "V" to left, 1d., 1d., 2d.
- "V" to right, 1d., 1d., 2d.
- Perf. 11×11 ,
- 4. "V" to left, 1d., 1d., 2d.
- "V" to right, 1d., 1d., 2d.

V AND C—

- 5. Compound perfs. $12\frac{1}{2}$ by 11, ?? positions wmk., 1d., 1d., 2d.

QUEEN'S HEAD.

V AND C. UPRIGHT—

- 6. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, 9d., 1s.
- 7. Perf. 11×11 , 9d., 1s.

The 2d. under division 1 should exist, as I have the 1d. thus, and it is the same shaped stamp. So also the 1d. and 2d. under division 2, but these are very scarce I believe.

Where I have either the "V" to left or right, the one wanting probably exists.

Thus the 1d. under division 4 should exist, I think.

Inverted winks, scarce V and C upright, and commoner in V and C sideways position.

TABLE D, SHOWING THE POSSIBLE VARIETIES OF THE STAMPS WITH THE "CROWN DOUBLE LINED A" WATERMARK.

TASMANIA. PICTORIALS.

N.B.—Where I have not seen the stamps or got them in my collections, I name their values in black type.

Crown A, UPRIGHT—

- 1. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d.
- 2. Perf. 11×11 , 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d.

Crown A, SIDEWAYS. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ —

- 3. "A" to left, 1d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d.
- "A" to right, 1d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d.

Perf. 11×11 —

- 4. "A" to left, 1d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d.
- "A" to right, 1d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d.

Crown A, UPRIGHT—

- 5. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 11$, 1d., 1d., 2d. compound.

Crown A, SIDEWAYS. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ compound—

- 6. "A" to left, 1d., 1d., 2d.
- "A" to right, 1d., 1d., 2d.

Crown A, UPRIGHT—

- 7. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ compound, 1d., 1d., 2d.

Crown A, SIDEWAYS. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ —

- 8. "A" to left, 1d., 1d., 2d.
- "A" to right, 1d., 1d., 2d.

Crown A, UPRIGHT—

- 9. Perf. 11 and 12 compound, 1d., 1d., 2d.

Crown A, SIDEWAYS. Perf. 11 and 12 compound—

- 10. "A" to left, 1d., 1d., 2d.
- "A" to right, 1d., 1d., 2d.

QUEEN'S HEADS.

Crown A, UPRIGHT—

- 11. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, 8d., 9d., 1s., 10s.
- 12. Perf. 11×11 , 8d., 9d., 1s., 10s.
- 13. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ compound, 1s.
- 14. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ compound, 1s.

I doubt the 1d. and 4d. under divisions 3 and 4d.

Where I have either A to left or right, the one wanting probably exists

Inverted watermarks Crown A upright scarce, but commoner in Crown A. sideways position.

Editor's Letter Box

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Articles, Contributions and Correspondence, should be addressed to the Editor, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the correspondent. Articles, etc., not accepted, will be returned when postage is prepaid.

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Answers to Correspondents.

[N.B.—Correspondence is invited.—Editor.]

W. M. (Edinburgh).—Much obliged for item in brief.

F. J. R. (Earlsfield).—(1) This will have our attention. The exigencies of other and more important matter is responsible for the crowding out. (2) Such articles as you suggest are already in hand, but we do not propose to start them until after August. The summer is not the best time to commence such a series. **Questions** (1) The control numbers are identical on all the stamps on one sheet, but each sheet has a different number. Errors occur with different numbers *se tenant*. (2) Benzine will bring out the watermark. (3) Whitfield King's Standard Catalogue, or, if British Colonies only are wanted, Field's Simplified Catalogue.

P. H. Y. (Cambridge).—Thanks. H9 was at Manchester on 13th inst. two days before the date you mention for Cambridge.

J. W. W. (Liverpool).—Mr. Oswald Marsh sends the particulars of the controls you wanted. (See page 206 this week).

Our Publishing Day and Advertisers.

In order to meet the requirements of the publishing trade our publishers now distribute copies to the Newsagents on Wednesdays instead of Thursdays as before. This compels us to go to press on Saturday morning. Hence it is absolutely necessary for our printers to have all advertisements at latest on Friday morning; consequently, copy must be in the Advertisement Manager's hands not later than Wednesday, 5 o'clock p.m.

Items in Brief

"C 59," JOCMEL, Hayti. Advertisement of Charles Nissen & Co. in the *British Philatelist*.

Stop yer tickling JOC-mel.

We hold a very fine and large stock of foreign and colonial revenues. Advertisement in the *British Philatelist*.

Referring to the design of the 10/- Malta, the *West End Philatelist* says: "the presence of these two members of the fair sex would seem to be quite unauthorised, for no mention is made of any women being on board the ship on which St. Paul was so unfortunately wrecked."

Perhaps they had rushed the police thinking St. Paul was St. Stephen.

In order to facilitate the work of post office servants the Belgian postal authorities propose that correspondents shall in future use red envelopes for all letters to Brussels, yellow for the country, and green for abroad.

On the 29th October next the Philatelic Society of South Australia will have been 21 years in existence without a break.

Prices on blocks of four that have never been met. Advertisement of *Sterling Stamp Co.*

20/- seems a high denomination for a postage due (Australia), and 100 lire (Italy) is another high value, says the *Collectors' Journal*. It must be something of a shock to the recipient of a postal packet when there is 20/- to pay on receipt.

In Siam (says the *Collectors' Journal*) monkeys are employed by the leading merchants to detect bad coins.

Home experts may hold consultations at the Zoological Gardens. We wonder if they can tell genuine 1 tical on 1 lotte surcharges.

SHARP sales every alternate Tuesday and Wednesday. *Glendining & Co.'s Advertisement in Collectors' Journal.*

Advertisers' Proofs.

We are anxious to consult our Advertisers' convenience to the greatest possible extent, but where proofs have to be supplied and returned our printers must have the "copy" by Thursday morning at the latest, as we now have to print off a portion of our issue on Saturday morning.

Examination of Stamps.

So many of our readers have asked us to undertake the examination and identification of their stamps that we have made arrangements to accede to their wishes.

We shall be pleased to express an opinion as to the genuineness or otherwise of any stamps submitted to us, or identify them according to any catalogue at a charge of 6d. per stamp (minimum 1/-). All fees must be paid in advance with sufficient added to pay for return postage and registration.

Stamps upon which an opinion is desired should be mounted on a separate sheet from the letter accompanying them and addressed to "The Expert," c/o The Editor of *The Postage Stamp*, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton London, S.W.

Stop Press News.

New Chinese Stamps.

PEKING, July 5th.

The report on the working of the Chinese Imperial Post Office for last year shows a substantial increase in every branch of work. Postal articles carried last year reached 252,000,000, as compared with 168,000,000 in 1907. In Peking, postal establishments now number 270, and mail matter posted for local delivery has risen from 378,000 to 453,000. With reference to Manchuria, the report says: "The work is still very up hill; in many places inhabitants and traders have still to bear of the purpose of the Imperial Post Office, and at others the keen competition carried on by the Japanese Post Office stops natural progress."

Some modifications have been made in the colours adopted for Chinese postal stamps with a view to bring them into accord with the conventional colours of the Union for international rates. The Imperial Administration has decided to commemorate the accession to the throne of the new Emperor Hsuan T'ung by the issue of three new stamps.

—Reuter.

"The Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The Postage Stamp is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:—

Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C.

F. C. Ginn, 143, Strand, London, W.C.

Lewis May & Co., 15, King William Street, Strand, W.C.

W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.

James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.

Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.

The Court Stamp Co.,

10, Marriott's Court, Manchester.

Collectors' Wants and Exchanges.

Our friends will note that we have opened a column for collectors to advertise their wants, at the nominal charge of 4d. per word. Many collectors even in London have not time to hunt about for stamps, whilst others resident in the country, have not the opportunity.

By using this column Collectors' Wants will catch the eye of all who are likely to be able to supply the stamps needed, for dealers watch such advertisements very closely, and collectors who want to dispose of duplicates will not fail to note the opportunity for exchange or sale.

Advertisements of stamps for sale are not admitted to this column.

Our Binding Covers.

In navy blue buckram, gilt lettered side and back, for binding any volume of *The Postage Stamp*, price 1s. 6d., from Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

The POSTAGE STAMP

*An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors*

Founded by
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

Edited by
FRED. J. MELVILLE.

No. 19. Vol. 4.
(Whole Number 97)

7 AUGUST, 1909.

Price 1d.

Gossip of the Week

BY CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Postmaster Shackleton.



Joseph in an official report, which, however much we criticised the surcharged stamps, makes interesting reading. The freak of philatelic enterprise which made Sir Joseph provide surcharged stamps has perhaps been actually justified, for we cannot regret the association in our albums of records of the great achievements which make history.

Why Not An Aero-Post ?

We only regret that M. Bleriot did not have a government subsidy in his great aeroplane achievement across the channel, so that he could have carried a miniature mail by Aero-post. Fancy how the collectors would have rushed—and not only the collectors but the delighted mobs who have rushed about in the footsteps of M. Bleriot—for a private postage stamp issued say by the Aerated Newspapers Limited, or better still a French Government stamp surcharged Aero-Post.

The Penguins' Post Bag.

The Shackleton report is amusing reading. The statement that the head office at Christchurch was not to forward letters with obviously fictitious addresses makes one wonder whether it were good nature or blindness on the part of the Christchurch sorters in sending on the letters for Messrs. Seal, Bear & Co., King Albatross, Jack Penguin, Miss Snow and the rest of them. If the sender of those letters had any hopes of getting them back from the Antarctic, Mr. Shackleton disposes of their hopes by

saying that the letters addressed to the penguin family were all delivered, and the surprise of these interesting birds was evident. Their method of disposing of the correspondence Mr. Shackleton did not follow—probably they endeavoured to inwardly digest the prosy screeds. I often wish I had some sort of penguin to dispose of some of my correspondence, but my typists have always had an objection to consuming the letters after the manner of penguins.

Papers and Displays wanted for Society Meetings.

I note some bustle lately among the secretaries of societies who are beginning to apply their persuasive powers to the best advantage in extracting promises of papers and displays for the coming season. I know our Editor wants another twenty items or so for his Junior programme, so if any of his new friends among *The Postage Stamp* readers are willing to help him, I hope they will drop him a line saying what they can offer in the way of a paper or a display or both.

The Queen Anne Farthing.

The story told on another page of the Queen Anne Farthing case of Miller v. Hone at the Dublin Quarter Sessions, in 1814, is particularly good reading to the stamp collector. We so constantly come into contact with the folk who have got a copy of the first black postage stamp "probably one of the *only* copies known." Nowadays, however, we could scarcely see counsel, judge and jury following each other in the belief that a penny black was rarer than a Post Office Mauritius without calling expert witnesses on the point. Perhaps things may now be carried rather to the other extreme, and counsel to-day would probably be expected to produce evidence that the royal lady whose name is identified with the said farthing is actually deceased.

From Chili to Peru.

One of my correspondents puts the following poser to me this week :—

"During the war between Chili and Peru in the 80's, the victorious Chilean army overran a very large part of Peru and occupied many of the principal cities. As in many other wars stamps had their place in the campaign. Turning to our Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue (Part II.), under Peru, we find that some 12 stamps of Chili figure in the campaign in question, and are known postally

used in various towns of the captured district, but are only to be distinguished by the postmark dated within a period. But why are these stamps catalogued in Peru? British stamps used in the Crimea, Egyptian, South African, and other wars, are recognised as Great Britain. Should not these, therefore, be Chilian?"

Ah, why indeed? Consistency, thy name is Gibbons—I don't conjecture.

American Philatelic Society Politics.

The polls were closed on July 15th for the ballot on the amendments to the by-laws of the American Philatelic Society to which I referred a few weeks ago. I have it on excellent authority that the first of the amendments is carried, so that the *American Philatelist* which, although originally a monthly, has for the last fifteen years been an annual, will henceforth be issued quarterly. As showing the businesslike way in which our American *confrères* conduct their great organisation, I give the text of the Amendment which is carried.

The "Quarterly" Amendment Carried.

To amend Article VII, Section 1, to include: An Editor of the *American Philatelist*.

To amend Article VII to include new section to be known as Section 6A.

Section 6A. The Editor shall edit all reading and advertising matter, shall invite literary contributions from the membership and pass upon same for publication.

He shall solicit and arrange all advertisements and shall collect all moneys due on subscription and advertising accounts and shall turn same over to the Treasurer, quarterly, to be placed in the General Fund and in general act as business manager in all matters pertaining to the publication of the *American Philatelist*, excepting on all official matter originating with the President or Secretary.

The editor's compensation shall not exceed \$50.00 per number in addition to postage and printing expenses.

To amend Article X by substituting the following for the entire Article:

Article X, *American Philatelist*:

Section 1. The *American Philatelist* shall be published quarterly. The first number shall be issued immediately after the adjournment of the Annual Convention and shall contain a copy of the charter and by-laws as last amended, a full report of the last Annual Convention; the rules of all departments which may not be included in the general by-laws, a list of all branch societies and affiliated societies, a list of the names and addresses of all officers of the society, and the publishers of the *Official Journal*, and also literary matter as may be of Philatelic or Association interest.

The second number shall be issued about February 1st, and shall contain a list of all active members, arranged alphabetically, numerically and geographically, together with such papers as may be selected.

The third and fourth numbers shall be issued about May 1st, and August 1st, and shall contain such official matter as the President, or Secretary, or Board of Vice-Presidents may deem advisable, together with such papers as may be selected by the Editor.

The *American Philatelist* shall be edited by the Editor and approved by the President for publication.

Advertising shall be admitted subject to the approval of the Editor at a rate to be determined by the Board of Vice-Presidents, but said advertisements shall not exceed the amount of space devoted to reading matter.

One copy shall be mailed free to each member of the Society, ten copies to each Director, if he shall so request, ten copies to the Assistant Librarian, and one copy each to such libraries or other institutions as may be approved by the Board of Directors. Copies to the public or extra copies for members will be sold by the Secretary at 25c. per copy, and the proceeds turned into the treasury. All

copies on hand after one year from date of issue shall be turned over to the Assistant Librarian. The expense of publishing it shall be paid from the General Fund.

The Secretary, immediately after the convention, shall advertise in the *Official Journal* for bids for the printing of the *American Philatelist*, and the contract shall be awarded by the Board of Directors, who may at their discretion reject any or all bids.

Section 2. These amendments shall be effective upon their ratification by the stockholders.

Section 3. Any and all sections of 1908 by-laws directly conflicting with these amendments be and are hereby repealed.

The Unsuccessful Amendments.

Two other amendments, on which a postal ballot has been taken, have failed. They referred chiefly to the control of proxies in the voting at the Annual Conventions. Last year at Columbus 677 proxies were passed by the Committee on Credentials, of which 300 were held by six delegates. The first of the rejected amendments was to put the sole power to cast any and all proxies in the hands of the Committee on Credentials. The other amendment was to preclude the Directors of the Society, Publisher of the Official Organ, or Sales Superintendent of the Society from acting for or voting as proxy for any other stockholder.

The U.S. Special Delivery Stamp.

I gather from the *Metropolitan Philatelist* that there can no longer be any question about the recent U.S. Special Delivery having been withdrawn from use. Our contemporary quotes the following order:—

“Washington, D.C.,

“Order No. 2347:—

“June 9th, 1909.

“Ordered, That the manufacture and issuance to Postmasters of Special Delivery Stamps of the design approved November 30th, 1908, series of 1908, described on page 7 of the January, 1909, Supplement to the Official Postal Guide, be discontinued; and that the manufacture and issuance of the Special Delivery Stamp of the series of 1902, described in Section 769, Supplement of 1907 to the Postal Laws and Regulations, be resumed.

“(Signed) “F. H. FITCHCOCK,

“Postmaster-General.”

Philatelic Advertising.

Having taken the liberty of commenting on Mr. O. R. Gum's article on Advertising the other week in the same issue as the article appeared, it is only fair that my esteemed colleague should get the chance of disagreeing with my points. He writes “Candidly I don't altogether agree. If a man does not understand seen these snaps it does not give him much credit for common worldliness. I rather find that the majority of stamp collectors 'know a bit'—that is the proper sort. But I did like your point about shop windows—some are dusty!”

New Bolton Society Formed.

The first meeting of the New Bolton Society was held with great success on Monday, July 19th last, when the following officers were elected:—Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Constantine; Hon. Secretaries, Messrs. C. Boothby and H. O. Moscrop. It being decided to leave the election of a Committee, &c., to the next meeting on August 9th next. Collectors in and within easy distance of Bolton should join this latest venture. The Annual Subscription will be 2s. 6d., and which will cover everything—exchange branch, &c. The next meeting will held at a room lent for the occasion by Messrs. Constantine, the well-known Drapery House, Deansgate, and it is hoped that local collectors will attend. The Secretaries' Address is Mr. C. Boothby, Lymefield, Farnworth, S.O. Near Bolton, or Mr. H. O. Moscrop, 91, Thicketford Road, Bolton.

The Stamps of Abyssinia

BY FRED. J. MELVILLE

Continued from page 209.



1907. Seven values. Yet another series this time with a new Amharic and a new European surcharge, all in violet. The Amharic surcharge is composed of the characters for "dagemawi," which is said to mean "the second," possibly Menelik the "second." The European figures of value are between stars of different patterns.

☆1/2☆ * 1*

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Stamps of 1894 overprinted "DAGEMAWI" and value between stars.
Overprints in violet.

	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	s. d.
" $\frac{1}{2}$ " on $\frac{1}{2}$ g. green -	0 9	—
" $\frac{1}{2}$ " on $\frac{1}{2}$ g. red -	—	—
"1" on 1g. blue -	—	—
"2" on 2g. brown -	—	—
"4" on 4g. claret -	3 0	—
"8" on 8g. mauve -	4 6	—
"16" on 16g. black -	—	—

1908. The first innovation for 1908 consisted of a surcharge "1 Piastre," surcharged in blue on the $\frac{1}{2}$ guerche red.

Mr. Whitfield King wrote to *The Postage Stamp* (III. p. 50): "It appears that 1 'piastre' is the same as a 'guerche,' and that the overprint was necessary because the 1 guerche stamps were entirely exhausted, and there were not sufficient of the $\frac{1}{2}$ guerche to use in place of them. The number overprinted was 7,000, which were distributed amongst all the post offices in Abyssinia. Our correspondent's letter is dated September 17th, in which he states that the few stamps of 1 piastre sent us were all that were left, and that there were remaining in stock no stamps of $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, 1 or 2 guerches of any issue surcharged or unsurcharged, and in consequence of this shortage the Postage Due stamps, overprinted 'Taxe à Percevoir,' were being used as ordinary postage stamps. Our consignment was franked with some of those stamps. There will be a complete new issue on November 1st, at which date Abyssinia enters the Postal Union,

and we understand that the values of the new stamps will be expressed in 'piastres.' On the same date all the stock-in-hand of the old stamps will be burnt."

There are apparently two types of this surcharge, and possibly others.

The $\frac{1}{2}$ guerche was perhaps sent out as a feeler to test whether a long suffering public would stand the strain of another set of surcharges. Anyway the full set was not to be foregone, and it appeared late in the year, being chronicled in *The Postage Stamp* for December 26th, 1908. The overprint in this case is in ordinary type, and has been impressed by means of a regular printing press. It is in every case in black.

The number printed of those stamps were given as follows in *The Postage Stamp* of February 6th, 1909 (III. 227):

$\frac{1}{2}$ pia on $\frac{1}{2}$ g. green	-	15,000
$\frac{1}{2}$ " " $\frac{1}{2}$ g. red	-	15,000
1 " " 1g. blue	-	15,000
2 " " 2g. brown	-	15,000
4 " " 4g. claret	-	6,000
8 " " 8g. mauve	-	6,000
16 " " 16g. black	-	6,000

A pane of 25 of each of the $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ and 1 piastre on the respective guerche denominations is said officially to have been printed with the surcharge inverted.



Stamp of 1894 surcharged in blue or black (two types).

1 piastre in blue on $\frac{1}{2}$ g. red.

Varieties.

1 piastre in blue on $\frac{1}{2}$ g. red (double surcharge).

1 " " " (inverted surcharge).

1 " " " (numeral omitted).



Stamps of 1894. Printed surcharge in black.

$\frac{1}{2}$ piastre on $\frac{1}{2}$ g. green.	
$\frac{1}{2}$ " " $\frac{1}{2}$ g. red.	
1 " " 1g. blue.	
2 " " 2g. brown.	
4 " " 4g. claret.	
8 " " 8g. mauve.	
16 " " 16g. black.	

Varieties. Surcharge Inverted.

$\frac{1}{2}$	piastre on	$\frac{1}{2}$ g. green.
$\frac{1}{2}$	" "	$\frac{1}{2}$ g. red.
1	" "	1g. blue.

1909. Seven values. The postal authorities seem to have experienced considerable delay in getting the newly engraved issue ready. Although intended for use on November 1st, 1908, nothing was heard of it until March 13th, 1909, when *The Postage Stamp* chronicled two of the denominations. The complete set was recorded and illustrated the following week, March 20th.

The stamps are of three distinct designs, which were executed by M. Victor Marec, whose name appears in the lower left corner of the stamps. In the lower right corner is the name of the engraver, M. E. Dete.

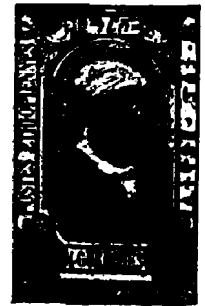
The low values, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 guerche, are in one type, of which the arms of Ethiopia form the central feature. A romantic story has been circulated respecting this design. It is said to have been the work of Queen Taitou, who desires by means of the central design, shewing the vacant throne, to prepare her subjects for the death of the Emperor Menelik.

The 2 and 4 guerches stamps bear a portrait of Menelik, three-quarters face to right.

The 8 and 16 guerches bear a full face portrait of the Emperor.

All the stamps are inscribed in Amharic and in European characters "Postes Ethiopiennes," and with the value in "guerches."

The perforation is $11\frac{1}{2}$.



New Designs. Arms, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1g. Portrait to right, 2 and 4g. Full-face Portrait, 8 and 16g.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ g. pale green.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ g. rose.
- 1g. green and orange.
- 2g. deep blue.
- 4g. green and red.
- 8g. orange red and green.
- 16g. red and carmine.

To be continued.

In Our Post Office

Some Reflections on Receiving a Farthing

From the "Pekin and Tientsin Times," May 25, 1909

"Is it," said I, to the beautiful lady in our post office, she having tendered me a bright, new farthing in change, "is it a reward for buying your letter-cards?"

But she only went on doing a sum in a book. The little coin fascinated me—a man is not given a bright, new farthing every day—and by a beautiful lady. It was very dainty, very pretty, modest, too, like a virtuous serving-wench. And then, I remembered, as I thought of this, that King Charles had inscribed a coin of his reign with the words, "Nummorum Famulus." "The Servant of the Coinage." A charming little servant, like many another, of no great value.

"I will take," said I, "another brace of letter-cards."

With a high hand and a scornful eye, the lady of the post office rewarded my bravery with yet another farthing.

"If you buy enough letter-cards you will grow quite rich," she said; which set me laughing, and this, in turn, melted her frigidly. Finding her in so jocular a mood, I inquired to what use might a farthing be put, reflecting that the prices of all fair things for fair women end in three farthings.

Many Purchases.

"Oh," said my beauty, "in the East End, you know, you may buy a farthing's worth of anything—of tea, milk, bull's eyes, pepper, sugar, or bread. Then some people collect farthings, a new one, you know, every year. And some people put them in the offertory. Queen Anne farthings are very rare—worth £1,000 each."

I thanked her for the information—marvelling to find one still holding faith in the great value of Queen Anne farthings. Sir Henry Ellis was chief librarian of the British Museum for thirty years or so, and he has left it on record that during his reign hardly a week went by without bringing somebody to the Museum to sell a Queen Anne farthing, demanding any price up to a cool £1,000. There came a poor, old woman one day, who had trudged to London from the country with her Queen Anne farthing, many a weary mile.

"Miller v. Hone" was a case tried at quarter sessions in Dublin in 1814 that confirmed the idea of the value of Queen Anne farthings in all foolish men's minds. Hone had borrowed such a farthing from Miller, and refused to return it, making affidavit that he had lost it, and

thinking all the while that it was worth no less than £1,400,

A Farthing Legend.

"You have probably all heard," said counsel, "that in the reign of Queen Anne there were but three farthings coined, and, gentlemen, it is a matter of historical record that in the coinage of the third farthing the die broke. From this circumstance an adventitious value was added to these three pieces; so much so that one of them is preserved in the King's Museum as a great curiosity; a second is also in the British Museum; but the third is missing."

Poor Hone was convicted of theft, and heavily sentenced, all because counsel, judge, and jury followed each other, like sheep leaping a dry ditch, in accepting the rarity of a Queen Anne's farthing as an unquestionable fact.

Some old furthings, however, are valuable enough; one dated 1661 has been sold at Sotheby's for £78. So far back as the reign of Edward I. silver farthings were in circulation; in those days they made pennies into half-pennies by cutting them into two, and from the half-pennies they cut farthings, or "fourthings."

It was Charles II. who gave us our copper farthings, and gave us also our delightful Britannia—the beautiful Duchess of Richmond serving as model. A little joke of the King was to cause his Britannia of the coin to be bare-legged.

A farthing I should like to acquire is one coined in the days of Cromwell, showing pillars bound together in symbol of unity, and the motto, "Thos vnited invincible." I should like to come upon that old coin. I would give it as a token to the beautiful lady in our post office.

M. W.

Lieutenant Shackleton as Postmaster

How Letters to "Jack Frost" were delivered

The following is Postmaster Lieutenant Shackleton's report on the postal side of his great expedition:—

"Adelaide, South Australia,

"May 11, 1909

"RIGHT HON. SIR JOSEPH WARD, POSTMASTER-GENERAL
OF NEW ZEALAND.

"SIR,—In accordance with your instructions, I have the honour to report regarding the Post Office opened by me in the Antarctic regions, and used by members of the British Antarctic Expedition under my command. When the *Nimrod* left New Zealand at the beginning of 1908, she carried with her, under your authority as Postmaster-General of New Zealand a supply of specially surcharged postage stamps, a date stamp, and a seal, and I was authorized to sell stamps and carry on the general duties of a postmaster from an office to be established at the winter quarters. On reaching the Antarctic Circle in Ross quadrant, North King Edward VII Land, I issued the first of the stamps, in order that members of the expedition might despatch letters back to New Zealand by the *Koonya*, the steamer which had towed the *Nimrod* down to the ice. The first mail was duly despatched by me by means of the *Koonya*.

"On reaching the territorial waters of King Edward VII Land, and while lying alongside the ice, about a mile from land, I formally opened a post office as a branch of the New Zealand Post Office. I received letters for despatch at the first opportunity, and issued stamps for future correspondence.

"The mail brought from New Zealand and then opened included about eight hundred letters, addressed to non-existent persons. There were many addresses such as the following: 'King Albatross,' 'Mr Brown Seal,' 'White Seal,' 'Mr. Skuagull,' 'Jack Penguin, Esq.,' 'John Frost,' 'Miss Snow,' 'Seal,' 'Bear and Co.,' 'King Penguin,' 'The Bird Sitting on Top of the South Pole,' and 'The White Manchurian Pony.' These letters were no doubt intended to be returned to the sender. When winter quarters had been established at Cape Royds, it having proved impossible to reach King Edward VII Land owing to the condition of the ice, these letters were dealt with as far as possible. Many of them were addressed simply to 'Antarctica,' and not to King Edward VII Land. The letters addressed to members of the penguin family were

all delivered, and the surprise of these interesting birds was evident. Their method of finally disposing of the correspondence I did not follow. The seals also received their letters. Letters addressed to 'Snowy Mountain,' 'Jack Frost,' 'Mr. Iceberg,' etc., were also delivered. Letters that could not be delivered were returned.

"The first mail opened in Antarctica brought from New Zealand by the *Nimrod* contained 1510 letters, and 550 letters were despatched from King Edward VII Land post office, the *Nimrod* taking this mail when she returned after landing the shore party. All letters passed through my hands as postmaster, and were postmarked with the date stamp provided for the purpose by your department,

"I opened a branch of the Post Office on the inland plateau in latitude 88 deg. 5 min. south, longitude 162 deg. east on January 7, 1908. I consider this to be in the sphere of King Edward VII Land, which connects with the plateau.

"I propose to forward you photographs showing the position at which the Post Office was first opened, the winter quarters from which the bulk of the letters were despatched, and the branch office on the plateau.

"Under the peculiar circumstances of this work, in my capacity as postmaster, I found it necessary to widen the range of the Post Office from the portion of the Antarctic Continent known as King Edward VII Land to points between 350 miles and 800 miles distant.

"Some 2000 letters passed through my hands, and I sold the bulk of the stamps to members of our little community.

"I have further to report that all registered letters for which addresses could not be found were returned to the head office in Christchurch, New Zealand. Many communications addressed to me as postmaster were attended to as far as possible. I understand that the head office in Christchurch received instructions not to forward to the Antarctic a large number of letters which bore obviously fictitious addresses. On my return to New Zealand I returned the date stamp and seal to the head office, and also delivered over my records and receipts.

"I have the honour to be, sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"E. H. SHACKLETON.

"Postmaster."

My Favourite Country and Why

St. Helena

BY H. H. HARLAND

[NOTE.—Collectors are cordially invited to discuss their pet countries in "The Postage Stamp" under this general heading. EDITOR.]

A One Die Country.

MY chief reason for taking up St. Helena was that I undertook in a rash moment to supply this country's stamps to the Caxton Hall Exhibition. My choice fell upon St. Helena partly because I had a sneaking fancy for it from my youth, and this is perhaps due to its being one of the only countries which is to all intents and purposes limited to one die for a long series of curiously varied and deeply interesting postal omissions.

That die in itself I contend to be a thing of beauty, and it will be to me a joy for ever. It was, I believe, one of the choicest pieces of the work of the late Mr. W. Humphrys though it cannot with absolute certainty be assigned to his graver, the internal evidence and its period however making it extremely probable. Mr. Humphrys, I need scarcely remind the readers of *The Postage Stamp*, was the engraver charged with the difficult and important work of deepening the English line engraved die of 1855.

A Family Resemblance.

This handsome die of St. Helena bears a family resemblance approaching almost to identity to the choice early issues of Ceylon, which have been utilised so effectively for philatelic specialisation by the Baron de Worms.

I contend that in starting upon a subject for specialisation one must first have some satisfaction or shall we say confidence in the worthiness of the object to which one is setting oneself. And the whole series of St. Helena throughout the nineteenth century was never questioned as to its postal utility or artistic beauty, and is thus, what few of the other minor island colonies can claim to be, like Cæsar's wife, above reproach.

Superiority of Line Engraving.

Then we have here in this first series, which I may mention was entirely printed from one plate, a magnificent study of the serviceability of the grand old Perkins Bacon process of line engraving, which, I think it will be admitted, has never been excelled by any of the more modern, or the American Bank Note Companies for its delicacy of line and perfection of printing. The American productions, it may be said, are generally more flash and showy, but it must be borne in mind that the supreme test for a line engraved stamp is a faithful portrait, and that Perkins Bacon have given where practically every one else has failed.

The De la Rue Colouring.

For richness of colouring, the De la Rue productions from the Perkins Bacon plate are, I think, superior, and here I may point to the wealth of shades which will delight any collector taking up my pet country.

One of the things I should always look for in a country I was about to specialize is something in the nature of complications, whether in design, watermark, perforation, or in surcharge. One or two of these classes of complications provide the happy hunting ground which is the joy of the specialist, and which enable the studious collector of moderate means to become more the master of his subject than the dealers who are to most of us the chief source of our supply. I have wandered along the Strand time after time, and rarely in a newly made up book have I failed to find some choice little items which have not been recognised at their true value by the astute caterers for our philatelic requirements.

Still Something to Yield.

The arrangements and the settings of the surcharges by which one ground design has been made to cover eight different values has still to yield much result to persistent study, and no country could have much interest for me if I felt on entering upon my task that the whole thing had been worked to death and that the Great Moguls, as the late Mr. Nankivell called them, had left me no tiny detail to find myself. In this respect I think it is that the specialist differs from the collector. He must be fed with a certain proportion of new discovery to sustain him. The general collector stands in no need, perhaps of this meat, though doubtless we owe much of our wider knowledge to this class.

But as most careful students can tell you nothing in the philatelic sense has yet been done *quite* to the death, though some countries' stamps have perhaps received more attention than their legitimate postal requirements would have entitled them to.

An Historic Isle.

Lastly, I may say that I have been sustained in my interest for the stamps of St. Helena to some extent by the historical interest which attaches and always will attach to this tiny islet, with its mere handful of present inhabitants. Napoleon, perhaps the greatest man in modern history, made the name and fame of St. Helena a perpetuity. And in quite recent times the island became associated with another notable epoch in our history, when, after General Cronje's surrender to Lord Roberts in the South African War, the Boer prisoners were escorted to the lonely isle.

Chacun à son goût.

In conclusion, I may say, that I am glad to have an opportunity of airing my predilection for St. Helena, and I hope that other readers of *The Postage Stamp* who are as interested in the paper and derive so much benefit from its pages will give their reasons for favouring their pet countries. We specialists may not succeed in convincing one another that our *specialité* is THE BEST, but we can at least hope that a series of articles such as that of "My Favourite Country and Why," may perchance enable young collectors hesitating on the borderland of specialism in making his choice in such wise as he shall not have any cause to regret.

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.
After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

Bechuanaland Protectorate.—(Vol. III. p. 116).—Mr. Oswald Marsh informs us that the complete list of control letters of the King's head stamps surcharged for use in this Protectorate is as follows:—

- ½d. deep green, B.
- ½d. yellow-green, E6
- 1d. scarlet, D4, D5, E6, F6.

Crete.—(Vol. IV. p. 211).—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. tell us that the 50l. stamp with "ΕΑΛΑΣ" surcharge in fancy capitals, which was reported as issued some months ago and then contradicted, has now actually made its appearance. The full list of varieties is, therefore, as follows:—

Surcharged "ΕΑΛΑΣ" in fancy capitals.

- 10l. carmine (Hermes)
- 20l. blue-green
- 50l. brown
- 1 dr. green and black (of 1907)
- 2 dr. brown
- 3 dr. orange and black
- 5 dr. olive-green and black.

Italy.—(Vol. IV. p. 188).—We learn from *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* that a block of four of the 2c. of 1901 has been found showing a clear double impression.

Natal.—(Vol. IV. p. 189).—A correspondent informs *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* that the 1½d. and 30s. postage stamps have been withdrawn from issue as their values are in such small demand.

New Hebrides Condominium.—(Vol. IV. p. 56).—Quoting from a contemporary, which does not appear to have honoured us with a visit this month, *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* give some interesting information regarding the stamps used here, and also a copy of the official notification regarding the opening of the Post Office. It seems that the surcharged Fiji stamps were first issued on October 29th, 1908, and they were thus on sale a few weeks before the New Caledonian stamps surcharged in Paris. The Fiji Government only charged the modest sum of £13 for the stamps it supplied. We are told that "the two issues are used together pending the arrival of a new general issue, which will probably show us local views and objects. Two obliterating stamps are used, an English one (New Hebrides) and a French one (Niles Hebrides). Both are used indiscriminately, just as they are handy."

The official document relating to the opening of the Post Office is as follows:—

Official Notification re the Opening of the Condominium Post Office.

1.—On and after the first day of December, 1908, stamps of the issues of New South Wales and New Caledonia respectively shall cease to be affixed to letters, etc., transmitted to places in and beyond the New Hebrides through the Condominium Post Office, and postage on such letters, etc., shall be prepaid only by affixing stamps of the issues of the Fiji and New Caledonia surcharged with the inscription "New Hebrides Condominium," or "Niles Hebrides," or by such other stamps as the Resident Commissioner may from time to time by notification direct.

2.—On and after the first day of December, 1908, any letters, etc., transmitted through the Condominium Post Office to places in and beyond the Group, bearing stamps

of issues other than those directed by the Resident Commissioner, shall be considered as unpaid, and postage of double deficiency shall be payable and such surcharge shall be marked on the article at the office of origin.

3.—All moneys received from the sale of stamps at the Condominium Post Office shall be credited to the funds of the joint Administration.

4.—Interim use of surcharged Fiji stamps authorized. Stamps of the Colonies of Fiji imprinted with the words "New Hebrides Condominium" may be used from the date of this regulation of the first of December, 1908, concurrently with those of N.S.W., and New Caledonia, for the prepayment of postage on correspondence with places in and beyond the Hebrides.

Published and exhibited, etc., this twenty-ninth day of October, 1908.

For H. B. M.'s Commissioner,
(Signed) M. KING.

For the High Com'r of the French Republic,
(Signed) CH. NOUFLARD.

—L. Bergasse, Noumèa.

Nicaragua.—(Vol. IV. p. 189).—We learn from *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* that all the stamps of the 1905 type recently issued in new colours, with the single exception of the 6c., have been suitably surcharged for use in the Province of Zelaya, so we now have to record the following:—

New Series. No wmk. Perf. 12.

Surcharged "B—Dpto. Zelaya" in two lines.

- 1c. bright green
- 2c. vermilion
- 3c. reddish orange
- 4c. violet
- 5c. deep steel blue
- 10c. deep brownish lake
- 15c. slate
- 20c. olive brown
- 50c. myrtle
- 1p. orange yellow
- 2p. rose carmine

Sierra Leone.—(Vol. IV. p. 202).—A correspondent informs *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* that the 2d., 4d. and 5d. stamps in the new colours have now been issued. The complete list of values that have now appeared in the colours conforming to the Crown Agent's new scheme is as follows:—



Wmk. Multiple Cr. C.A. Perf. 14.

- ½d. green
- 1d. carmine
- 2d. grey
- 2½d. ultramarine
- 3d. purple on yellow
- 4d. black and red on yellow
- 5d. violet and olive
- 6d. purple and bright purple
- 1s. black on green
- 2s. purple and blue on blue
- 5s. green and red on yellow

Spanish Guinea.—(Vol. IV. p. 9).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the complete set of stamps which we chronicled on page 9, but as the colours of many of the values differ from the descriptions already given we give the list again.

The inscription on these stamps means "Spanish Possessions in the Gulf of Guinea," and they are intended for use in Spanish Guinea proper, Fernando Poo, and Elobey, Annobon and Corisco, and supersede the separate issues for these Colonies.

No wmk. Perf. 14.
1c. orange-brown
2c. rosine

5c. myrtle
10c. orange-vermilion
15c. black-brown
20c. deep reddish mauve
25c. indigo
30c. chocolate
40c. crimson
50c. purple-black
1p. pale green
4p. orange
10p. salmon

Tasmania.—(Vol. IV. p. 152).—A correspondent has shown *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* the ½d. on Crown A. paper, perf. 12½, in green instead of deep green.

Western Australia

As Collected in the Simple Life

BY J. IRELAND

THE designs of the stamps of Western Australia are unique, and it is a country that should be well represented in a general collection, but the reverse is generally the case. Very few collectors take up Western Australia with the object of getting it anything like complete and as the stamps in nice condition are not plentiful they take looking for, and collectors do not as a rule look for stamps of a country they are not particularly interested in. The reason of the lack of interest is, I believe, the unwieldy list in the catalogue and I think this will explain the absence of sets in collections to a great extent.

The object of this article is to give collectors a groundwork on which to build up a collection of Western Australian stamps.

In order to do this we must ignore watermarks, different methods of separation, and surcharges, in order to keep the numbers down. Accepting this as a principle, turn up Western Australia in Stanley Gibbons' catalogue and see how we can form the stamps into sets, for odd stamps interest no one when making a collection.

The best way will be to classify them by the methods of production. These are (a) lithographed; (b) engraved; and (c) surface printed. Take the lithographed set first, leaving out shades as being the result of different printings, the following will be the first set:—

1854-7. Lithographed.

2d. brown on red. 6d. bronze
4d. blue 1s. brown

Four in set.

Now take the engraved set. This is type I. in the catalogue.

1854. Line Engraved.

1d. black 4d. blue (1860)
1d. rose (1861) 4d. vermilion or rose (1861)
1d. bistre (1865) 4d. red brown (1889)
2d. vermilion (1860) 6d. sage green (1860)
2d. blue (1861) 6d. violet (1861)
2d. yellow (1865) 1s. green (1862)
2d. grey (1899)

Thirteen in set.

In 1872 a 3d. value was introduced printed by Messrs. De La Rue's well-known surface printing method. The remaining values appeared at long intervals. The ½d., 1d., and 8d. values have the word "Postage" before the value.

1872-99. Surface Printed.

½d. green	5d. bistre
1d. red	6d. violet
2d. grey (1885)	1s. green.
2d. yellow (1899).	1901. <i>New Designs.</i>
2½d. blue	2½d. blue
3d. brown	6d. violet (1906)
4d. brown	1s. olive (1907)

Thirteen in set.

Since 1902, the stamps, as new printings are made, have been produced in Melbourne. These may at once be recognised by the larger designs. They appear to be produced by lithography. The following have appeared:—

1902. Larger Designs, Inscribed "POSTAGE."

1d. rose	8d. green
2d. yellow	9d. orange
4d. brown	10d. red

Six in set.

High Values. Designs of Victoria adapted.

2s. red on yellow	10s. lilac
2s. 6d. blue on rose	£1 yellow brown
5s. green	

Five in set.—Total 41 stamps.

If you wish your collection to appreciate in value take the stamps unused. Australian stamps are generally common used, with the result that most collectors do not trouble about getting them mint. The issues before the surface printed set are now fairly scarce and will be found quite difficult enough to obtain in fine used condition. Those stamps issued since, however, are still cheap mint, as everybody being after King's heads they have not been absorbed.

Back Nos. of "The Postage Stamp."

Those of our friends who are lacking any back numbers of the present vol. will do well to write direct to our Publishers, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, 1 Amen Corner, London, E.C., for what they require. Many newagents do not care to bother about back numbers. Any number still on sale may be had for the published price and postage, *i.e.*, 1½d.

Correspondence

Tasmanian Perforations.

To the Editor "The Postage Stamp."

My dear Sir,

Since I sent you my notes *re* the "positions" of the wmk. "V. and Crown," and "Crown A." on more recent Tasmanian and West Australian stamps (which notes I see you kindly insert in your issue for 31st inst.), I have the following slight alteration to make with respect to these notes, and with this alteration, there follows an "addenda" to what I previously sent you:—

Towards the bottom of the first column on page 214 and for the first three lines in column two, I *alluded* to the fact that in the stamps of West Australia the matter is made more complicated owing to the perf. 12½ series being divided into two varieties namely, perf. 12½ × 12½, and perf. 12½ × 12. This naturally will read that the TASMANIAN stamps do not exist in these two varieties of the perf. 12½ variety, nor did I at the time think they did, as Gibbons simply lists for these Tasmanian stamps the ONE variety of the 12½ series, namely, 12½ × 12½, not naming the perf. 12½ × 12 at all. For this reason I did not trouble to gauge these stamps, but having recently got a large number to look over, I find that this second perf. 12½ × 12 does exist pretty frequently on the stamps wmkd. "V. and Crown," and I have come across so far a few with the stamps wmkd. "Crown A." also in this perf. 12½ × 12 variety, but not many so far, although I have not yet gone through many with this wmk. "Crown A." up to time of writing. Still, I see no reason why this variety of perf. should not be found on the "Crown A." wmkd. stamps as frequently as on the "V. and Crown" wmkd. stamps of this Colony of Tasmania.

This being so, I herewith give you the addenda and corrigenda as regards my previous notes commencing with the word "FURTHER," at the end of the last line but three on page 214, column one, and ending with the word or rather letter "A" on the third line of column two.

This should now read as follows:—

"Further the matter is made more complicated in the cases of BOTH the West Australian and Tasmanian stamps, because the perf. 12½ stamps really can be divided into two divisions, namely, perf. 12½ × 12½ and perf. 12½ × 12; both here again on stamps wmkd. 'V. and Crown,' as well as 'Crown double-lined A.'"

Beyond going over a few copies of the Tas. stamps, I have not yet attempted to tabulate the "positions" of the wmk. on any with the perf. 12½ × 12 variety, but I hope to do so in due course and will then make up the table of the Tas. stamps to include BOTH these perfs., in the same way as I have done *re* the West Australian stamps.

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) E. HEGINBOTTOM, B.A., F.R.P.S. Lond.

July 28th, 1909.

P.S.—This will probably mean that these TAS. stamps will have three groups of perfs. in each main division, like the West Australians have, viz. :—

I. P. 12½ × 12½.

II. P. 12½ × 12.

III. P. 11 × 11.

My table printed so far in "The Postage Stamp" of course does not at present include ? as regards TAS. stamps, only as regards West Australian stamps.

Philatelic Dictionary

BY B. W. H. POOLE

(Continued from page 213).

O. W. Official.—An overprint found upon certain stamps of Great Britain used on the official correspondence emanating from the Office of Works. They were withdrawn from use in 1904.

O. W.—These letters may occasionally be found punctured through various British stamps used in the Office of Works department.

OATMNI AKOI AΓΩEE.—The inscription found upon certain values of the Olympic Games issues of Greece meaning "Olympian Games." On many of the values the first word is contracted to "OATMI."

P.—I.—A surcharge found on certain South Australian stamps used between 1868 and 1874 to frank the official correspondence of the Government department dealing with Police affairs. In 1874 these special stamps were superseded by the general issue for official use surcharged "O S."

II.—This letter, in conjunction with a crescent and star, all enclosed in an oval, was surcharged upon certain Straits Settlements stamps intended for use in Perak.

P.A.—Another South Australian surcharge of the 1868-74 period meaning "Protector of Aborigines."

Pacchi Postale.—This inscription is shown upon the Parcels post stamps of Italy and means, of course, "Parcel Post."

Pacific Steam Navigation Co.—An important English shipping company which was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1840. It began business with Chili and Peru and received a small subsidy for carrying the mails. As the Pacific trade developed the company's steamers had quite an extensive business in carrying letters between the ports at which they called, and to facilitate the postal accounts two stamps of the facial value of 1 and 2 reales were issued. When the Peruvian Government decided to issue postage stamps they were so doubtful of the success of the innovation that not wishing to incur a greater expense than necessary, they borrowed a supply of this company's stamps and these thus formed the first issue for Peru.

Packenmarke.—The inscription shown upon the 4 kop. stamp of Wenden issued in 1863 which was intended for use upon parcels only. It means "Parcel stamp."

Packhoi.—A treaty port in the south of the province of Kwang-tung, China. The port has a population of about 20,000 and was first opened to foreign trade in 1876. There is a French postal agency at this port and since April, 1903, the Indo-China stamps used there have all been surcharged "Packhoi" or "Pakhoi."

Pago. El Argente Postal.—The inscription shown upon the type set provisional stamps issued in Tumaco, Colombia, in 1901. It is intended to show that payment may be made in silver currency.

Pahang.—One of the Federated Malay States situated on the east coast of the Malay Peninsula. It has an area of 10,000 square miles and a population of about 90,000 consisting chiefly of Malays and Chinese. It has been under British protection since 1888. Postage stamps were first issued in 1890, and in 1900 the separate stamps for this state were superseded by the general set for the Federated Malay States.

Paid, 5 cents.—The only inscription shown upon the special stamp issued by the postmaster of Boscawen, U.S.A. in 1846.

Paisa.—The value in which one of the stamps of the Indian state of Faridkot was inscribed. A paisa is a quarter of an anna and is equal to $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in English currency.

Palta.—A surcharge found upon certain Peruvian stamps used in the district of that name during a revolutionary movement in 1884.

Palazzo del Consiglio Principe e Sovrano.—The inscription shown upon the three stamps of San Marino issued in 1894 to commemorate the opening of the new Government building, and the installation of the new Regent, on the occasion of King Humbert's visit.

Panama.—A republic of Central America since November, 1903, prior to which date it was a department of the republic of Colombia. It has an area of 31,570 square miles and a population of about 350,000. It is governed by a president and a small executive. The chief town, which bears the same name as the republic has a fine cathedral. The original town was founded in 1518, and was destroyed by Morgan, the buccaneer in 1671. The present town dates from 1673. In 1904 a cer-

tain portion of the territory, designated "Canal Zone," was leased to the United States. Postage stamps were first issued in 1878. (See also "CANAL ZONE.")

Pane.—One of the divisions of a sheet of stamps separated from the others by a strip of margin. Most large sheets of stamps are divided into two or more panes or blocks. As Major Evans aptly remarks a sheet of stamps resembles a window to some extent, the glass being represented by the stamps, and the framework by the margins of the sheets and the divisions between the blocks, or panes, of stamps.

Paper.—Paper is the substance upon which all stamps are printed. In its manufacture all sorts of materials, such as wood and straw, are used but the best qualities are almost invariably obtained from cotton and linen rags. Usually only the best paper is used in the production of stamps. Briefly speaking the method of manufacture is as follows: After being dusted and cleaned, the rags are mashed into a pulp, which is kept at an even temperature in a large vat, and stirred continually to keep of the same consistency. The mass is strained to remove any lumps, and the pulp is then run over a leathern surface, and from thence on to a closely woven wire cloth. This is kept perfectly level by a number of brass rollers set close together. The pulp is carried through various suction boxes, etc, to relieve it of all moisture, then between felt-covered cylinders, and finally between hot iron rollers. It is then nearly ready for use, the only thing required to complete it being sizing and another passage between the heated rollers. For description of the various kinds of paper used in the production of postage stamps see separate headings: "WOVE PAPER," "LAID PAPER" "BLUED PAPER" etc.

Paper-makers' watermark.—In the sheets of some stamps a design, monogram, or initials are shown, which are not watermarks in the sense that they have any direct connection with the stamps, but are the trade-marks of the manufacturers of the paper. The early stamps of the British South Africa Company, each sheet of which is watermarked with an elaborate monogram, and the 1871-5 stamps of Sarawak, some sheets of which are watermarked with the letters "LNL" at irregular intervals, are cases in point.

To be concluded.

The Continental Stamp Trade

Special Commission Tour

BY O. REGINALD GUM

HERE is little doubt that the ideal holidays for a philatelist, whether he be a collector or a dealer, is a rambling trip on the Continent. The pleasures and thrills of scooping in bargains are continual. "What is one man's meat is another man's poison." What is very desirous here in the U.K. is shunned and ignored by Continental dealers. It is practically a standing event to pick up Great Britain, U.S., and Hawaii stamps at figures far below even the trade quotations. Several visits to the near Continental countries chiefly in connection with stamps has shown me which nation's stamps will most readily present themselves at low rates. The above three countries in the order named are the most frequent. Probably the next places are held by British Australian Colonies, British West Indies, Newfoundland and Canadians. Of course I give these as the greater interest to British philatelists.

Such foreign countries as Persia, Denmark, Switzerland, some South Americans, or Balkan States present themselves in greater profusion, but do not carry the interest to the majority of collectors in these islands. Certainly I should point out that the German Empire does not stand in the same field as the other countries. The German stamp trade is beyond even O.G. Where catalogues exist that are 50% to 100% above our own in average pricings it is not likely that many opportunities present themselves for the foreigner to export one. But for the German system of paying, and the required credits, there is little doubt that the whole of the stamp trade would soon be in the hands of foreign firms. As it is, the trade existent with German philatelists and this country is very large, though hampered with the "coupon" custom!

Belgium.

After four hours as a miserable unit in a Belgian mail boat, even though holding a first class passage ticket, your friend O.G. perceived the twinkling stretch of lights of Ostende. Even philately is forgotten when travelling in the fine but very badly managed and controlled steamers of the Government of His Majesty Leopold II. There are certainly no stamp dealers in the fashionable resort of the French-speaking peoples; but Ostende, like its prototype, Scheveningen, possesses a great number of newsagents and stationers who are agents for dealers, just as at home. It is possible to see really "advanced" stock too. Of course, Congos are everywhere, ranging from the 5 centimes at face value to used copies of the 10 francs at a tenth part of face, and unused specimens of the same value at 50% off face. How it is done I cannot discover. The instances are not individual, but repeated. In three different towns, Ostende, Gard, and Bruxelles I noted Congos offered at these low rates.

In one Ostende stationer's I noticed such things as Cayman Islands $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. on 5s. offered at 32.00 the pair—probably not a very high figure for this rubbish considering that the agent's commission would be at least 25%. Complete sets of unused Rhodesias and B.S.A., Canadian Quebecs, and much stuff of a similar standing, that very evidently finds a goodly sale in the gay watering place. As last year, I still see the series of Bruxelles 1910 Exposition labels being offered for sale. A new series to advertise the great International Exposition to be held at Gard (or, as the French-speaking people call it, Ghent) in 1913 is shortly expected to be issued.

By means of the cheapest travelling in the world, I got from Ostende to Gard—that ancient city that still bears traces of the Spanish invasion and the religious wealth and mustiness of the middle centuries. At Gard I found the class of stamps of a little more subdued character—that is, not so flash and uncertain of *bond fides* as at the King's pet seaside. It was here I noticed in a stationer's window a sheet bearing some forty—or at least originally forty—10 franc Congos at a franc apiece; but the remaining copies were hardly worth gleaning—they had been too well picked over, and no wonder, at the price. No less than 2f. and 2-50f. was asked for the 3-50 Parcel Post Congo—evidently more difficult to obtain than the highest value.

Certainly Bruxelles had the greatest charm. The Avenue du Midi, the Strand of the "Petit Paris," would take some beating as a stamp centre. Perhaps few of its dealers enjoy the world-wide repute of their London and Paris *confrères*; being Flemish, they are contented with a local fame; but nevertheless they are worth looking up. Though I am in the Editor's service, I shall certainly not describe *what I did pick up*, as it might be used against me, and I am but human. Still, I might insinuate that Belgian dealers are yet unaware of many things even yet in their own country's stamps, yet alone a lot of things in Great Britain's postal emissions. But still I find that throughout the Continent philately has not yet reached the degree of science that it has in our own land. For the most part the foreigner is hampered by having no philatelic press. The dealers, again, are not themselves philatelists—merely selling stamps, as they would groceries, to get a profit and a living. Neither does a Continental dealer consider it advisable that his customers should get to know too much about stamps, and does not, with that end, encourage the sale of journals. Try as you may at the stamp magazines, you cannot purchase a philatelic periodical unless the merchant sells his own house organ, not containing other dealers' advertisements.

I rather prefer the mode in which Belgian dealers

conduct their business. To go into a Brussels stamp dealer's emporium, one does not stand at a counter to inspect the books of stamps for sale. You sit yourself down in a chair at a table, light a cigar or cigarette, according to your personal taste, and inspect the goods at leisure whilst Monsieur, or Mademoiselle chats over the philatelic news of the day. Of course this method of serving customers is not confined to Brussels, but will be found existent in most Continental cities. I take it, that to make your customer at ease, makes him open his pocket out wider, besides making him further enthusiastic in his hobby. The average stamp collector enjoys a pleasant hour spent in stamp "fuddling." Some of our English dealers treat their general customers with little greater courtesy than if they were selling them soup tickets on the Embankment. Certainly the dealer cannot be on the most intimate terms with every Tom, Dick, or Harry that enters his doors to buy a few coppers' worth of stamps, but the Continental system might be worth a good trial. Most of the Continental collectors have their favourite dealer, and they stick by him as their philatelic adviser. Perhaps some exploit this confidence, but then "murder will always out," and the trickster is certain to step too far.

So far as the Belgian capital is concerned, no regular open-air bourse is in existence, but the collector will soon learn the times and places where he can meet his fellow hobbyists on one of the Boulevards, especially the Midi or Waterloo. I even saw some young fellows swopping stamps one Sunday morning on the steps of the fine Palais de Justice, with as little concern for the vicinity as the bird dealer sells a pretty songster from the main entrance of the old Bruxelle Hotel de Ville. As Brussels is the capital of Belgium, so is Antwerp the Manchester. Here all the great Belgian shipping houses are situated, and great must be the quantity of high value stamps that come into the port. According to the trade, the stamps of the only protectorate, the Congo, and of Malacca, are in the greatest profusion. There are many dealers in Antwerp, but the majority are whole-sale corresponding businesses, together with several running a cigar and philatelic trade together.

A stamp trip in Belgium can only be excelled by one other—and that is to the French capital, the stronghold of the stamp trade, and the city which possesses the honor of giving to philately the first orthodox stamp dealer—that is, the first man to make stamp dealing his sole livelihood. To that centre I next continue my trip, though I went a little out of my journey to pay a visit to the ancient capital of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. A beautiful town, wherein they possess the peculiar dual of the German language, and the French coinage. No regular *proper* stamp dealers exist, that is, I mean by having city magazines. Of course there are several dealers who do a correspondence trade, and others who run stamps as a side line, as stationers, &c. In that quiet little spot, tucked away from the strife of Europe, though domineered from Potsdam, a non-commercial life finds few things in a philatelic way of any importance. Still, the home stamps can be picked up in quantity. As with the U.S. precancels in the States, the overprinted Luxembourg stamps are collected there. The stamps I saw on sale at the P.O. are overprinted

LUXEMBOURG,
09.

but carry no postal use unless mailed in quantities.

From Bruxelles to Paris I was unfortunate enough to join a French company's through train, which leaves much to be desired in comfort after a week's travelling in the luxurious carriages of the Etat-Belge.

[Mr. O. Reginald Gum will next describe his experiences of Paris, from a philatelic point of view.—ED.]

Editor's Letter Box

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Articles, Contributions and Correspondence, should be addressed to the Editor, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the correspondent. Articles, etc., not accepted, will be returned when postage is prepaid.

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Our Publishing Day and Advertisers.

In order to meet the requirements of the publishing trade our publishers now distribute copies of the Newsagents on Wednesdays instead of Thursdays as before. This compels us to go to press on Saturday morning. Hence it is absolutely necessary for our printers to have all advertisements at latest on Friday morning; consequently, copy must be in the Advertisement Manager's hands not later than Wednesday, 5 o'clock p.m.

Advertisers' Proofs.

We are anxious to consult our Advertisers' convenience to the greatest possible extent, but where proofs have to be supplied and returned our printers must have the "copy" by Thursday morning at the latest, as we now have to print off a portion of our issue on Saturday morning.

"The Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The Postage Stamp is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:—

Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C.
 F. C. Ginn, 143, Strand, London, W.C.
 Lewis May & Co., 15, King William Street, Strand, W.C.
 W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.
 James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.
 Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.
 The Court Stamp Co., 10, Maccetti's Court, Manchester.

Examination of Stamps.

So many of our readers have asked us to undertake the examination and identification of their stamps that we have made arrangements to accede to their wishes.

We shall be pleased to express an opinion as to the genuineness or otherwise of any stamps submitted to us, or identify them according to any catalogue at a charge of 6d. per stamp (minimum 1/-). All fees must be paid in advance with sufficient added to pay for return postage and registration.

Stamps upon which an opinion is desired should be mounted on a separate sheet from the letter accompanying them and addressed to "The Expert," c/o The Editor of The Postage Stamp, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton London, S.W.

Collectors' Wants and Exchanges.

Our friends will note that we have opened a column for collectors to advertise their wants, at the nominal charge of ½d. per word. Many collectors even in London have not time to hunt about for stamps, whilst others resident in the country, have not the opportunity.

By using this column Collectors' Wants will catch the eye of all who are likely to be able to supply the stamps needed, for dealers watch such advertisements very closely, and collectors who want to dispose of duplicates will not fail to note the opportunity for exchange or sale.

Advertisements of stamps for sale are not admitted to this column.

Our Binding Covers.

In navy blue buckram, gilt lettered side and back, for binding any volume of The Postage Stamp, price 1s. 6d., from Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

Our Handbills.

We are still sending out hundreds of our handbills with specimen page to kind friends who are doing their best to help us to a big circulation. We want every reader to see to it that all his stamp friends take in THE POSTAGE STAMP. Shall we send you post free a dozen or two, or fifty, or a hundred, handbills to hand to friends and enclose in letters to collector friends? If so, write Baldwins, Printers of The Postage Stamp, Tunbridge Wells.

Pitman's New Commercial Dictionary

OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

With an Appendix containing Forms of Addresses, Chemical Elements, Coinage systems, Common Foreign Phrases, Mensuration Notes, Metric System, Correction of Printers' Proofs, Notes on Punctuation, Signs and Symbols.

Crown 8vo, 188 pp.

Stiff Board Covers 9d. net; Cloth 1s. net

London: Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd., 1 Amen Corner, E.C.

Items in Brief

Since June I have UNCOVERED three new buyers. An American contributor in G.S.W.

The same writer goes on to say "MOD-ESTY PREVENTS MY GIVING ANY NAMES." Gee whiz! We should think so.

Discussing what stamp pictures "Teddy" Roosevelt will see in Africa, a writer in the Philatelic West includes "Mount Kinabrua . . . on several stamps of NORTH BORNEO and LABUAN."

Is North Borneo to be in the South African Federation too? It will be comprehensive!

To quote a little more from the same: "If you will turn to LEBANON and North Borneo in your catalog you will find some of the big game for which Africa is noted."

We only know Lebanon, Pa, and the place "where the cedars come from."

There are quite a few English catalogues with excellent features. Miss Verna Weston Hanway in the Philatelic West.

So sweet of you to say so Miss V.

After a great deal of argument, and when a lot of breath had been expended for very little results, Mr. Myers came to the relief and moved that the argument and motion be tabled. Minutes of St. Louis Stamp Collectors' Society.

We expect that after some time their breath came in short PANTS, as the novelist would say.

A TRINAERIE. Two Sicilies [went] for \$301. The Philatelic West.

What! another new kind of Blerioplane?

Carter's Monthly Record advertising in America as "The premier of English journals for STAMP and POSTCARD collectors," announces that it is "giving away at enormous outlay a \$1 piece of music, signed copy."

The title of the PIECE OF MUSIC is not mentioned. A stamp journal might publish a song "I'll sing thee songs of Philatelic-e-c."

"The circulation of C. M. R. amongst picture postcard collectors alone reaches from SUN to SUN, and is marvellous of itself."

How many SUNS do you see.

A COMPREHENSIVE ADVERTISEMENT (from Philatelic West). "Coloured new cards of New Brunswick, 10 for 20c., how to cure chilblains 10c., how to clean silver-plated goods in 2 minutes 10c. All above 30c. post free. Silver only. Stamps exchanged with collectors having 4,000 or less. Basis, Scott's. Fairville, Canada."

"U.S. Stamps bought or exchanged. Send sheets." Wouldn't blocks do?

From another American advertisement: "If any American dealer can UNDER SELL us on any of the following, we should like to have you point him out to us."

A lot of good that would do.

The POSTAGE STAMP

An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors

Founded by
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Edited by
FRED. J. MELVILLE.

No. 20. Vol. 4.
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14 AUGUST, 1909.

Price 1d.

Gossip of the Week

BY CORNELIUS WRINKLE

"Johannesburg United."



MR. D. MACKAY, Hon. Secretary of the Johannesburg United Philatelic Society, tells me that this body, which has just been formed, has incorporated with it the Johannesburg Philatelic Society and the Transvaal Philatelic Society. It is hoped by this amalgamation to largely increase the interest in philately in Johannesburg. Meetings are to be held on the second and

fourth Tuesdays of each month, and visitors from other centres will be cordially welcomed at any of the meetings.

No Dealers.

I note the new Society has made a rule against the admission of dealers, although from the clause precluding "existing dealer members" from "voting power or voice in the management of the Society" it is evident that one or both of the old Societies admitted dealers.

A Special Law.

There is one very interesting point dealt with by a Special Law, which, like those of the Medes and Persians, is unchanging. It concerns the disposal of the Society's movable assets in the event of the dissolution or liquidation of the Society:—

"All the Society's movable assets, which include the Library, all Philatelic Literature, all the Society's collections of Stamps, Furniture in connection with the Library or collections, are hereby detached from the Society and vested in three Trustees, who shall be City Members, and elected for life by the members at the General Annual Meeting of the Society in May, 1909, and who shall in the event of the dissolution or liquidation of the Society donate the aforesaid assets to a Government Educational or Scientific Institution, Museum, or Public Library in South Africa. In the event of the resignation, death, or other incapacity to act

of any Trustee or Trustees, another or other Trustee or Trustees shall be elected by vote of members at a special meeting called for that purpose.

"It shall be at the discretion of the Trustees to dispose of, by sale or otherwise as they may think fit, surplus stock or duplicates of Stamps or surplus Literature, and to hand over proceeds to the Treasurer of the Society to be applied to the General Funds.

"This Law binds all members present and future, and cannot be altered under any circumstances whatsoever, notwithstanding anything contained in Article VII of this constitution."

Society "Props."

This rule is an excellent one and worth the attention of some of our home societies who have been acquiring property in the shape of libraries and permanent collections. It seems to be inevitable that in Societies holding such properties at least a few of the members should speculate much upon what would be the ultimate end of the said properties if the Society came to an end, and it would be as well to have the powers of officials clearly defined in some such manner as in the rule just quoted to preserve them from the vague suggestions which are occasionally aroused as to *who* will get the P.O. Mauritius when the show "busts up."

British North Borneo.

I am glad to see that the evidence of the secretary of the British North Borneo Company at the recent trial has not been passed unnoticed. Mr. Castle in one of his able editorials says:

"From a philatelic point of view we are constrained to ask if the stamps produced by M. Careme in Paris are not of almost equal value and importance with the 'reprints,' apparently permitted by the officials of the North Borneo Company. At the hearing of this case, on June 25th, Mr. H. G. Forbes, the Secretary of the British North Borneo Company, examined by Mr. Travers Humphreys, said that the Company used to sell stamps to dealers direct—sometimes cancelled, and sometimes without any mark upon them. Occasionally they had spoiled or imperfect sheets of stamps, which they would sell to collectors. In cross-examination, by Mr. Curtis Bennett, Mr. Forbes said that occasionally issues of

stamps would be printed purely for the purpose of selling to dealers.

"In conjunction with this statement," Mr. Castle continues, "should be taken the evidence of Mr. Parker, the defendants, and other witnesses, and it cannot be gainsaid that the issues of 'North Borneo' during recent years are from a pure philatelic standpoint beneath the contempt of any reflecting collector."

A Good Job too.

Mr. J. N. Marsden in some notes on the stamps of Portugal in the *London Philatelist* tells of the fiasco of the Vasco da Gama series. It is curious (although a matter for our self-congratulation) that Portugal has never been able to engineer its commemorative issues to financial success.

"This series," says Mr. Marsden, "was issued to commemorate the discovery of India by Vasco da Gama in 1498. The discoverer sailing from Belem, near Lisbon, was the first to show to the world the sea-route to India by the Cape of Good Hope. His voyage and discoveries have been immortalized by the Portuguese poet Camoes, in the *Lusiads*, which have been translated into almost every European language."

The Vasco da Gama Original Pictures.

"Local artists were asked to send in designs for each of the values [eight in the series], and a public exhibition took place on the 9th of November, 1895, of all sent in.

"Those chosen were as follows:—

- "For the 2½rs., Vasco da Gama's Fleet, by Senhor Roque Gameiro.
- "5rs. The arrival of the Fleet at Calicut, by Senhor Manuel Pedro de Faria Lima.
- "10rs. Vasco da Gama embarking at the Restello beach, by Senhor Silvestre Correia Belem.
- "25rs. A figure emblematic of History writing a narrative of the Portuguese discoveries, by Senhor Joao Vaz.
- "50rs. One of the ships of the Fleet under full sail, by Senhor José Julho Gonçalves Coelho.
- "75rs. In a cross of Christ, the allegorical representation of St. Raphael on a galleon, by Senhor Joao Vaz.
- "100rs. Another view of Vasco da Gama's Fleet, by Senhor J. R. Christino da Silva.
- "150rs. The arms of King Manuel I., behind which the figure of Vasco da Gama, having on his right a representation of Belem Cathedral (built to commemorate the discovery of India), and on his left a tropical scene, by Senhor Joao Vaz."

A Great Fiasco.

"It is almost needless to say," says Mr. Marsden, "that the issue, as the previous commemorative issues had been, was a great fiasco, and the extra sale barely covered the cost of production. A very large remainder of all values still exists in the Mint, and I believe there have been negotiations for their purchase which have fallen through.

"The stamps were in sheets of 150, and were printed and perforated by Waterlow of London."

April Folly.

This makes good reading for those "reflecting collectors." One cannot but chuckle to note that the issue first saw the light of day on *April Fools' Day*, in the year of grace 1898, and it might perhaps have been wiser had the authorities antedated the public exhibition of the pictures by four days, so that *Guy Fawkes Day* in 1895 might have had just one more bonfire. May the

Portuguese postal authorities remember their April folly for many a long year. A little *Timor-ousness* about putting forth colonial issues would also be welcome.

The Swiss Union, 757 Strong.

I made reference a few weeks back to the holding of the Congress of the Swiss Philatelic Societies which are associated in the Swiss Philatelic Union. The gathering was duly held at Le Locle on Sunday, June 27th, and the report is just to hand in the *Schweizer Briefmarken-Zeitung*. The Union now includes seventeen Societies, representing a total membership of 757. This number, one would suppose, would not represent 757 different individuals as it seems more than likely that out of the 757 some would be counted for their membership in several of the seventeen units.

Heavy Work for the Official Expert.

The general philatelic news from Switzerland seems to show that there is an abundant stampic activity in the playground of Europe. Baron A. de Reuterskiold, who is "verificateur officiel" to the Union, reported that he had received 105 sendings of stamps for expertising during the year. These contained 776 stamps, of which 465 were genuine, and 311 forgeries or doubtful. His statistics are curious reading:—

260	genuine Swiss stamps	and 128 forgeries.
40	"	English Colonials and 41 forgeries.
165	"	Various and 142 forgeries.

Swiss Forgeries and Fakes.

It is not surprising of course that the Swiss stamps top the list, for any one having Swiss stamps in question would be only too glad to have the opportunity of sending them to Baron de Reuterskiold for his opinion, and 46 of the 105 sendings were from foreigners. The Swiss stamps included:—

15	Basle genuine and 9 forgeries.
12	Zurich 4 rp. genuine and 4 forgeries.
16	Zurich 6 rp. genuine and 4 forgeries.
10	Wintherthur genuine and 3 forgeries.
5	Geneva doubles, genuine, and 9 forgeries.
31	Geneva 5c. genuine and 4 forgeries.
8	Geneva 5c. green on white, genuine, and 18 forgeries or fakes.
25	Vaud 4c., apparently genuine, and 11 forgeries.
18	Vaud 5c. genuine and 3 forgeries.
13	Neuchâtel genuine and 4 forgeries.
107	other early Swiss genuine and 58 forgeries.

Dangerous Swiss Fakes.

The Baron calls attention to the large number of Vaud 4c., and of Geneva green on white that he has had to examine. This is due to very dangerous new forgeries, or rather fakes of these two stamps on the market. The Vaud 4c. are made with genuine 5c. Vauds, from which the figures 5 have been cleverly scratched out and replaced by a figure 4. These specimens are very dangerous, but they are not less so than the Geneva 5c. green on white on entire covers. These specimens are affixed on genuine letters of the period generally of 1851, from which a Vaud 5c. or a Neuchâtel has been removed and a cut-out envelope or a very clever forgery substituted, and provided with a forged cancellation. These items usually emanate from Italy, and are, in the Baron's opinion, the newest products of a well-known faker.

The Postage Stamp Binding Covers.

Handsome dark blue covers in buckram, gilt lettered side and back, may be had from our Publishers, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Amen Corner, London. Price 1s. 6d.

Arrangement of a Collection of Siam

A Suggested Scheme

By W. A. V. NEILL



IN *The Postage Stamp* for July 24th, 1909, in answer to a correspondent, the Editor invited any of his readers who were interested in Siam to draw up a scheme for the arrangement of a specialised collection of this country. After trying one or two schemes of arrangement, I have finally adopted one which seems to me to suit a specialist in this country.

I myself use Walker's Loose-Leaf No. 25, but my mode of arrangement may, of course, be used with any movable leaf album.

I have taken Gibbons' 1909 as my basis, but the collector who goes by Mr. Poole's articles in the "P.J.G.B." will find that the scheme I have outlined admits of some slight modification. For instance, page 5 will have to include four types of the 1 att on 2 atts, whereas Gibbons only list three types; and on page 6 there will be eight types of the 2 atts on 3 atts according to Mr. Poole, against five types in Gibbons.

Exception may be taken to the amount of space occupied by a collection of simply main types, but to my mind overcrowding is a thing to be avoided wherever possible.

To be brief, my scheme is to have on the first page a complete set of each issue, *without any minor varieties at all*. Minor varieties, blocks, pairs, &c., on subsequent pages.

Each main variety should have a page set apart for its own minor varieties. For instance, take page 11. The main types are—

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| | S.G. 59. | | S.G. 61. | | S.G. 62. |
| | 1 att on 64 atts. | | 1 att on 64 atts. | | 1 att on 64 atts. |
| S.G. 60. | | S.G. 61. | | S.G. 62. | |
| 1 att on 64 atts. | | 1 att on 64 atts. | | 1 att on 64 atts. | |
| (Large type.) | | (Small type.) | | (Small type.) | |
| | | (Short English surcharge.) | | (Long English surcharge.) | |

Page 11a should contain the 1 att on 64 atts (S.G. 59) in the various lengths of English surcharge; a full list will be found in the "P.J.G.B." These varieties will take up a full page, so another will have to be used for double surcharges, inverted surcharges, &c. Pages 11c and 11d will take similar varieties of the 1 att on 64 atts (S.G. 60). S.G. 61 and 62 will each require an additional page for blocks and errors.

This is, as I read it, the way in which the Taping collection is arranged, and which was always advocated by the late Editor of *The Postage Stamp*.

The following is the way I would adopt for the arrangement of what I call the "main types." The numbers refer to Gibbons' 1909 Catalogue. I have put the numbers in the same order as I arrange my collection.

In conclusion I would give one word of advice—never mix used and unused on the same page. I would suggest the formation of *two* collections on the lines I have laid down, one entirely of mint copies and the other of used.

1.	2.	3.
1 4 5 6 7	8 9 10 11 12	16 17 18 19 20 21 22
4.	5.	6.
23	25 26 27 28	32 33 34 35 36
7.	8.	9.
37	38	39 40
10.	11.	12.
41 42 49 50	59 60 61 62	68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75
18.	14.	15.
81 82 83 84 85 86 87	106 107	108
16.	17.	18.
115 116	117 118	121 122

19.	20.	21.	25.	26.	27.
123 124 125 126 127	128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136	137 138 139 140 141 142	163 164 165 166 167	161 168 169 170	171 172 174 175 173
22.	23.	24.			
143 144	149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157	158 159 160	28.		
			181 182 183 184 185 186 187		

In the Stamp Market

MR.. A. H. DINGWALL ON BELGIUM

TAKE the 1850 issue of Belgium, and there you will find the 40c. carmine with wmk., in frame, priced actually less than the lower values, the 10 and 20cts.; will those people who are anxious to unload please send me their fine specimens at about 1/- to 1/3 a-piece, and I will take as many as they can send along? The 1c. deep green, or, indeed, in any shade, has been difficult to acquire for many years past, and my inquiries in various countries only elicited the response that the stamp was considered a scarce one, and that if I wanted to buy I must be prepared to pay so-and-so, a price which left no profit for selling.

Go on to the next issue, that of 1863, and note that the 10c. brown is priced with the 12½ perf. as much as that with the far commoner 12½ × 13½, whereas in buying by hundreds, as I have done, I never found more than 10% of the 12½ perfs., and even a lower percentage of the ones with 14½ perf., which, however, is catalogued higher, but is still cheap compared with the common variety.

The most glaring inconsistency is, however, to be found in the prices of the 40c., which, had I the making of a catalogue, would appear thus—40c. 12½ × 13½, from 2d. to 4d., according to condition; 40c. 12½, 1/6 to 2/-; 40c. 14½, 3/- to 4/-; it is really scarce with this perforation, for I have bought the stamp by hundreds and have not found 5%, although the stamps came to me from all different parts of the Continent, when perforations were not studied by collectors, and little by dealers, who used often to send me a lot and ask me to pick out any varieties I required at a certain price all round. Halcyon days, alas, gone for ever!

Now we come to the 1865 issues, and here again there are many opportunities. How many of you, I wonder, possess a copy of the 1fc., 14½ × 14? It is priced at 8/- against 6/- of the same stamp perf. 15, but I would guarantee you would find a dozen specimens of the latter to one of the former stamp, which is, indeed, a very scarce stamp used, more so, in my opinion, than the 5c. so highly prized at a catalogue price of 20/-. The 40c. carmine, again, with this perforation is far scarcer than the same stamp perf. 15, and I should price the latter stamp at 3d., the former at 1/-, but both stamps are worth considerably more if really fine—that is, lightly post-marked and deep shade, a combination rarely obtained, as this issue, as, indeed, most Belgian stamps, were so heavily obliterated. Of the scarcer issue there is also an

unchronicle variety which is, as one might expect from its omission, very difficult to obtain, and that is a 30c. black-brown, worth, at least, 5/-, as I have found three in a large unsorted parcel of 900 on pieces of original. There is also a very deep brown (but not black) in the perf. 15 variety of this stamp, which is also scarce, and is not specially mentioned in the catalogue, although it is a distinct shade quite different from the others. The deep blues of both issues are also well worth looking for, and I see Gibbons are offering them at 2d. each, at which price I am a buoyant buyer.

Let us hurry on to the 1866 issue before we are tempted to break the tenth commandment and covet all these alluring varieties which exist in this fascinating volume; the very first stamp, the 1c. grey, is also very much underpriced used, it is comparatively common unused, but a strip of four used is a rara avis, and even single specimens are by no means easily discovered. There have been very few in the parcels I have bought from Belgium, and now they are all gone, I regret to say, at catalogue price or below, although I feel confident in affirming that I did not find 10% in any lot. I have also found the 2c. blues of the perf. 15 difficult to obtain used, especially the 2c. ultramarine, but they are all far scarcer than the same stamp in the other perf., but the 5c. brown seems to be commoner in perf. 15 than in 14½ × 14.

There is not much else in this country which has such a splendid variety of shades, so that practically each issue requires a large amount of study; but I would mention that town postmarks are well worth looking for on the 1865 issue, also that the 20c. milky blue of 1869 is scarcer than the catalogue price would suggest, also that really fine copies of the 50c. violet, 1883, at 8d., are desirable investments, and that in the unpaid issue of 1870 the 20c. blue used is much scarcer than the same stamp unused, whereas the difference in the catalogue is only 1d.—A. H. DINGWALL, in *The Stamp Lover*.

Bargains in Stamps.

If you want real bargains in Postage Stamps read the advertisement pages of *The Postage Stamp* every week. Every week there is something new, and many special bargains. If you miss a week you may miss the very stamp you want to complete a series

The Stamps of Abyssinia

BY FRED. J. MELVILLE

Continued from page 220.

Postage Due Stamps.

1896. Seven values. The postage due stamps of Abyssinia, although they may be omitted from collections where simplification is desired, cannot well be neglected in an article on the subject, as they are so closely similar to the regular postage stamps that a beginner might be puzzled to place them in their proper section without some guidance. To a small extent also some of the postage dues were admitted during a temporary shortage for use as regular postage stamps.

The first postage due stamps made their appearance in 1896, and consisted of a series of seven stamps all of the Menelik head design, overprinted with the Amharic inscription Askafil, signifying "pay it" or "to pay," the inscription being in a scroll shaped design. The overprint is in black on $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, 4 and 8 guerches stamps and in red on the 1, 2 and 16 guerches.

There are varieties of the three highest denominations in which the surcharge has been omitted, not due to errors in the setting of the surcharge, but more probably to sheets of the stamps being left entirely unsurcharged. They differ from the ordinary postage stamps of these denominations in design, being of the portrait type while the regular postage stamps of 4, 8 and 16 guerches are in the same colours, but in the "arms" type.

A considerable amount of controversy (some of it carried on at white-heat) raged on the Continent over these postage dues a few years after their emission. It would serve no useful purpose to enter upon the arguments here, except to say that on the one side letters were produced from private individuals to show that the stamps were not in use in Abyssinia, and on the other hand M. Maury, of Paris, produced official letters which showed that they were in use for a time and giving reasons for their discontinuance, which discontinuance has, however, proved to have been only temporary.

The late M. Maury, of Paris, was the accredited agent of the Negus in Paris for the sale of Abyssinian stamps there. He stated, in reply to his critics, that until the issue of the stamps was officially notified to him he did not sell any of them. The notification first came by telegram and was followed by a letter, of which the following is an extract:—

Paris,
November 18th, 1896.

My dear Sir,

I am informed from Harrar that the Menelik cards and the postage due stamps are in circulation.

The letter, which contained other information, was signed by a Deputy, who was also a

French Minister Plenipotentiary, and held the procurator of the Abyssinian Postmaster-General.

The matter was not left at this, and the following letter from the same "Deputy and Minister Plenipotentiary," M. Francois Deloncle, was afterwards printed and is quoted from *Smith's Monthly Circular*, which journal followed the French controversy at the time:—

Paris,
September 26th, 1901.

Dear Sir,

You have asked me at what date the postage due stamps of Ethiopia were put into circulation in that country, between Harrar and Addis Ababa.

I have investigated the matter, and am able to inform you that they were first employed in October, 1896. The instructions for their use were similar to those of the French administration for the employment of the postage due stamps of France.

But after a few months these postage due stamps fell into desuetude on account of the inconvenience (easily understood in the case of an organisation still in a rudimentary state), which this system of collecting charges caused the officials of the Ethiopian Post Office. From that time they reverted to the English and German plan, which is worked without postage due stamps.

It is as commissary of M. Leon Chefneux, since October 5th, 1894, to the French Government in all matters relating to the post office and postage stamps of Ethiopia, that I give you the above information, authorising you to make such public use thereof as you may think proper.

I am, etc.,

FRANCOIS DELONCLE.

Monsieur Arthur Maury.

These letters, although they show that M. Maury had every justification for selling them as stamps in use in Abyssinia, have not entirely re-instated the stamps in the regard of the collector, M. Kohl in his catalogue still referring to them as "Pariser Phantasiewerk."



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Stamps of the Menelik head type of 1894,
overprinted "ASKAFIL."

Overprint in Black or Red.

	Unused.		Used.	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
½g. green, black surcharge -	0 4	0 2		
½g. rose, " " -	0 5	—		
1g. blue, red " " -	0 6	0 6		
2g. brown, red " " -	0 8	0 4		
4g. claret, black " " -	0 2	—		
8g. mauve, " " -	0 2	2 0		
16g. black, red " " -	0 2	1 0		

Varieties without overprint.

4g. claret - - - -	3 0	—
8g. mauve - - - -	3 6	—
16g. black - - - -	3 6	—

1905. Seven values. These are in both the Menelik and the arms designs, with various overprints in various colours. The first type of the "T," signifying "Taxe," has no projection at the base, the second type has prominent projections at the base. The third variety of overprint follows the French "postage due" inscription, "Taxe a percevoir"—amount to receive.



T

Stamps of Portrait and Arms types, overprinted "T" without base projections.

Overprint in Blue or Violet.

	Unused.		Used.	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
½g. green - - - -	—	1 0		
½g. red - - - -	—	1 3		
1g. blue - - - -	—	2 0		
2g. brown - - - -	—	2 6		
4g. claret - - - -	—	3 0		
8g. mauve - - - -	—	4 0		
16g. black - - - -	—	4 0		

T

The same designs overprinted "T" with base projections.
Overprint in Blue or Violet.

	Unused.		Used.	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
½g. green - - - -	—	0 9		
½g. red - - - -	—	1 3		
1g. blue - - - -	—	—		
2g. brown - - - -	—	2 6		
4g. claret - - - -	—	4 0		
8g. mauve - - - -	—	5 0		
16g. black - - - -	—	7 6		

TAXE
A
PERCEVOIR
T

The same designs but overprinted "TAXE A PERCEVOIR T."
Overprint in Blue or Violet.

	Unused.		Used.	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
½g. green - - - -	0 6	0 6		
½g. red - - - -	—	—		
1g. blue - - - -	—	—		
2g. brown - - - -	—	—		
4g. claret - - - -	—	—		
8g. mauve - - - -	—	—		
16g. black - - - -	7 6	7 6		

1907. Seven values. The last of the three varieties of surcharge is here repeated, along with the figures of value between stars, as in the ordinary postage stamps of the 1907 series. These are said to have been used provisionally as ordinary postage stamps during a temporary shortage of the regular postage stamps. The overprint is in violet.

☆1/2☆ * 1.*

Same designs overprinted "TAXE A PERCEVOIR T" and figures of value between stars.

Overprint in Violet.

	Unused.		Used.	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
½g. green - - - -	—	—		
½g. red - - - -	1 0	—		
1g. blue - - - -	—	—		
2g. brown - - - -	1 9	—		
4g. claret - - - -	3 0	—		
8g. mauve - - - -	5 0	—		
16g. black - - - -	—	—		

Bibliography.

Very little has been written on the subject of these stamps, but we append a list of the chief articles which may be referred to by the student.

First issues and postage dues. *Smith's Monthly Circular*, Aug., 1901; Jan., 1902.

General. [L.G.Dorpat]. *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal*, Dec. 30th, 1905. [Maury]. *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, March 25th, 1902. [Nankivell]. *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*, June 3rd, 1905. [Melville]. *Connoisseur*, April, 1907.

Back Nos. of "The Postage Stamp."

Those of our friends who are lacking any back numbers of the present vol. will do well to write direct to our Publishers Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, 1 Amen Corner, London, E.C., for what they require. Many newsagents do not care to bother about back numbers. Any number still on sale may be had for the published price and postage, i.e., 1½d.

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.
After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

Antigua.—(Vol. IV. p. 188.)—A new variety of the 1d. stamp on CC paper is reported in *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* as follows: "We have received the 1d. Crown CC wmk. on a new paper of a greyish blue shade, very distinct from the previous white paper."

Argentine Republic.—(Vol. IV. p. 116.)—Several of our contemporaries report the issue of 1c. and 50c. stamps in the new type showing portrait of General San Martin. The complete list of values issued is, thus, as follows:—

New design. Wmk. Sun. Perf. 13, 13½.

1c. brown ochre
2c. chocolate
3c. green
4c. pale purple
5c. dull carmine
10c. slate green
12c. pale orange brown
12c. dull blue
15c. yellow green
30c. claret
50c. black

Canada.—(Vol. IV. p. 130.)—The imperforate 2c. King's head stamps, to which we referred on page 130, have now been issued according to several of our contemporaries. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* tells us that all sheets seen up to the present have the marginal plate number 13.

China (Russian).—(Vol. II. p. 140.)—On the authority of a German journal, *Smith's Monthly Circular* chronicles the new 50kop. Russian stamp with the surcharge for use in the offices maintained in China.

No wmk. Overprinted with varnish lines.

Surcharged in black.

50 kop. yellow-green and mauve

Crete.—(Vol. IV. p. 223.)—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. now send us the 25l. (of 1907) surcharged "ΕΑΑΑΣ" in fancy capitals. This value was listed from "specimen" copies some months ago but it has only been placed on sale quite recently. The full list of varieties with this surcharge is now as follows:—

Surcharged "ΕΑΑΑΣ" in fancy capitals.

10 l. (Hermes)
20 l. blue green
25 l. blue and black (of 1907)
50 l. brown
1 dr. green and black (of 1907)
2 dr. brown
3 dr. orange and black
5 dr. olive green and black

Dominican Republic.—(Vol. II. p. 272.)—We take the following interesting paragraph from *Mekael's Weekly Stamp News*:—"Sometime in 1907 the *Weekly* chronicled on my authority the entire set of stamps of the Dominican Republic of 1906 with black centre as having appeared on paper with watermark of crosses and circles. The set is thus catalogued by Stauley Gibbons, though others catalogue only the 1c., 2c. and 5c. values, which have been in circulation for about two years. My report at the time was based on private information from the party at Santo Domingo who holds the contract of the government to supply postage stamps, and I believe that nearly all the values exist on watermarked paper, but are

being kept out of circulation until the stock of the respective values on unwatermarked paper is exhausted. The 10c. value has just been issued on paper with above watermark." From this it would appear that the only values actually placed on sale are as follows:—

Wmk. Crosses and Circles. Perf. 14.

1c. rose red and black
2c. chestnut "
5c. blue "
10c. purple "

Elobey, Annobon and Corisco.—(Vol. IV. p. 188.)—On page 188 we chronicled a provisional 25c stamp and we now learn that only 100 of these were issued. Two more provisionals of a similar character are reported and as this Spanish colony has now ceased to exist as a separate stamp issuing country (the general issue listed under "Spanish Guinea" on page 224 being used) it is to be hoped we shall be free from further surcharged varieties. The list of recent provisionals is as follows:—

No wmk. Perf. 14.

Surcharged in black.

5c. on 3c. red
5c. on 4c. green
25c. on 10c. lilac

New Hebrides Condominium.—(Vol. IV. p. 223.)—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that in a fresh supply of these values just received they note that "in the 5d. stamps the bar across the word FIJI is of a lighter and brighter green quite different from the old ones, and in the 6d. the bar is a much deeper red—a totally different shade. The 1/- stamp also has a bar in deeper red, the same as the 6d., and is on multiple watermarked paper." The latter is a distinct novelty and makes the complete list of varieties as follows:—



King's Head Stamps of Fiji surcharged as above.

Wmk. Crown C.A. Perf. 14.

½d. green
2d. purple and orange
2½d. purple and blue on blue
5d. purple and green
6d. purple and carmine
1s. green and carmine

Wmk. Multiple Cr. C.A. Perf. 14.

½d. green
1d. carmine
1s. green and carmine

North Borneo.—(Vol. IV. p. 20.)—There are rumours that a new set of pictorial stamps will be issued here shortly.

Papua.—(Vol. IV. p. 201.)—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. tell us that in a supply of stamps recently received all the 4d. were perf. 12½. It is fairly evident that the two machines—11 and 12½—are used haphazardly

and possibly both varieties will, in the long run, turn out to be of equal value.

Russia.—(Vol. IV. p. 82).—The *London Philatelist* reports the issue of the 3 kop. value in the new type, and we learn that the 35 kop., in the old design, has been issued with the varnish lines. The list of new varieties to date is as follows:—



New design. No wmk. Overprinted with varnish lines.

- 1 kop. orange
- 2 " green
- 3 " carmine
- 4 " carmine
- 7 " blue
- 10 " blue

Old design. No wmk. Overprinted with varnish lines.

- 14 kop. blue and rose
- 15 " claret and blue
- 25 " pale green and mauve
- 35 " green and purple
- 50 " yellow-green and mauve
- 70 " orange and pale chocolate.

St. Kitts-Nevis.—(Vol. III. p. 81).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 1s. stamp on the paper with multiple watermark, making the list of varieties now issued with this watermark as follows:—

Wmk. Multiple Cr. C.A. Perf. 14.

- 1d. green and lilac
- 1d. green
- 1d. carmine and black
- 1d. carmine
- 2d. brown and lilac
- 2½d. ultramarine and black
- 2½d. ultramarine
- 3d. orange and green
- 6d. violet and black
- 1s. grey-green and orange

Salvador.—(Vol. III. p. 70).—It is rumoured that an entirely new set will be issued here shortly.

Spain.—(Vol. IV. p. 162).—Several of our contemporaries announce that a new 15c. stamp is to be issued in the near future on which the portrait of the King will occupy a smaller space than is now the case, and a crown will be introduced into the upper portion of the design.

Spanish Guinea.—(Vol. IV. p. 224).—Two 5c. provisionals, similar to those listed under "Elobey, Annobon and Corisco," have been issued here according to *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*. The surcharges are similar to the variety mentioned on page 263 of our last volume.

Provisionals.

- No wmk. Perf. 14*
- 5c. on 3c. violet
 - 5c. on 4c. pale green
 - 5c. on 10c. bistre

Western Australia.—(Vol. IV. p. 211).—*The Australian Philatelist* states that "with the next printing, the colour of the 2s. value will be changed to light blue."

From the Current Newspapers

Rival Post Offices.

In a few days the French Post Office is to have an active competitor in the shape of a new co-operative postal association, formed by some 150 dismissed postal servants.

These, under the direction of MM Barbut and Simounet, the postal officials who took a prominent part in the recent strike, are organising a service in all those branches of the postal business not claimed as a monopoly by the Post Office. This includes the distribution of newspapers, circulars, samples, catalogues, etc., also the collection of accounts and debt collecting.

The new association, which will start operations on August 10th, is known as the "Laborieuse." It is understood already to have been promised the custom of some 90,000 firms, tradesmen and private individuals, who at present utilise the French Post Office for distribution of their trade circulars, samples, account collecting, etc.

Each of the 150 members of the "Laborieuse" has subscribed a £4 share. Besides this, the association has at its disposal a working capital of £300. Members of the co-operation will be employed in turn in different departments.

There will be the same pay for everybody—four shillings per day, plus a proportion of the profits at the end of the year. All will wear a uniform, consisting of a blue jersey, white trousers, and peaked cap with the association badge. The new concern limits its operations to Paris for the present.—*Daily Mail, August 3rd, 1909.*

A New Way With Letters.

In explanation of not having answered letters received from the clerk of the St. Austell guardians, one of the

overseers of St. Sampson's parish wrote:—

"I may have received them, but still not have opened them, making it a rule of my life not to open letters until have goodly number, then make a day's work of it.

"Always remember you are paid for your letter writing; I am not."—*Evening News, July 31st, 1909.*

We wonder if any of the letters in the gentlemen's possession have any old stamps on them?

Speechless Emperor.

The Emperor Menelik, says an Exchange telegram, has had an apoplectic stroke, which has taken away his faculty of speech.

He continues to receive his Ministers, but the doctors fear that the attack may prove fatal.

—*Evening News, July 31st, 1909.*

The news comes as a curious suggestion that the romantic story of the "Vacant Throne" stamp may be truly prophetic after all.

The Mexican Earthquake.

The newspapers state in connection with the recent earthquake in Mexico that the walls of the Cathedral in the Plaza Mayor, of Mexico City have been cracked. The Cathedral is depicted on the 5 pesos stamp of the beautiful 1899-1903 issue of Mexico. The 17,000ft. high peak of Popocatepetl too is shown on the 1 peso stamp of the same issue.

Correspondence

N.B.—Correspondence on all matters of general philatelic interest is cordially invited. All letters for publication should be sent to the Editor, The Postage Stamp, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, and letters should also be distinctly marked INSIDE with the name of this journal.

Nicaragua Surcharged "Zelaya."

To the Editor "The Postage Stamp."

Dear Sir,

I have the Nicaragua changed colours 6c. surcharged Zelaya which you say has not been issued.

6c. olive brown

also the

10c. claret
15c. slate
20c. olive
50c. green
1p. orange
2p. red

surcharged with a large OFFICIAL.

I think Mr. Poole makes a mistake in his Philatelic Dictionary, it is not Pago el argente, but Pago el Agente Postal (Postal Agent).

Gand is the French, not Ghent in O. R. Gum's article.

Yours faithfully,

Aug. 5th, 1909.

L. MINNER.

Cleaned 1d. Blacks and 2d. "No Lines."

To the Editor "The Postage Stamp."

Dear Sir,

Your readers should be warned against an individual who is in the habit of offering cleaned and gummed copies of 1d. blacks and 2d. "no lines," generally at a quarter catalogue in reply to advertisers in philatelic journals.

I know of an instance where 9s. was paid for two "unused" 1d. blacks, and the same collector would probably have paid 10s. for a 2d. "no lines" in like condition, but was fortunately warned in time.

Collectors should remember that it is unnecessary to hawk stamps like 1d. blacks and 2d. blues at a quarter

catalogue in order to find purchasers. If such stamps are offered from unknown sources at such prices, it is more likely than not there is something wrong with them.

Yours faithfully,

July 22nd, 1909.

J. IRELAND.

Tasmanian "Mixed Perfs."

To the Editor "The Postage Stamp."

Dear Sir,

Thanks for further insertion of my remarks *re* Tas. stamps in this last number of your paper. I regret when writing you I omitted to state that I have come across various "MIXED PERFS." in some of these Pictorials, which are listed in no catalogue I think, that is with perfs. similar on three side and differing on the fourth, or else similar on the top and left or right side and equally similar on the opposing 2 sides. These of course cannot be called compound perfs., as the latter apply to stamps whose perfs. on the top and bottom are SIMILAR, and perfs. on BOTH sides are the same, although of course differing from the perfs. on top and bottom. Later on I hope, when I send you my complete amended tables of these varieties, to include these as a sub-variety. We must therefore reluctantly come to the conclusion that New Zealand is not the only Colony having "mixed perfs." *re* some of its stamps; of course as regards Tas. stamps the Queen's head 9d. blue wmk. "Crown A" has recently also been produced with these "mixed perfs." I should add that I have come across them as regards the pictorials on stamps wmk. V. and C. as well as Crown A, though the latter seems considerably scarcer than the former, and neither are in any way common from the numbers I have gone through.

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) E. HEGINBOTTOM, B.A., F.R.P.S. Lond.

Aug. 5th, 1909.

Get your Business in Order

A Few Words to the Wise Stamp Dealer

BY O. REGINALD GUM

THE new season is close at hand, closer perhaps than some of us realise. In a few short weeks we shall be in the midst of a whirl of philatelic activities, and your time will no doubt be very fully occupied.

So it would be well for you to take the opportunity while things are fairly quiet to take the time to plan your advertising for the new season on a bold but well-thought-out scheme.

Prepare your advertisements in advance as far as it is possible to do so, and be prepared to supply a constant change of copy. Remember that your advertisements need as much "dressing" as your shop window if they are to attract custom.

The Postage Stamp is ready to help you in your business, by giving your advertisements the widest publicity obtainable in any philatelic journal, at rates which are very moderate for the service rendered.

The tariff will be found on page 3 of the cover of this week's issue.

Book a contract for a series of advertisements now. Our Business Manager will be pleased to call upon you by appointment, and you can better spare the time for a careful consideration of the advertisement question now than when the season arrives. The Manager will be glad to render such advice, assistance, or information as you may desire.

Remember that *The Postage Stamp*, in addition to having the largest circulation, can give the PROMPTEST PUBLICITY to your announcements. It is the only independent stamp weekly in Great Britain accepting advertisements; and to keep your business thoroughly alive, and to bring it up to the fullest possible yielding capacity, you must keep on pegging away to get constant new custom, and only a weekly can enable you to do this effectively.

Send a card to the Advertisement Manager, *The Postage Stamp*, 1, Amen Corner, London, E.C., asking him to call.

"His Majesty" under the Microscope

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY JAMES SCOTT

By arrangement with Messrs. George Newnes, Ltd.



FIG. 1.—THE KING'S CROWN ON A PENNY POSTAGE STAMP, MUCH MAGNIFIED.

BE-LIEVE all readers will be willing to acknowledge that as a specimen of engraving a penny postage-stamp is a fine piece of work. A mere superficial glance proves that it is a most excellent portrait, and is shaded with exceptional neatness. Indeed, I think that the workmen who make the dies from which it is printed are regarded as highly skillful. Now, I am repeatedly drumming into people's ears that minute

Nature, when magnified, discloses wonderful symmetry of design and detail. It may not be inopportune, therefore, to inspect, as a contrast, this example of man's handiwork. I gum a postage-stamp to a slip of glass and begin.

In every case the accompanying diagrams depict the specified portions of the stamp, as seen through magnified pinholes. I made the punctures with a fairly large pin, an inch and three quarters long.

Most appropriately, the King's "crown" (Fig. 1) deserves first place. This conforms to the light patch above the forehead and near the hair. The upper white line in the diagram is really the extreme top of the head, and the five lines are some of the *delicate* shading to be seen with the naked eye!

The nose (Fig. 2) thus magnified might be aptly compared with a large-toothed comb and portions of some rough indefinable figuring. About half of it is displayed, the curve of the nostril being represented at the right-hand side. Bearing in mind how neat and compact the actual stamp appears, it is strange that there is, in fact, a goodly space between the nose and the moustache. When magnified to the proportions I show, the moustache is completely outside the range of view.

The diagram of the cheek of His Majesty (Fig. 3) depicts a small area of that part of the face, just where the hair curls about slightly in front and below the ear. As will be seen, the coarseness of this actually fine bit of work is such that the figuring could very well be labelled, "A heap of stones."

The major part of the space occupied by the ear is scarcely more than a dark patch; but the lobe, or section corresponding with that which ladies pierce for the accommodation of their ear-rings, is more picturesque, as a reference to the diagram (Fig. 4) will explain.



FIG. 2.—THE NOSE.



FIG. 3.—THE CHEEK.



FIG. 4.—THE LOBE OF THE EAR.

The surroundings of the profile are also remarkable when seen under microscopical conditions. Let the reader closely examine any penny postage-stamp he likes, and then tell us whether the simple straight line which extends right round it as a border is broken or disturbed at any point. It is almost certain that the reply will be "No." Well, then, let us pass this line beneath the instrument. All looks clear as possible until we reach the exact middle of the line at the top, just above the crown. There the line, instead of seeming quite flush, is raised up for a distance equal to half its width, and embraces a fraction of the crown. Usually one of the holes by which stamps are enabled to be torn off occurs at this spot, and is indicated at the top of the diagram (Fig. 5), where a little of the illustration is omitted. The circle below this phase, containing the dark crescent, is the large jewel in the middle of the crown, right above the Maltese cross. At each side of it is a smaller jewel—oue



FIG. 5.—THE CHIEF GEM IN THE CROWN—THE PERFORATION IN THE BORDER IS ALSO SHOWN.

nearly square in outline, though obviously intended to be spherical. I suppose these things depict pearls; but how coarse they are!

If we need a good specimen of the extreme faultiness of man's finest handiwork we cannot do better than magnify the Maltese cross. This can be seen in bulk with the naked eye, occupying the exact centre of the design of the crown. I have very carefully reproduced this feature in the diagram (Fig. 6). Dots which are intended to be in the middles of the respective arms of the cross are far from their positions, the upper one being laughingly so. The figuring at the sides of the central boss of the cross is woefully at variance. One side is quite different from the other.

The bow at the bottom of the stamp affords a final curiosity (Fig. 7). Its knot, when enlarged, is seen to conform with the illustration, which might be described as some strange hand or paw, or a peculiar kind of plant; in fact, anything except what it is.



FIG. 6.—THE MALTESE CROSS ON THE CROWN IS SHOWN TO BE AWRY AND LOPSIDED.



FIG. 7.—THE KNOT OF THE BOW.

Stop Press News.

NEW PICTORIAL ISSUE.

NORTH BORNEO'S WILD BEAST SHOW.

"The animals came in two by two, One more issue," etc.

The illusion doesn't exactly fit but at the moment of going to press, Mr. Albert H. Harris, acting as showman, gives us a special press view of North Borneo's celebrated menagerie, as patronised by all the nobility and gentry owning shares in the B. N. B. Co.

Some of the animals depicted we shall have to consult our Darwinian expert upon. Suffice it to say for the present that some look good to eat and others to be eaten by.

The values seen are 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, 18 and 24 cents.

GOLDEN WEST EXHIBITION (EARL'S COURT).

A large number of the exhibits of United States stamps have been changed by the Exhibition Committee this week, and several new collections of postal issues have been placed on view.

Editor's Letter Box

Publishing Offices:—1, AMEN CORNER, LONDON, E.C.

Editorial Address:—FRED J. MELVILLE, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

Articles, Contributions and Correspondence, should be addressed to the Editor, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the correspondent. *Articles, etc., not accepted, will be returned when postage is prepaid.*

Business Communications should be addressed to the Manager, and Advertisements to the Advertisement Manager, 1, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

THE POSTAGE STAMP may be obtained through Newsagents or will be forwarded from the publishing office to any address at the following rates of prepayment: Yearly, 6s. 6d.; Half-Yearly, 3s. 3d.; Quarterly, 1s. 8d.; Single Copy, 1½d.

Our Advertisers' Offers.

Messrs. Bridger & Kay in our advertisement columns this week intimate that they have made an important purchase of a fine general collection with specialised sections. They also offer special bargains.

Mr. James Rhodes offers a long list of moderate-priced stamps, and includes the Tanger Fez locals in a set from the 5c. to 5 fcs, at 1s. 6d.

Mr. Oswald Marsh offers among other nice things a mint block of four of the Great Britain 1d. plate number 225.

Our Publishing Day and Advertisers.

In order to meet the requirements of the publishing trade our publishers now distribute copies to the Newsagents on Wednesdays instead of Thursdays as before. This compels us to go to press on Saturday morning. Hence it is absolutely necessary for our printers to have all advertisements at latest on Friday morning; consequently, copy must be in the Advertisement Manager's hands not later than Wednesday, 5 o'clock p m

Advertisers' Proofs.

We are anxious to consult our Advertisers' convenience to the greatest possible extent, but where proofs have to be supplied and returned our printers must have the "copy" by Thursday morning at the latest, as we now have to print off a portion of our issue on Saturday morning.

"The Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The *Postage Stamp* is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:—

Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C.

F. C. Ginn, 143, Strand, London, W.C.

Lewis May & Co., 15, King William Street, Strand, W.C.

W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.

James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.

Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.

The Court Stamp Co., 10, Marriott's Court, Manchester.

Examination of Stamps.

So many of our readers have asked us to undertake the examination and identification of their stamps that we have made arrangements to accede to their wishes.

We shall be pleased to express an opinion as to the genuineness or otherwise of any stamps submitted to us, or identify them according to any catalogue at a charge of 6d. per stamp (minimum 1/-). All fees must be paid in advance with sufficient added to pay for return postage and registration.

Stamps upon which an opinion is desired should be mounted on a separate sheet from the letter accompanying them and addressed to "The Expert," c/o The Editor of *The Postage Stamp*, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

Collectors' Wants and Exchanges.

Our friends will note that we have opened a column for collectors to advertise their wants, at the nominal charge of ½d. per word. Many collectors even in London have not time to hunt about for stamps, whilst others resident in the country, have not the opportunity.

By using this column Collectors' Wants will catch the eye of all who are likely to be able to supply the stamps needed, for dealers watch such advertisements very closely, and collectors who want to dispose of duplicates will not fail to note the opportunity for exchange or sale.

Advertisements of stamps for sale are not admitted to this column.

Our Binding Covers.

In navy blue buckram, gilt lettered side and back, for binding any volume of *The Postage Stamp*, price 1s. 6d., from Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

Our Handbills.

We are still sending out hundreds of our handbills with specimen page to kind friends who are doing their best to help us to a big circulation. *We want every reader to see to it that all his stamp friends take in THE POSTAGE STAMP.* Shall we send you post free a dozen or two, or fifty, or a hundred, handbills to hand to friends and enclose in letters to collector friends? If so, write Baldwins,' Printers of *The Postage Stamp*, Tunbridge Wells.

A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION TO THE POSTAGE STAMP would be an excellent gift to any friend who is interested in stamp collecting. If you will send a postal order to the publishers (Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd., 1 Amen Corner) they will see that your friend gets a copy regularly, post free. You will thus be saved all trouble yourself, and have the satisfaction of knowing that your friend is reminded of your remembrance every week of the year. If you prefer to send the copy of your first week's subscription yourself, the publishers will send this to you gratis.

	s.	d.
Yearly	6	6
Half-Yearly	3	3
Quarterly	1	6

TO SIR ISAAC PITMAN & SONS, LTD., 1 Amen Corner, London.

I enclose herewith postal order for being months' subscription (post free) to THE POSTAGE STAMP. Please send a copy weekly beginning with the issue dated to:—

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The POSTAGE STAMP

An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors

Founded by
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.
Edited by
FRED. J. MELVILLE.

No. 21. Vol. 4.
(Whole Number 99)

21 AUGUST, 1909.

Price 1d.

Gossip of the Week

BY CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Penny Postage Extension.



AM informed that the Indian Government has now under consideration the question of extending to British India post offices situated in French territory in India the benefits and advantages of our Imperial Penny Postage scheme. It is said also to be probable that the concession will be extended to French post offices in the French settlements, but I fail to see that such an extension would be proper until *la belle France* is brought into the penny postage area. But perhaps the news, although coming a long way round, may be the precursor of the greater news that Franco-British or Anglo-French penny postage is to come in the present year. I look forward confidently to the establishment this year of penny postage with France.

Sorrows of Siam.

Oh for some philatelic serum which would rid us of the surcharging scourge! The news reported on another page, that Siam is once again to open the floodgates of its "provisional" fury, will come as a blow to collectors who have been hoping that the surcharged ticals and atts which have been the plague of Siam collectors were likely to be left behind at last, and that the office boys' "big mouthfuls" of 1908 would stand good for a year or two. But no; the successors of Somdet Phra Chao Nong Ya Tho Chao Bhanurangse Swangwongse Krom Hluang Bhanuphanduwongse Wordej are determined that the practice of their eminent and "wordy" predecessor shall be continued while life shall last and while philatelists exist. Some day a Siamese Postmaster-General or Minister of Finance will arise who will change things, and then we collectors will send round the hat to build him a Wat Cheng, or temple of light, and where any employe daring to suggest a new surcharge may suffer the appro-

prate and drastic Oriental punishment of being ticalled to death, 20 ticals repeated unto twenty times twenty.

The Shop Window Exhibition.

I note that the shop window exhibition organised by the Trenton (U.S.A.) Philatelic Society, and referred to in this column a few weeks back, proved quite a success. The Society is fortunate in possessing two very able and active philatelists in Mr. E. B. Stirling and Senator E. R. Ackerman, whose exhibits loaned for the show included many fine things in postage and revenue stamps, the latter including a copy of the famous stamp imposed on the American Colonies by England under the Stamp Act of 1765, which played so large a part in bringing about the War of Independence.

I confess that I rather like the shop window idea for small exhibitions, provided that use is made of the interior of the shop for further display and for the distribution of missionary literature. The notion should certainly appeal to some of our provincial societies at home.

Two Argentine Philatelists Dead.

I regret to learn from *L'Annonce Timbrologique* of the death of two eminent Argentine philatelists, M. Rodolfo Laas, who died on May 28th, at Buenos Ayres, was Director of the South American Bank Note Company, and a philatelist of distinction. M. Eulogia Villeta, also a collector, died at Buenos Ayres on June 22nd. Our contemporary very properly says that the death of these two collectors is a great loss to Argentine philately, in the development of which both the deceased had not spared their labours.

Concerning Congresses and Conventions.

The German Philatelic Congress begins on Thursday of this week at Carlsbad, and will continue for the six days, August 19th to 24th.

The twenty-fourth Annual Convention of the American Philatelic Society will be convened on Tuesday of next week at Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The Metropolitan Philatelic Association, which is described as "America's most live, aggressive, and successful junior philatelic body," is holding its sixth annual Convention at Scranton, Pa., this week.

The Pennsylvania Philatelic Association is joining forces with the M.P.A., in convening at Scranton, August 19th to 21st.

As so many Congresses are in the air I am constrained to ask what is being done anent our own philatelic Congress. When may we expect to hear something of the plans from the gentlemen in charge of the arrangements?

Not so Slow.

"They are awfully slow in London," writes a Manchester correspondent. "What do you think of the enclosed—a registered letter for 2½d.?" The enclosure is a large envelope which had been sent as a registered letter with two 1d. stamps and one ½d. on it, and my correspondent tells me that there was no surcharge. But why dub Londoners "slow," my friend, when the letter was evidently posted at the small town of Farnham, thirty-seven and a half miles from London's philatelic avenue? And anyway the deficit was not noted by your local postal officials.

The same correspondent shows me the 1d. Control H9 postmarked July 12th, and "Roy" tells me he had it July 10th.

What shall we Collect next Season?

Mr. Frank H. Oliver discusses, in an editorial in the *Adviser*, the question, "What shall I collect when I start again in September?" My own notion is that most of us haven't finished quite what we were collecting last September, or the September before that; but I suppose there are collectors who, after the summer interval, if they take one (a stern, relentless Editor forbids me from taking one), like to get on to something quite different from that which has been monopolising their attention before.

"Arrant Nonsense."

"To many people," says Mr. Oliver, "this [question] is a matter of supreme indifference; they take any stamps that friends may give them or that they receive on their correspondence, and they buy whatever they take a fancy to at the moment. Finality or the completion of any country is of small concern. They collect for amusement, not for study or profit. The great majority of collectors are of this class, and those who say that the general collector is dead are talking or writing arrant nonsense."

Yes, indeed they are, though it is rarely that such statements appear in print. Anyone who is coming into contact, in person or by correspondence, with numbers of collectors, as most philatelic writers must do, must know that the generalist is still in the majority. The man who only attends the meetings of one small local society may get the idea that there is no such thing as general collecting; but then he has not sufficient breadth of outlook to consider the world beyond his own immediate environment. Of course it would be arrant nonsense to say that the handful of so-called specialists banding themselves together as the Mughtown-on-Slush Philatelic Society represented every phase of philatelic interest or knowledge.

Tips for the New Season.

"On the other hand," Mr. Oliver goes on, "there are a numerous body of collectors who have entirely different tastes, and who would rather have one country complete than one stamp of every country." This body of collectors, Mr. Oliver thinks, is certainly being exercised by the question, "What shall we collect next season?" Although I am not nearly so sure of it as my experienced friend, I give some of his excellent suggestions for the

new season. Australia, he points out, has become a Commonwealth, and one of the final results of that change, a unified postal system, with one series of stamps for all the States, is about to be accomplished. He goes on to refer to the South Africa Federation. Turkey, too, has achieved the impossible, and has succeeded where the Concert of Europe through its interneçine intrigues and jealousies failed. One result of a responsible and stable Government will be the suppression of the Foreign Post Offices.

Other tips are Egypt and China.

Looking Ahead.

In consequence of the above impending changes, Mr. Oliver says, there are four groups of stamps which will soon be obsolete, any of which will repay the collector who determines to collect and study them. Moreover, they include groups which appeal either to rich collectors or to those with moderate incomes. The latter will probably eschew Australia and South Africa, but the Chinese Post Offices can be completed at a small cost, and the Levant Post Offices at but a very small additional expenditure.

Additional interest is certain to accrue to the stamps of the groups mentioned, with consequent rise in prices, and those who look ahead and who buy before the rush comes will reap the benefit.

How Letters can go Astray.

The *London Philatelist* prints an extract from the *Sydney Daily Telegraph* concerning the complaint of a business firm, that the postal officials had been neglectful in having allowed two important letters that were missing to go astray. The G.P.O.'s detectives took up the matter, closely interrogated the firm's office boy, who has since confessed that he never posted the letters. The room where he lived was searched, and eighty more letters were discovered, from which the postage stamps had been removed.

An Australian Stamping Machine.

In the last Federal Session, it appears that a Bill passed its second reading in the Senate, to enable the Postal Department to authorise the use by business firms of stamping machines, similar to those in other departments. The Senate did not pass the measure. The use of such machines obviates the necessity for adhesive stamps, and there is no temptation for lads to hold back the letters for the sake of the postage. As favourable reports have been received of the working of the machine, the Bill will be re-introduced next session at the stage where it was left last year. The machines cost £5 each.

High Values Not Needed.

The Australian Correspondent who sent the extract to the *London Philatelist*, adds:—

"No doubt a new era is opening. The large firms will take up these machines, and (especially high values) current Australians will rise in price, not being wanted in the ordinary way of business for postage purposes."

I am inclined to agree with the further comment that it would not be regarded as an unmixed evil if all future issues contained no higher denomination than one shilling.

100 Not Out.

Next week we shall publish the one hundredth number of *The Postage Stamp*, and as your Cornelius has carried his bat through his first century I shall have something special to say to those readers who have loyally listened to my gossip since Number One.

A Siamese Surcharge Sensation

A Flood of New Overprints and a New Regular Issue Expected

IMPORTANT news is to hand from the Far East which, to the student of Siamese stamps, must come as a profound sensation.

It involves a great number of new surcharges to be followed by a complete new issue.

The primary cause of the flood of surcharges is a change in the subsidiary currency. But the actual extent of the varieties of old issues to be overprinted with the new values is rather vague in our present information.

The department of the Minister of Finance, as is well known to students of Siamese stamps, has always had the charge of the reserve stock of all the stamps of the country. This, owing to inadequate knowledge of the exact state of the stock at the General Post Office, and the requirements of the public, has several times in the past caused the authorities to produce necessity provisionals by surcharging. According to our present information this Department has "quantities of old stamps not at present in use, and these along with the present [current] issue are to be surcharged."

"All the existing stamps," that is, we presume, all the old as well as the current issues which the Treasury has still quantities of, are to be surcharged with the "Stang" values.

With regard to the values in "Stangs," we are authoritatively informed that the "Stang" will in future take the place of the Siamese "Att." Under the old system sixty four Atts composed the "Tical."

The Tical is equivalent to about one shilling and sixpence in English currency. In future one hundred "Stangs" (the subsidiary coinage) will compose the Tical.

Our informant also mentions that there has for some time been a difficulty in obtaining the upright oblong bi-coloured stamps of 1908 with the equestrian statue of King Chulalongkorn. This difficulty has now been overcome, fresh supplies having been issued to the post offices.

Bargains in Stamps.

If you want real bargains in Postage Stamps read the advertisement pages of *The Postage Stamp* every week. Every week there is something new, and many special bargains. If you miss a week you may miss the very stamp you want to complete a series.

Stamps by the Yard

Strip Stamps—An Innovation that may Change the Aspect of Future Specialism

AT a recent meeting of the Washington Philatelic Society the Director (Mr. Ralph) of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, which manufactures the stamps of the United States, made some interesting and prophetic announcements.

He is reported to have said, among other things, that in two years time there would be no more stamps sold in sheets. At the present time he said, the Department is investigating the merits of certain machines that were specially designed to surface print the stamps by a new process.

The design is to be on a drum, and the paper is to be on a large reel, and the stamps will be printed, gummed, perforated one way and cut into strips the other way, and the strips rolled on to reels of various sizes to supply to the post offices.

On going to the post office of the future—two years Mr. Ralph gives us for the new plans to have eventuated—the attendant will have as many reels as there are denominations. It may even be possible to use measures instead of counting. The clerk may draw out his reel along a yard measure and supply you in the style of the draper's assistant.

It is even considered probable that the attendants may be dispensed with, or at any rate considerably reduced in number by the perfecting of the vending machines of which so much has lately been heard in connection with the privately-severed varieties of recent U.S. stamps.

There is already, according to Mr. Ralph, a big demand in the United States for stamps on reels. The demand emanates not only from business houses where they use

affixing machines, but also from other houses where their convenience is recognised, inasmuch as they save employes' time in tearing the stamps into strips before use.

Thus it will be seen that if Mr. Ralph's prediction comes true, and there is good reason to suppose that he has every opportunity of feeling the trend of American opinion as to the strip system, the specialist will find himself denied the pleasure of acquiring large blocks or even the convenient and elegant block of four.

Complete strips will be too inconvenient for displaying in a stamp album, and to collect them on the entire reel would involve the use of cabinets!

One matter which Mr. Ralph does not seem to have mentioned is the gum question which has been so difficult a problem in the United States, that we have had the curious varieties of winter and summer gum. Stamps that are rolled will be much more liable to stick together. But of course, this difficulty should not be insurmountable.

Back Nos. of "The Postage Stamp."

Those of our friends who are lacking any back numbers of the present vol. will do well to write direct to our Publishers, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, 1 Amen Corner, London, E.C., for what they require. Many newsagents do not care to bother about back numbers. Any number still on sale may be had for the published price and postage, *i.e.*, 1½d.

How to Start a Philatelic Society

A Helpful Guide for the Philatelic Organiser

BY THE EDITOR

I. The Initial Meeting.

ONE of the requests we get most frequently is "will you please tell me how to form a philatelic society?" To the active enthusiasts in large centres the request may seem a rather hopeless one—hopeless inasmuch as those who are most likely to be able to conduct a society to success are (or perhaps we should say, should be) already so qualified for their task that they should not require elementary assistance from the Editor of any journal.

Curiously enough in the societies of to-day there is, with few exceptions, little originality shown. One society hits upon a successful feature and other societies take it up and work it for all it is worth. That is very proper, and the original societies cannot complain if their contemporaries bestow upon them the sincerest form of flattery. And it would be a pity, anyway, to waste good ideas by not developing them.

But the chief source of the request is in the youth, and in the collector in those smaller towns which have not yet seen the light of active and definite philatelic missionary enterprise in their own locality. We know there are a few Jeremiahs in the big towns who think that we have societies enough and to spare. But they are narrow-minded fossils who do not yet realise that the pastime of stamp collecting is pursued by a larger circle than is represented by their little band of acquaintances. There are far more collectors at the game than are dreamed of in your philately, Jeremiah *mie*.

Personally I do not see why every large school should not have its stamp club. There is much collecting going on in the schools as it is, but it is haphazard and it is wasted. A club with its official activities and its social and instructional benefits will stimulate interest and systematise the mere collecting into the practice of philately. The school collecting of to-day is wasted for want of the method and guidance and the wholesome competition which a club or society begets. It is not merely wasted. It very often is sufficiently disappointing to the youthful collector that once he gives it up he is set against stamp collecting as a childish thing, having never been shown how it could possibly be anything else than a nursery adaptation of the infantile pleasures of putting toy bricks together to make a house.

Then there must also be—we know there *are*—adult collectors in various stages of philatelic development in most communities. These collectors rarely come out of their shells—they have little inducement to do so an' they would. Their active work for stamp collecting, which would be a benefit to themselves as well as others, is lost for want of an opportunity such as even a small local society would afford.

In moderate-sized towns it will always be possible to get a few stamp collectors gathered together, and where this can happen it is strange if they cannot do each other a bit of good by personal contact. The small societies, working unobtrusively, may do a great deal for the knowledge of stamps; and as it often happens in the smaller towns there are fewer distractions to crowd the wakeful hours, so we might expect that collectors in those towns may be able to give more time to their stampic studies than the hustlers and bustlers of metropolitan and otheropolitan life.

We make no apology therefore for answering the question, "How can I form a philatelic society?" at some length in these columns, and we trust our suggestions may be of some little service to those who are anxious to direct their energies into channels of stampic organisation.

The First Point.

First of all, be quite sure of yourself. Be sure that you really want to work up a philatelic society—i.e., a society which is to do some service for philately and the study of stamps. If you have other motives of prospective personal gain you may as well dismiss the idea of a society at once. The promoters of a successful society must not be open to the criticism of self-seeking, and particularly to carrying on a stamp business on preferential terms.

Having decided then that a society is wanted in your neighbourhood, and that you feel yourself drawn to the work, the next step is to hunt out all the persons interested in stamps in the locality. A few interested friends may be invited to help in arranging a meeting to discuss the proposal. The assistance of the local press may here be invited by a letter to the Editors, which letter should be quite brief and to the point, e.g.:—

To the Editor, ——— Weekly News.

Sir,

It is proposed to form a philatelic society in this town for the promotion of the study and collection of postage stamps. As there must be many collectors in ———, who would be interested in this proposed society, may I ask that you will kindly intimate through your columns that a meeting will be held on ——— day, the ——— (date), at ——— (place) to further consider the advisability of forming such a society, and if desirable to take steps to form the society. Anyone interested in stamp collecting will be cordially welcomed at this meeting, or may communicate their desire to take part in the society, if formed, to

Yours faithfully,

A.B.C.

Hon. Secretary, *pro tem*.

Address ———

Date ———

This letter should be copied and addressed to every local editor, the usual manner of addressing an editor being simply,

The Editor,

Ambleton Daily Trail,

——— St.

Ambleton.

A communication to the local press may reach a number of collectors with whom you personally have no opportunity of getting directly in touch. But you must also exert every endeavour to ferret out the collectors in the neighbourhood, and you must get all your associates to assist you in spreading the news of the proposed society. There is no occasion to bore all your non-collecting friends by too much talk of stamps—that would do the society more harm than good—but you will find that there are numerous opportunities for tactfully introducing the subject, and so ascertaining whether there is any latent philatelic interest.

It will be as well if prospective members write you an answer to the letter in the newspapers, that you send them a brief but courteous invitation to meet you, or to come to the inaugural meeting.

For the purpose of this article, so that it may be of the most service to those who are not *au fait* with matters of society management, we will touch upon

many points which may seem unnecessary to the old hand. But beginners are often puzzled over the most elementary methods of procedure.

At the Inaugural Meeting.

Beforehand you will have decided with your co-workers who is the most suitable for the position of Chairman. The Chairman will be actually decided by the vote of the meeting, but as most inaugural meetings need to be led—most of those present being hitherto unknown to each other—you will have arranged who is to be nominated to the chair. You will have chosen the man most fitted to take the lead on such occasions, a man with no personal axe to grind, and one who, if not exactly an orator, can speak to the point, and can be depended on to give a fair hearing to all speakers whether for or against the motions before the meeting.

The Hon. Secretary, *pro tem*, will act as Secretary to the inaugural meeting and will take full notes on what transpires for the purpose of the minutes, or record of the meeting.

The meeting will be held either in a private house or a room hired for the purpose in some central position. If there be no prospect of a large attendance, the meeting might well be held in your private house or that of some supporter; this saves putting the society to any expense at the outset. But if the number attending is likely to be large it will be very desirable to have a small hall or large room hired for the evening—and it should be, if possible, in a building which is familiarly known and easily located. Remember that many people have a dislike to going to private houses where they are strangers, but would have no hesitation in attending an open meeting in a hired hall or room.

If there be an Institute or Y.M.C.A. building with rooms to let for meetings, either would probably meet your requirements. Failing that there may be Assembly Rooms, with a choice of several minor halls, or a restaurant may be willing to let you have the use of a room. For adults such a meeting might be held in an hotel where they are accustomed to letting rooms for use of clubs, but where young collectors may reasonably be expected to attend, hotels are undesirable, as their parents might have objections to their attending meetings in, at any rate, licensed houses.

The arrangements for the meeting place should all be made well in advance of the date of meeting, and a point which should be borne in mind is that most public halls, institutes, &c., require payment of the hire before the meeting is allowed to take place.

In opening the proceedings of the meeting the Chairman will state briefly what are the objects of the meeting. He will explain that the interest in stamp collecting in the neighbourhood was thought to have reached a point where a local society could be formed to good purpose, and to the mutual advantage of all the collectors in the vicinity who cared to associate themselves with the movement. He may dilate on the pleasures of the study of stamps and the benefits of co-operation in the development of that study. He may point out that while some of the collectors in the town were advanced collectors, there were many more who were quite novices, and who would gain great benefit from the opportunity of sitting at the feet of some philatelic Gamaliel and acquiring the knowledge which helps one to appreciate one's stamps to the full. The assistance of the experienced collector would be invited in keeping the albums of the novices free from the dangerous forgeries and frauds perpetrated on collectors. The society could undertake the formation of a local reference library of books on stamp collecting, and at the meetings papers and displays would be given, all of which would assist the beginner, and, on the base of Byron's philosophy

"All who joy would win

Must share it—happiness was born a twin."

the older collectors would reap the benefit of increased pleasure in their collecting by the stimulation which the society would give in providing an outlet for their enthusiasm for the hobby.

At the close of the opening remarks of the Chairman he might then call upon the original promoter of the idea to propose a motion:—

"That it is the opinion of this meeting that it is desirable to form a Society in _____ (town) to promote the collection and study of postage stamps."

He would speak on this resolution, giving his reasons for believing that the society was likely to gain the necessary support from collectors, and pointing out some of the advantages which would accrue to the pursuit of philately in the locality by an organisation of local collectors.

After he has proposed the resolution, a seconder is required. The seconder may have been arranged beforehand, or, if this has not been done, doubtless someone present will perform the task of seconding, and he may support the statements of the previous speaker by a few remarks based upon his own experience and opinions.

When the resolution has been proposed and seconded it may be amended. An amendment must be relevant to the original resolution or the Chairman will rule it out of order. Amendments must be seconded, and after discussion they must be put first—that is to say, before the original motion. The voting will generally be by a show of hands. If the amendment fails, the discussion goes back to the original motion. If no amendment is put forward, the original resolution, having been open to those present to discuss, is put to the meeting, and in the present case we will consider it to have been carried without a dissentient voice.

The next step is for someone to propose:—

"That, in accordance with the foregoing resolution, this meeting do now form itself into the Society, and that the terms of this and the previous resolution be communicated through the press and by circular to philatelists and stamp collectors residing in and around _____."

This will in its turn be seconded and put to the meeting.

The next business will be to elect a small provisional committee to report to a later meeting on the adoption of a constitution, or set of rules by which the society will be managed. This committee will also recommend a subscription on which they estimate that the society could be conducted on a proper financial basis. The provisional committee need not be large. Three or five would be quite enough, and generally the smaller number is to be preferred. The members of the provisional committee should be nominated and the nominations seconded and put to the meeting.

It will probably be advisable to do no further definite business at this meeting, beyond leaving the meeting open for questions, suggestions and general discussion. The subjects that may be talked over are such points as:

MEETINGS—how often should they be held—when?—where?

SUBSCRIPTION—how much should it be? or what is often much more to the point is "how little can it be?"

OBJECTS—what the society ought to aim at—how best it can help local collectors?

These and other points may be discussed more with the idea of communicating the views and opinions of the prospective members to the provisional committee formed to present a set of rules for the government of the society than to come to any definite decision at the meeting.

These rules, or the formation of a constitution for a local philatelic society we will consider in a later article, when we shall present a specimen set of rules which could be adopted by any such society. We shall also offer some suggestions as to the general management of the work of the society, and give some hints on the preparation of a syllabus, subjects, how to prepare for papers, displays and debates, and various other matters which are open to the activities of the promoters of new societies.

Single Issue Specialism

1869 Stamps of United States, one of Philately's Most Popular Series

BY FRED. J. MELVILLE

A Neat and Effective Issue.

ALTHOUGH the exact reference is not available, we think it was an English writer who recently described the 1869 issue of the United States stamps as the most popular issue with collectors. It has certainly been a favourite with many who are not tied hand and foot to British Colonials, though we should hesitate to place it in a higher position of popular regard than, for example, Cape Triangulars, and perhaps a few other particularly choice Colonial emissions.

But to the general collector there is surely no more delightful series of stamps represented in our albums. They attract attention first by their neat form, being practically square, and smaller in area than the average sized postage stamp. The colouring is effective, particularly in the bi-coloured stamps, and the designs appeal to even the outsider as peculiarly interesting.

Admirably Adapted for Specialism.

As a subject for Single Issue Specialism no more effective series could be selected, and although some of the stamps may be rather expensive, in our opinion every stamp of this series in fine condition is a specimen the possession of which will be esteemed by its owner far beyond the interest represented by the question of dollars or £ s. d. If every stamp possessed the same qualities for fascinating both the collector and the philistine as the beautiful 90 cents in post office state we should have converted half the world to philately long since.

The Difficulty of Condition.

Regarded from the specialist or generalist point of view the difficulty presented by this issue is the difficulty of condition. A perfect copy of almost any of the ten values is an artistic gem, but the problem is to find the perfect copy. It is no mere question this of simply sending your check ("check" as we are discussing an American subject) to one of the Lord High Distributors of Stamps in the Strand or in Nassau Street, and receiving peach copies of the set in return, with all the varieties which go to enhance the specialist's interest.

In the first place the freaks of American perforating, an art which does not seem to have ever been efficiently mastered on the other side, makes it difficult to get the stamps with anything like good centring. Most of the copies used for illustrating this article are as nearly perfect in this respect as it is possible to get, but the poorest copies, the 3c. and the 15c., are both above the average condition for these stamps, and the four low values which are most frequently seen are notoriously badly perforated.

Patience—A Virtuous Necessity.

But to the collector with patience—and patience is a virtue which must needs be a prime quality with the specialist in philately—the right copy will come all in good time, and nothing but the right copy should be taken for one blot on the fair page of an album devoted to this issue will mar the elegance, the undoubted beauty of the others.

Date of Issue.

The issue of these stamps was notified to the U.S. Postmasters by a circular of March 1st, 1869, and although ready for circulation in that month, it is questionable whether any of them were put into use prior to the end of April. The entire series had been issued by May, 1869.

The stamps were the work of the National Bank Note Company, of New York, who, although they put in a higher tender for the work than Messrs. Butler & Carpenter, of Philadelphia, were nevertheless awarded the contract by reason of their having control over the "grille" system of embossing.

The Composition of the Plates.

It seems that the sheets of the values 1c. to 12c. were printed from plates bearing three hundred stamps each divided into two post office sheets of 150. A large piece on view at the Earl Court Exhibition shows nine rows of ten stamps each of the 2c. value which would appear to shew that the arrangement of the post office sheets of the 2c. was in ten rows of fifteen. I should state that there is further evidence in the shape of a portion of an eleventh column, which however has been guillotined instead of perforated.

Another large piece, this time of the 1c. re-issue, gives a different aspect. It is composed of seven complete horizontal rows of ten, and is clearly guillotined (not perforated) along the bottom row. Mr. Lincoln, the exhibitor, informing me that he has another "sheet" as he terms it, guillotined in exactly the same manner.

Mr. Luff mentions that the plate 33 was specially made for the re-issue of 1875, and contained 150 impressions; the division shown in Mr. Lincoln's sheet is therefore less than half a printed sheet.

The four high values were printed in sheets of one hundred stamps, each requiring two plates, as these values were bi-coloured.





Plate Numbers.

The sheets all bear the imprint of the National Bank Note Co., New York, and the plate number appears twice on each half sheet of 150 stamps of the low values. The plate numbers on the high values, 15, 24, 30 and 90 cents, are given with the number of the frame plate at the top, and the centre or vignette plate at the bottom. Mr. Luff mentions that certain plates of the 24 and 30 cents appear to have been left without plate numbers as proofs have been seen shewing them in that condition though the numbers may have been added subsequently to the proof stage.

The plate numbers of United States stamps may be far too numerous even for the average specialist, but in the present "Single Issue Specialism" they may be taken into consideration. Mr. Luff's list of them is as follows:

1 cent, Nos. 1, 2		
2 cents, Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 27, 28		
3 cents, Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 25, 26, 29, 30		
6 cents, Nos. 13, 14		
10 cents, Nos. 15, 16		
12 cents, Nos. 17, 18		
15 cents (type I.)	Frame No. 19,	Vignette No. 19
(type II.)	" 23,	" 23
(type I.)	" 31,	" 23
(type III.)	" 32,	" 23
24 cents,	" 20,	" 20
24 cents,	" 20,	" 24
24 cents,	" —,	" 20
30 cents,	" 21,	" 21
30 cents,	" —,	" —
90 cents,	" 22,	" 22

The dashes (—) in Mr. Luff's table indicate plates which have no number.

The Designs.

The selection of the designs for this issue must be admitted to have been most appropriate.

The 1c. ochre bears a portrait of Franklin after a bust by Guiseppe Cerrachi, an Italian Sculptor, whose career was one of extraordinary interest in the annals of art. He had made a bust of Napoleon Buonaparte in 1796, and in 1880 he formed, with others, a scheme to assassinate the first Consul. To effect this plot he proposed to undertake another bust or statue, but the plan was frustrated and the sculptor guillotined.

The 2c. brown shows a mounted post rider, the 3c. blue a locomotive, and the 12c. green an ocean steamer.

A note in the Caterer collection on view at the Earls Court Exhibition ascribes this design to the menu card of the old "Artic," one of the White Star Liners, an interesting point which I cannot trace to any earlier authority.

The 6c. blue shews a portrait of Washington from the familiar Stuart representation of the first President.

The 10c. orange, and the 30c. carmine and blue shew the American eagle mounted on the shield of the United States. In the case of the higher value the shield is draped with flags.

The 15c. blue and brown has for its central device a miniature vignette of Vanderlyn's painting of the landing of Columbus.

The three types referred to in Mr. Luff's list of the plate numbers are Nos. I. and II. as shown by the diagrams in *United States Postage Stamps 1847—1869*, the third being a sub-variety of the second, the band of short diagonal lines of shading within the picture space being omitted in type III., which type is, however, only known in the 1875 re-issue.

The 24c. purple and green has in the centre an engraving of the Declaration of Independence after John Trumbull, the original being one of a series of three historical pictures commissioned by Congress in 1817 for the rotunda in the capitol.

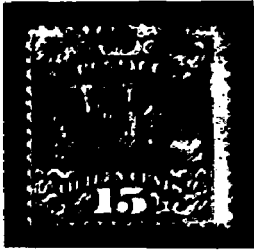
The 90c. which is in point of colour effect and in general excellence, the gem of the series, has a portrait, from a photograph, of Abraham Lincoln. It has long been recognised as an accepted maxim that red and black make the most striking colour effects to be obtained by two-colour printing, though it is not always that they are so happily combined as in the 90c. Lincoln stamp.

The Grille Embossing.

The issue was normally put out embossed with the grille pattern, which had been adopted by the U.S. Post Office as a preventative against the illicit cleaning and re-use of stamps which had already done postal duty. The 1c., 2c., 3c., 15c., 24c., 30c., and 90c. are known without the grille, and all the re-issues are without the grille. The re-issues are on a very white hard paper.

In the regular issue the variety of the 15c. we described in our latest handbook on these stamps as with grille 10 x 12mm. has proved to be a double grille of the normal 9 x 9mm. All values may be found with the grille measuring 9 x 9mm. and 9 x 9mm., and the 10c. and 12c. with 8½ x 9mm.





Centres Inverted.

Flags Inverted.

Bisected Stamps.

The 2c. is known split in two, a two-thirds portion having been used as a 2 cents value, the purpose of this economy being scarcely justified unless the remaining one-third could have been used up as a 1 cent value. The 2 cents is also known bisected for use as a 1 cent value.

The "Inverted" Errors.

The three great rarities of the regular issue are the inverted centres or flags of the 15, 24 and 30 cents values. In our recent work we stated rather vaguely that these were due to "errors on the plate or errors of printing," but there can be no doubt that they are due to the latter cause, the sheets having got reversed for the printing of the second colour.

Numbers Printed.

The total numbers of the stamps of the regular issue delivered to the agent of the post office as recorded by Mr. Luff are:—

1c.	16,605,150
2c.	83,748,600
3c.	386,475,900
6c.	4,882,750
10c.	3,299,700
12c.	3,012,950
15c.	1,438,940
24c.	235,350
30c.	244,110
90c.	47,460

Bibliography.

The issue we have briefly discussed for our Single Issue Specialism topic this week will bear a great amount of further treatment for which we have not the space at present in these pages. We can, however, refer the prospective student of the stamps to several works from which ample information may be gathered.

LUFF, J. N. *The Postage Stamps of the United States* Published 1902. (Price 30s.)

This gives very full and documental accounts of all United States stamps up to the date of publication.

TIFFANY, J. K. *History of the Postage Stamps of the United States of America*. 1887. (Out of print.)

This, as a standard work, has been superseded by Luff's comprehensive volume.

MELVILLE, F. J. *The Postage Stamps of the United States of America*. Published 1905. (Out of print.)

Where copies can be referred to it will be found that the chapter of biographical notes gives fuller details of the artists and the origins of the pictures.

MELVILLE, F. J. *United States Postage Stamps, 1847—1869*. Published 1909 (price 6d.) by W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, W.C.

The illustrations used in the present article have been kindly lent by the publisher of this last work.

The Secretary to the Post Office

Sir Henry Babington Smith to Resign to take up New Post in Turkey

THE news that Sir Henry Babington Smith has, at the request of His Majesty's Government, accepted the post of President of the National Bank of Turkey, marks another step in the brilliant career of the Secretary to the Post Office.

Sir Henry (then Mr. Henry Babington Smith, C.S.I.) succeeded to the vacancy caused by the transfer of Sir George Murray from the Post Office to the Treasury in 1903. He will resign the Secretaryship to the Post Office and proceed to Constantinople next month.

Sir Henry was born in 1863, and is a son of the late Mr. Archibald Smith, F.R.S., of Jordan Hill, Renfrewshire, and a younger brother of Mr. Parker Smith, M.P. He was educated at Eton, and after a distinguished career at Cambridge, where he was placed in the first class in the Classical Tripos (Parts I. and II.), was Chancellor's medalist and was elected a Fellow of his (Trinity) College, and became an examiner in the Education Department.

He was principal Private Secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord (then Mr.) Goschen in 1891, and in 1892 became a clerk in the Treasury.

From 1894 to 1899 he was Private Secretary to the Viceroy of India, Lord Elgin.

The new post is not his first associated with the Near East. In 1900 he was appointed British representative in the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt, becoming later President of the Council.

Sir Henry married Lady Elizabeth Bruce, daughter of Lord Elgin, in 1898.

During his career at the Post Office, 1903—1909, there have been three Postmasters-General—Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Lord Stanley, and Mr. Sydney Buxton. He has attended one Congress of the Postal Union (Rome, 1906), when he presided over the sittings of the First Committee.

That Congress, as most of our readers are aware, will be memorable for the increase in the weight unit for foreign and Colonial postage, the lowering of the rate for the second and subsequent ounces, and the International Coupon. His term of office has also seen the introduction of penny postage between Great Britain and Egypt and the Sudan (December 15th, 1905) and Anglo-American Penny Postage (October 1st, 1906).

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

Argentine Republic.—(Vol. IV. p. 235).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the new 1c. stamp, to which we referred last week, and also the 4c. chronicled some time ago. Our reason for mentioning them again is that these stamps show differences of paper and perforation which may possibly be of some importance. The 1c. is on fairly thick white wove paper, while the paper of the 4c. is thinner, tougher and has a greyish appearance. The perforation of the 4c. is, as already recorded, "13, 13½," i.e., an almost exact 13½, and in this the holes are quite small. In the 1c. however, the holes are larger, and in the specimen before us the perforation measures exactly 13½ x 13. Our Ipswich friends write as follows:—"Our correspondent made enquiries at the Post Office, where the rumour was confirmed that these stamps and all other values of the same design are likely to be shortly superseded by a new issue engraved in better style."

North Borneo.—(Vol. IV. p. 235).—Mr. A. H. Harris, Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., and Mr. D. Field, have shown us the new stamps to which we briefly referred last week. The series is a handsome one, and consists of 12 different values—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, 18 and 24c.—all printed in two colours. There is also a 20c. stamp which is formed by overprinting the new 18c. Of course, there may be a good reason for this, but the average individual will be inclined to wonder why, if a 20c. stamp is required, one could not be engraved to harmonise with the rest of the set. We shall give a fully illustrated description of these stamps in our next issue.

Nicaragua.—(Vol. IV. p. 228).—Mr. L. Minner informs us that the 6c. of the 1905 type printed in a new colour has also been surcharged for use in the province of Zelaya in a similar manner to the values already recorded. The full list of varieties is, therefore, as follows:

New Series. No. wmk. Perf. 12.

Surcharged "B—Dpto. Zelaya" in two lines.

- 1c. bright green
- 2c. vermilion
- 3c. reddish orange
- 4c. violet
- 5c. deep steel blue
- 6c. olive brown
- 10c. deep brownish lake
- 15c. slate
- 20c. olive brown
- 50c. myrtle
- 1p. orange yellow
- 2p. rose carmine

Straits Settlements.—(Vol. IV. p. 116).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 25c. with multiple watermark, printed entirely in purple instead of purple and green as hitherto. Those of our readers who are interested in such varieties may care to know that the paper is chalk surfaced. The complete list of varieties on the paper with multiple watermark now stands as follows:—

Wmk. Multiple Cr. C.A. Perf. 14.

- 1c. green
- 3c. purple
- 3c. plum
- 3c. rose
- 4c. purple on red
- 4c. carmine
- 4c. purple
- 5c. dull purple

- 5c. orange
- 8c. purple on blue
- 8c. ultramarine
- 10c. purple and black on yellow
- 10c. purple on yellow
- 25c. purple and green
- 25c. purple
- 30c. grey and carmine
- 50c. green and carmine
- \$1 green and black
- \$2 purple and black
- \$5 green and brown orange
- \$25 green and black

Southern Nigeria.—(Vol. IV. p. 177).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 1s. in black on green paper, the issue of which was foreshadowed on page 177. The list of varieties on the paper with multiple watermark now stands as follows:—

Wmk. Multiple Cr. C.A. Perf. 14.

- ½d. green and black
- ½d. green
- 1d. carmine and black
- 1d. carmine
- 2d. orange brown and black
- 2½d. ultramarine and black
- 3d. lilac and orange brown
- 4d. olive green and black
- 6d. mauve and black
- 1s. black and green
- 1s. black on green paper
- 2s. 6d. brown and black
- 5s. yellow and black
- 10s. purple on yellow
- £1 violet and green

United States.—(Vol. IV. p. 152).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that the new Commemorative Alaska-Yukon-Pacific stamps may now be obtained imperforate. They are issued in sheets of 280 (20 horizontal rows of 14), and are intended for use in automatic stamp-vending machines. By the way, some misconception has arisen among our contemporaries (though correctly given in *The Postage Stamp*) as to what place Mr. William H. Seward, whose portrait is shown on the stamp, holds among American notabilities. *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* publishes some interesting biographical notes, shewing that Seward was born in New York, in 1801, and became Governor and Senator of that State, holding the latter position as leader of the anti-slavery party. He was Premier of Lincoln's Cabinet, and while Secretary of State, he conducted the negotiations which led to the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867. In 1870 he made a tour of the world, and he died in October, 1872.



Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition Stamp.

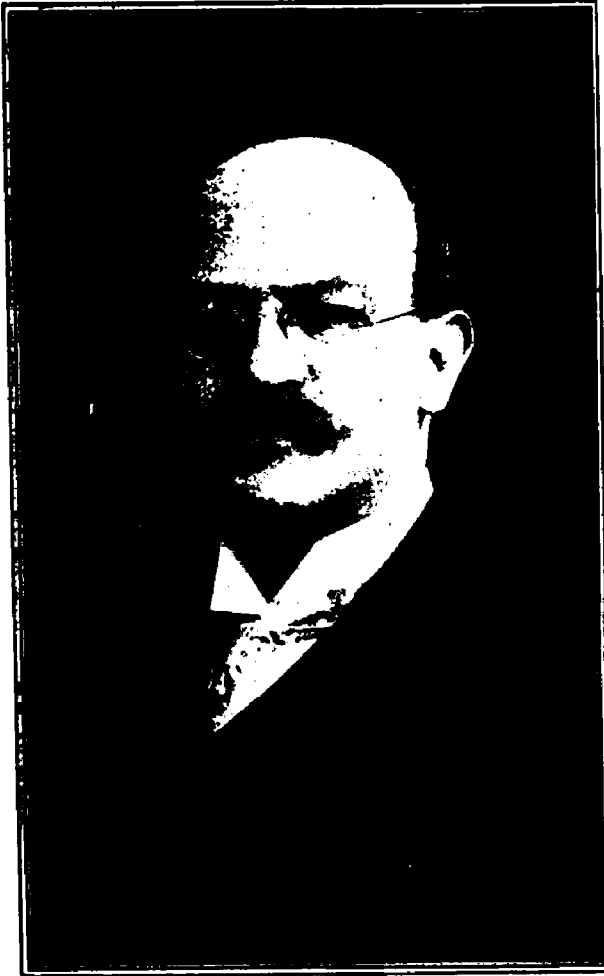
Wmk. U.S.P.S. Perf. 12.

- 2c. carmine
- Imperforate.
- 2c. carmine

The American Philatelic Society

The Old President and the New

BY THE EDITOR



JOHN N. LUFF,

The retiring President of the American Philatelic Society.

The American Philatelic Society is holding its twenty-fourth Annual Convention, starting on Friday, August 24th, and continuing on succeeding days until all business has been disposed of. This is one of the most important Conventions in the philatelic year, and these few notes are to prepare our readers for a fuller appreciation of the news reports from Atlantic City for which the Postage Stamp has made special arrangements.

IN the month of July, 1873, so we read in the *Philatelist* published two years later, Mr. H. Stafford Smith in the course of an American tour arrived at St. Louis. He there called upon a gentleman with whom he had previously been in correspondence and received from him a hearty welcome.

The gentleman was John K. Tiffany, who as a contributor to philatelic literature provided much of our now current knowledge of the governmental and private issues of the United States stamps, and practically all that we know of most of the obscure early American publications relating to stamp collecting.

Mr. Tiffany did far more than all this for American philately. His was the solid foundation on which the great institution of the American Philatelic Association (now Society) was built, a Society which has a total membership (July 31st, 1900) of 1,733, the largest membership of any body of English-speaking philatelists in the world.

We regret that we are not in a position to give so precise and detailed an account of the history of this great philatelic society, as we should have liked to do. Our esteemed *confrère* Mr. Louis G. Quackenbush, has been compiling some very interesting historical matter in his publications *The Stamp Lover's Weekly* (discontinued) and *Redfield's Stamp Weekly*, but unfortunately the completeness of our files has not been a matter of such sacred regard to the publishers of those journals as to ourselves.

Dr. H. A. Davis, of Colorado, has also been compiling some historical notes which are appearing in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* and from these we gather that the society started in 1886, and at the organising convention John K. Tiffany was elected President for two years, R. R. Bogert, of Philadelphia, Vice-President; G. B. Bradt, of Chicago, Secretary; L. W. Durbin, of Philadelphia, Treasurer; and Jos. Rechert, of New York, International Secretary.

The society started well for no fewer than four hundred collectors promised to support the movement with their membership.

Twenty-three years have now passed over this Society which has grown to such gigantic proportions, and we find in the Presidential chair an occupant no less worthy, no less able than the original President, in John N. Luff, whose name is familiar as a household word to philatelists in Britain as well as in America. His masterpiece *The Postage Stamps of the United States* (1902) is the "Wright and Creeke" of American philatelic literature.

Mr. Luff's term of office expiring at the convention next week, Mr. Henry N. Mudge, of Illinois, is to succeed him. Mr. Mudge has proved himself an able Chairman at past conventions in the absence of the President.

Mr. Mudge has not been an extensive contributor to philatelic literature, but he is (to use a phrase once appropriately coined by himself) "imbued with a desire for all the world to know of the pleasures of philately," or to give his poetical version in the style of "The Man with the Musket."

"Collectors pass on from the rage of renown
From a ceaseless commotion and strife;
Pass by where the status of multiple crown
Adds only to the cares of one's life.
On, out for a time from philately's height,
Where we worry and struggle and pine;
Your theme is the theme of achievement most bright;
A matter of sentiment is mine."

In his paper before the American Society's Convention last year he traced the development of the recognition of

philately in the definitions of the term in standard works of general reference. Funk & Wagnalls' Standard Dictionary's definition he quoted as being at least in touch with the present day development of our science. It reads: "The study and collection of labels or stamps issued by public authority to indicate prepayment or freedom from charge, or payment due, as postage and revenue stamps, and also stamps of private telegraph and letter carrying companies—also called timbrology."

It certainly is a very comprehensive definition and if it represents the breadth of mind on philatelic matters of the new President of the American Philatelic Society we may look to the society for encouraging much of the tendency at present displaying itself in America to plough untrodden fields of stampic research, and to produce the results of such work in convenient printed form for reference. This will be the more possible with the new quarterly publication which the society is to issue in place of its old year book.

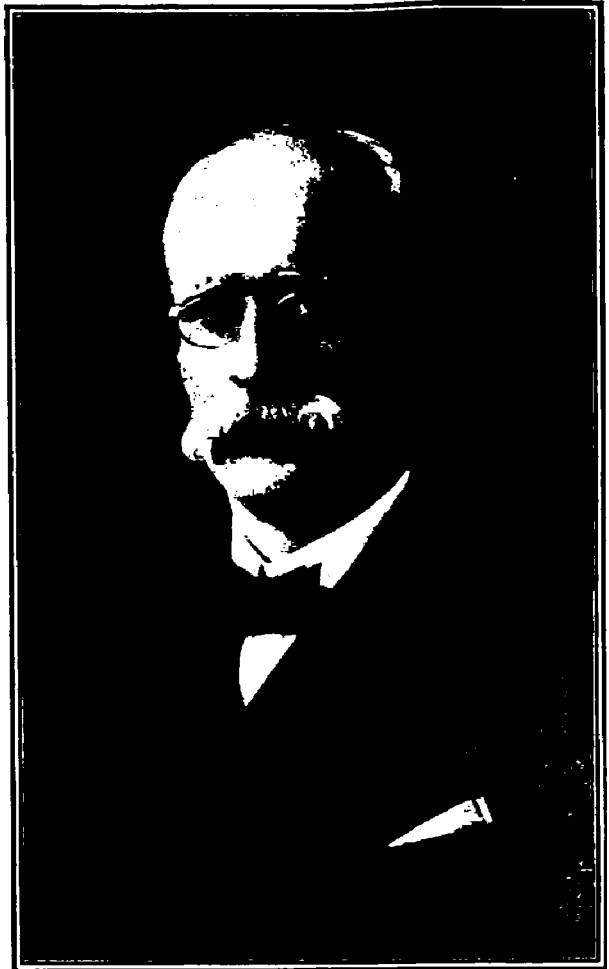
Writing of American definitions of Philately, recalls one which we are not likely to forget for its simple bluntness. Mr. Finnerty, one of the humorists of the Dooley or Undooley kind, says to his friend Hogan, "Phi-lay-tillic, do yez mind, which manes, lay y'r hands on any stamps yez can foind, and when yez have thim, use y'r intillic' on thim, till yez know th' diff'rence betwane a perforation an' a watermark."

The only amendment we would make to that is, that after you know the differences referred to, the collector should go on "using his intillic'," and not depending too much upon the cataloguers.

The first year of Mr. Mudge's presidency will, we venture to think, be quite an epoch-making one, particularly from the aspect of the foreign member. At present the British membership in the Society is small, though it has been growing during the past year. The programme of the Society henceforth will include much more to attract and maintain a foreign membership, the Quarterly Magazine being intended not only to give the essential reports of proceedings of the conventions and the official notices, but also to be the repository of the results of American philatelic research.

In addition there is the proposal to publish the specialised catalogue of United States stamps, and Mr. Willard O. Wylie, the capable editor of *Mekels'* is Chairman of a Sub-Committee on Handbooks, which is to issue popular handbooks under the aegis of the Society, for the propagation of philately among the uninitiated—a work which should be productive of the highest benefit to the hobby, and which is in keeping with Mr. Mudge's desire for "all the world to know of the pleasures of philately."

I am indebted to Mr. Henry S. Adair, the energetic Secretary of the American Philatelic Society, for the loan of the portraits of the new and of the retiring Presidents. President Luff is retired, long live President Mudge!



HENRY N. MUDGE,

The President-Elect of the American Philatelic Society.

The Postage Stamp Handbooks

Announcement regarding the continuation of "Nankivell's Philatelic Handbooks"

Arrangements are now nearly complete for the continuation of the series of small handbooks on the postage stamps of popular countries, which were initiated as "Nankivell's Philatelic Handbooks." Only one has been issued under this title (*Jamaica and Cayman Islands*). In future the series will be styled "The Postage Stamp Handbooks," and while they will be under the general editorship of Mr. Fred J. Melville, they will not be restricted to the writings of any one author.

Among the authors whose works are at present in preparation for this series are the late Mr. Edward J. Nankivell, Mr. Fred J. Melville, and Mr. Bertram W. H.

Pool. The first two booklets are both from the pen of our late Editor, and one of them will deal with the popular Cape of Good Hope stamps.

The work of other writers will be included in the series as opportunity affords, but the series will continue the policy projected for the Nankivell Philatelic Handbooks of reprinting serial articles from *The Postage Stamp*, so that readers may have the more important articles in convenient and separate form.

A further announcement regarding these booklets will appear shortly.

Stop Press News.

STAMP COLLECTION STOLEN.

Saturday's *Evening News* reports that burglars who entered a residence in The Grove, Camberwell, secured among their plunder a valuable stamp collection.

F.M.S. STAMPS FOR BRITISH SIAM.

It is understood that pending other arrangements (says the *Strait Times*, July 20) the Federated Malay States postage stamps will be used in those Siamese Malay States affected by the recent Anglo-Siamese Treaty.

The above statement is confirmed so far as Kedah is concerned, and the rates of postage which have been high will be reduced in Kedah, Kelantan and Trèngganu to bring them into line with Federated Malay States postage rates.

Fuller particulars may be given in next week's *Postage Stamp*.

Editor's Letter Box

Publishing Offices:—1, AMEN CORNER, LONDON, E.C.

Editorial Address:—FRED J. MELVILLE, 14, SUDBOURNE ROAD, BRISTON, LONDON, S.W.

Articles, Contributions and Correspondence, should be addressed to the Editor, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the correspondent. *Articles, etc., not accepted, will be returned when postage is prepaid.*

Business Communications should be addressed to the Manager, and *Advertisements to the Advertisement Manager, 1, Amen Corner, London, E.C.*

THE POSTAGE STAMP may be obtained through *Newsagents* or will be forwarded from the publishing office to any address at the following rates of prepayment: Yearly, 6s. 6d.; Half-Yearly, 3s. 3d.; Quarterly, 1s. 8d.; Single Copy, 1d.

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Answers to Correspondents.

[N.B.—Correspondence is invited.—Editor.]

A. H. (Cardiff).—Is a young collector who wants a philatelic correspondent. If any young reader of *The Postage Stamp* would like to correspond with him, I shall be pleased to put them in touch with each other.

W. F. (London, W.C.).—Thanks again for your many excellent suggestions. Also for cutting, duly used. It is only with such courteous assistance from numerous readers that we can hope to keep in touch with everything of interest that goes on in the philatelic world.

T. F. M. (Carlisle).—Sorry we could not use the notes you so kindly sent.

A. H. (Cardiff).—Glad you were interested in the portraits. We shall use more as opportunity affords. Thanks for cutting. Same appeared in our "stop press" column as you will have noted.

W. O. (Burton-on-Trent).—Thanks for kind offer of assistance to a recent correspondent whose address we have not by us. We had, however, made his query the basis of an article on the subject which will appear towards the commencement of the new season.

H. W. H. (Purley).—Thanks for good wishes, and also for cutting, the contents of which appeared in our columns just lately.

W. S. (Swymbridge).—There is an article in the current issue of *The Stamp Lover* on Railway Stamps, and Ewen's Colonial Stamp Market, 32, Palace Square, Norwood, has published several books on the subject.

H. P. (Ormskirk).—The perforation gauge you have bought has a number of divisions, each of which is 2 centimetres in length. Within these spaces are series of dots divided exactly in the centre by lines. You place the edge of the stamp over these bisected dots, and you will find that one of the rows of dots will coincide with the semi-circular indentations on the side of the stamp. The number at the side of the division where the dots fit the perforations, gives you the gauge. Each set of lines round the edge is also within the space of 2 centimetres and these lines serve the same purpose as the dot arrangements in the middle. Some collectors prefer to use the lines round the edge which can be used when the stamp is mounted. The lines should tally with the points of the perforations on the stamp. As to the part of a stamp which is measured, it is any part of the edge lying within the space of the 2 centimetres which has been adopted as a standard both by philatelists and by postage stamp manufacturers. The matter is easy enough to shew, and once seen is easy enough to understand. We shall be starting a series of articles shortly for beginners, and will, of course, include a full explanation of the system of measuring perforations.

Our Publishing Day and Advertisers.

In order to meet the requirements of the publishing trade our publishers now distribute copies to the *Newsagents* on Wednesdays instead of Thursdays as before. This compels us to go to press on Saturday morning. Hence it is absolutely necessary for our printers to have all advertisements at latest on Friday morning; consequently, copy must be in the Advertisement Manager's hands not later than Wednesday, 5 o'clock p.m.

Advertisers' Proofs.

We are anxious to consult our Advertisers' convenience to the greatest possible extent, but where proofs have to be supplied and

returned our printers must have the "copy" by Thursday morning at the latest, as we now have to print off a portion of our issue on Saturday morning.

"The Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The Postage Stamp is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:—

Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C.

F. C. Ginn, 143, Strand, London, W.C.

Lewis May & Co., 15, King William Street, Strand, W.C.

W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.

James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.

Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.

The Court Stamp Co., 10, Marriott's Court, Manchester.

Examination of Stamps.

So many of our readers have asked us to undertake the examination and identification of their stamps that we have made arrangements to accede to their wishes.

We shall be pleased to express an opinion as to the genuineness or otherwise of any stamps submitted to us, or identify them according to any catalogue at a charge of 6d. per stamp (minimum 1/-). All fees must be paid in advance with sufficient added to pay for return postage and registration.

Stamps upon which an opinion is desired should be mounted on a separate sheet from the letter accompanying them and addressed to "The Expert," c/o The Editor of *The Postage Stamp*, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

Collectors' Wants and Exchanges.

Our friends will note that we have opened a column for collectors to advertise their wants, at the nominal charge of 1d. per word. Many collectors even in London have not time to hunt about for stamps, whilst others resident in the country, have not the opportunity.

By using this column Collectors' Wants will catch the eye of all who are likely to be able to supply the stamps needed, for dealers watch such advertisements very closely, and collectors who want to dispose of duplicates will not fail to note the opportunity for exchange or sale.

Advertisements of stamps for sale are not admitted to this column.

Our Binding Covers.

In navy blue buckram, gilt lettered side and back, for binding any volume of *The Postage Stamp*, price 1s. 6d., from Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

Our Handbills.

We are still sending out hundreds of our handbills with specimen page to kind friends who are doing their best to help us to a big circulation. *We want every reader to see to it that all his stamp friends take in THE POSTAGE STAMP.* Shall we send you post free a dozen or two, or fifty, or a hundred, handbills to hand to friends and enclose in letters to collector friends? If so, write Baldwin's Printers of *The Postage Stamp*, Tunbridge Wells.

The POSTAGE STAMP

*An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors*

Founded by
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.
Edited by
FRED. J. MELVILLE.

No. 22. Vol. 4.
Whole Number 100

28 AUGUST, 1909.

Price 1d.

Gossip of the Week

BY CORNELIUS WRINKLE



Our First Century.

HAVING reached our hundredth number with the present issue it may not be unprofitable to look ahead to Number 200—for of course *The Postage Stamp* and Cornelius too hope to see not only 200 but a few more hundreds besides. The journal has grown in circulation and in the support of readers and advertisers, and we are anticipating further devel-

opment with various new schemes that will be put into operation during the coming season. *Sic fortis Etruria crevit*, as the Sydenham View says.

Cornelius Zadkiel Wrinkle grows prophetic.

Looking forward we may expect in the course of another hundred numbers to find Philately growing too. There may be as was suggested in last week's *Postage Stamp* a radical change in the manner of printing some stamps, especially in America. I confess to rather a dread of what specialising may come to when stamps are run off the reel in yards, and the accompanying diagram gives a little idea of some recent nightmares suggested by the remarks of the Director of the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, Washington, as reported in our issue last week.

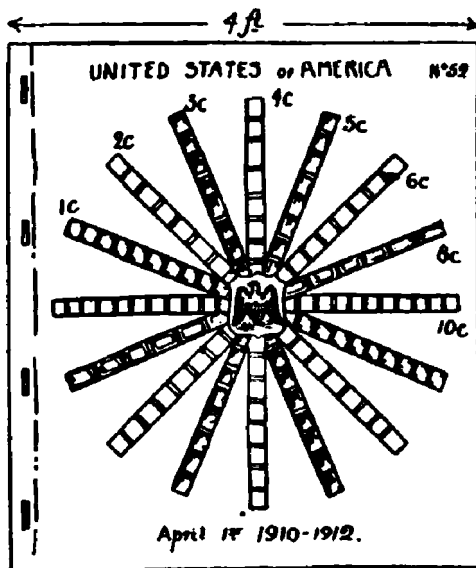
Albums of the Future.

To mount stamps by the yard we shall need albums of a yard-and-a-quarter, and then we shall vie with one another in arranging the strips in pretty constellations of star designs. What the printed albums will be like by that time I confess my imagination does not go that length, but with Siam doubling its issues in one fell swoop the disease might become contagious and our printed albums would have to be supplemented with new volumes weekly. But for the yard measure philatelist-boaster we should want a sort of condensed album for

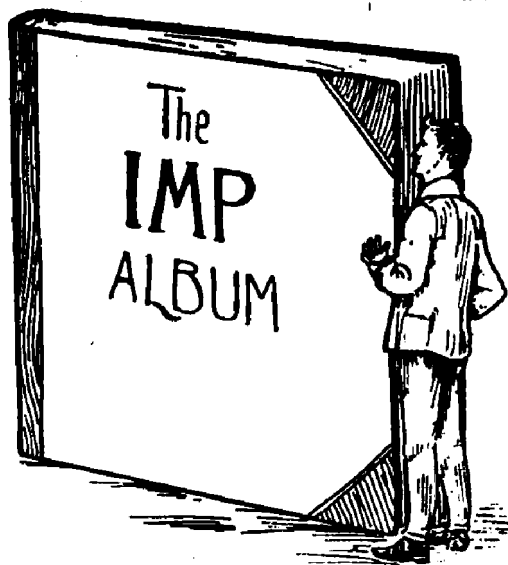
which we offer the suggestive title of the Imp, quite small enough to be wheeled about by the youngest Junior-specialist.

Simplification.

Well, of course, there will be numerous attempts at various forms of simplification to counteract the growth of varieties, and there will be those who will exceed "that Brighton chap" in lopping off great sections as unnecessary. To go the whole hog it will be suggested perhaps that it is only necessary to have one stamp of each continent, under which system a complete collection can be obtained for less than nothing, and without trouble to the collector. Of course other simplified systems will have developed in the opposite direction. For example, in a certain simplified collection it be-Hove-a us not to locate, we noted a tendency to include some nice blocks here and there.



A Specialist's Album of the period when stamps are to be issued by the yard.



A Suggestion for a convenient Miniature Album for specialistically inclined Juniors of the future.

The Auto-Mount Licker.

There will be, too, an increase in the number of accessories supplied for the convenience of collectors. This reminds me that I recently received from Mr. Th. Lemaire of Paris a very ingenious little implement which is styled the *Auto-Mouilleur Philatelique* or in vulgar parlance the automatic mount-licker. It is a little torpedo shaped metal case, the cap of which when open is affixed to the other end like a pencil or fountain pen cap. The removed cap leaves bare the tapered end of a wad of cotton wool. There is only a small end of the cotton wool projecting from the barrel of the case which is filled with water and keeps the cotton wool constantly moist. The contrivance is extremely simple, and having had it in use myself for a couple of months I can testify to its practical utility. The barrel has to be recharged with water every now and again, but the article is quite watertight and is quite neat in size, resembling in general appearance a small silver pencil holder which would not be too large to hang on a watch chain. Mr. Lemaire, whose address is 16, Avenue de l'Opera, Paris, makes no charge for *l'Auto Mouilleur* to his customers.

Sandy's Extr-r-ravagance.

Knowing that Cornelius has little in common with Mr. Harry Lauder and certain other eminent Scotch comedians, a correspondent sends me the following anecdote:

A fine big Scotchman, accompanied by his wife, walked off the inward mail steamer last week, and, entering the post office, said to the clerk—"I hae a wee postcairdie to send back tae Scotland. Can I post it wi' a Western Australian stamp?" "No," said the clerk; "it must bear a South Australian stamp from here." "Weel, weel, that's unfortuinit: I had a suspicion that I'd pur-r-chased a stamp tae many at Fr-r-ermantle." He held an inaudible but animated conversation with his wife, and then said to the clerk, "Ah! weel, gie me a stamp, and be dashed tae it!" "Ne'er mind, Jock," said his wife, "maybe there's a gentleman on the boatie who'll buy the stamp frae ye."

Perhaps were we to have a Royal Commission on Scotch Jokes we should find that 95% of them originate in Lancashire.

What is a PHILATELIST?

Somebody has written to the Editor of an evening paper under the significant signature of Philatelist. Here is the query.

TO THE EDITOR,

Could any of the readers of your valuable paper tell me if there is any value attached to an old penny red British stamp, plate marked 70 and 126, as my catalogue does not mention value of same.

August 11, 1909.

PHILATELIST.

I eagerly await a fresh outbreak of reports of copies of "126" in answer to the gentleman who as a PHILATELIST evidently knows not the immortal name of Gibbons nor the catalogue thereof. The Gibbons note under the 1d. plate numbers says "Plates numbered 75, 126 and 128 do not exist. Plate 70 is reputed to exist, but no specimen is known. A specimen of plate 77 is in the Tapling collection, and we have had a second."

It is of course decidedly refreshing to find a PHILATELIST who does not know the philatelists' bible, but I am afraid the correspondent is taking rather much upon himself. Perhaps his next query will be "Can any obliging reader—tell me the colour of a penny black."

Dissolution of Partnership.

I take the following notice from a recent (20. 7. 09) issue of the *London Gazette*.

Notice is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, Ernest George William Harmer and Mark Rooke, carrying on business as Philatelic Auctioneers, at No. 60, Fleet-street, in the city of London, under the style or firm of HARMER, ROOKE, AND CO., has been dissolved by mutual consent as and from the thirty first day of December, 1908. All debts due to and owing by the said late firm will be received or paid by the said Ernest George William Harmer, who will continue to carry on the said business under the style or firm of Harmer, Rooke, and Co.,—As witness our hands this 9th day of July, 1909.

ERNEST GEORGE WILLIAM HARMER
MARK ROOKE.

Tariff Reform Stamps.

A Wanstaad man, says the *Daily Chronicle*, is offering to sell 1,000 Fair Trade stamps for a shilling. In his advertising circular he says:—

If these stamps were used all over the Romford Division by every Tariff Reformer, I feel sure the cause would be advanced. 1,000 cost only One Shilling, which, if sent to me, I will deliver 1,000 Fair Trade stamps per return. They are gummed, and are thus easily attached to back of envelopes, and make an attractive seal, and the one shilling will swell the funds of the Central Council of the Romford Division Conservative and Liberal Unionist Associations.

The G.P.O objects to their being attached to the front.

This concluding clause seems rather hard on Tariff Reform. It looks like giving an undue preference to the King's stamp, which costs a great deal more. The "thousand a shilling" variety bids us "Buy British Manufactures and Colonial Produce." Its artistic feature is an animal with a face like a Red Indian and a tail describing a figure 8. It is represented as standing on the Earth, with its off hind paw on the North Pole. It also wears a crown.

U.S. P.O. Red-Tape Eclipsed.

The authorities responsible for the education of the Austrian and Hungarian children have decided to place illustrations of the World's Postage Stamps in the Children's Readers. Hip for the Austro-Hungarian Board of Education! But every fly has its ointment. The Postal Authorities have stepped in and said the illustrations must not be the exact size of the originals as it might encourage the children to colour them and thus commit a forgery! Of course, then the Readers would be treading upon the Austrian P.O. monopoly.

W. Ward in *The Stamp Lover*.

How to Start a Philatelic Society

A Helpful Guide to the Philatelic Organizer

BY THE EDITOR

THE Provisional Committee elected at the initial meeting of our Society to report on a Constitution and Rules will probably hold its meetings at the house or office of one or more of its members, to avoid putting the Society to any unnecessary expense at the outset.

One of the first matters to consider in preparing a Constitution is to form in outline a working body, council, or committee, which will be required to conduct the business of the Society.

The chief officers required in a philatelic society will be—

1. President.
2. Vice-President.
3. Secretary.
4. Treasurer.

In some cases it may be advisable to combine the Secretary and Treasurer in one office-holder.

The above four chief officers may be supplemented by a committee of several members to form the General Committee of the Society.

Other offices, which need not necessarily have positions on the General Committee, are—

5. Librarian.
6. Exchange Superintendent.
7. Superintendent of Auctions.
8. Counterfeit Detector.
9. Curator of Society's Collection.
10. Auditor.

Other offices will be suggested by the various agencies at work in the Society. Several of the above (5—9) may be omitted where the work they represent is not included in the scope of the Society's immediate activities; and others, such as 5 and 9, or 6 and 7, might be combined in one office-holder.

It is generally unwise to have too large a Committee or Council, the work being generally much more difficult to handle expeditiously with large committees.

We now proceed to give an outline Constitution and Rules, which might be adapted, with variations as required, to the needs of any local philatelic society. It may here be interpolated that, although here all combined under one arrangement, the term "Constitution" refers to the more permanent part of the Society's establishment.

[NOTE—Where a word or phrase is printed in italics it is to indicate that the matter is subject to variation after due deliberation by the provisional committee. The italicised words are suggestions only, and must vary according to circumstances.]

ARTICLE I.

NAME AND OBJECTS.

SECTION 1.—The Society shall be known as "The Philatelic Society."

SECTION 2.—The objects of the Society shall be to promote—

(1) The study and practice of Philately, by which term is defined the collection of and knowledge appertaining to postage, telegraph, and revenue stamps issued by Government authority, or by the enterprise of *bona-fide* letter-carrying, general carrier, or telegraph companies or concerns.

(2) The prevention, detection, and prosecution of the forgery or illicit manipulation of such postage, telegraph, and revenue stamps, whether such forgery or illicit manipulation be executed to defraud the revenue of the Government (or other issuing concern), or for the exploitation of philatelists.

(3) The preparation and publication of catalogues, guides, papers, and books bearing on any phase or section of the study of Philately as above defined.

ARTICLE II.

MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 1.—Any person and all persons interested in the objects stated in Article I., Section 2, shall be eligible for membership.

SECTION 2.—Candidates for admission to membership shall make written application to the Secretary, and shall enclose with such application the amount of the *entrance fee* (if any) and the first year's subscription.

SECTION 3.—Each and every candidate shall first be approved by not less than *two-thirds* of the Committee, and the name of such candidate shall then be placed upon the agenda paper of the next regular meeting of the Society, when *four* adverse votes shall exclude.

SECTION 4.—Membership shall not entail any liability upon the Society, Officers, or Committee for the private or public acts of any individual member, except when such private or public acts are done with the authority of the Committee, which authority shall be in writing, signed by the Secretary and President (or their deputies), and such authority be copied on the minutes of the meeting of the Committee at which the authority was granted.

SECTION 5.—Every candidate admitted to membership shall agree to, and shall be considered to agree to and be bound by all the rules and laws of the Society, whether as at present in force, or as may be amended or added to under the conditions prescribed in Article IV., Section 3, and Article XIV.

ARTICLE III.

SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION OF MEMBERS.

SECTION 1.—A member may be suspended for the non-payment of the subscription or other fees or moneys owing to the Society; or he may be suspended pending the inquiry into any charge or any matter brought before the Committee affecting the character or conduct of such member.

SECTION 2.—Suspension for non-payment may be made at the discretion of the Committee after six months from the date the debt was incurred, or the subscription or other fees or moneys became due.

SECTION 3.—In case any charge or matter affecting the character or conduct of any member shall be brought before the Committee, it shall be at the discretion of the Committee to require the said member to resign, and, failing such resignation, to expel such member from the Society. Any member violating the rules of the Society, or acting in any way contrary to the objects of the Society, shall be liable at the discretion of the Committee to be required to resign his membership, or to be expelled.

SECTION 4.—The votes of two-thirds of the Committee shall be required to authorise a suspension, or to require a resignation, or to effect expulsion.

ARTICLE IV.

MANAGEMENT.

SECTION 1.—The affairs and business of the Society shall be conducted by the Executive Officers, assisted by a Committee of — members.

SECTION 2.—The Executive Officers, who shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and the members of the Committee, shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

SECTION 3.—The decision of the Committee on all matters affecting the Society and not provided for in the Constitution shall be final and binding on all members.

ARTICLE V.

PRESIDENT.

SECTION 1.—The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Committee. In the absence of the President the Vice-President shall preside, or failing him, the senior member of the Committee present, or failing these, a Chairman selected by those present.

SECTION 2.—The President shall appoint the Standing Committees.

SECTION 3.—The President shall be entitled to access to and receive notice of all meetings of the Standing Committees, and to preside at such meetings.

SECTION 4.—At all meetings, whether of the general body, or of the Committee, or of the Standing Committees, the President (or his deputy) shall have a casting vote.

ARTICLE VI.

SECRETARY.

SECTION 1.—The Secretary shall give notice of all meetings of the Society and of the Committee, and shall keep the minutes of such meetings.

SECTION 2.—He shall conduct the correspondence of the General Committee and of the Society.

SECTION 3.—He shall receive on behalf of the Committee all applications for membership in the Society, entrance fees and subscriptions, and shall lay the names of such applicants before the Committee and before the regular meetings, as required by Article II., Section 3.

SECTION 4.—He shall give receipts for all subscriptions, entrance fees, and other moneys received, and transfer such moneys to the Treasurer.

ARTICLE VII.

TREASURER.

SECTION 1.—The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all moneys. No money shall be expended by him, other than for the regular maintenance of the current ordinary expenses, except by order of the General Committee, or by a resolution voted by the Society for special objects.

SECTION 2.—He shall keep a strict account in writing of all moneys which he may receive and disburse, and shall retain written vouchers for all payments made. He shall at the Annual Meeting make a written report showing the exact financial condition of the Society, which report shall be certified by the Auditor.

SECTION 3.—The Treasurer's accounts shall at all reasonable times be open to the inspection of Committee, or any officer or member of the Committee.

ARTICLE VIII.

MEETINGS.

SECTION 1. Meetings shall be held in — (town or district), in accordance with the syllabus prepared and printed by the Committee at the commencement of each season.

SECTION 2—As soon as the chair is taken the Secretary (or his deputy) shall read the minutes of the previous meeting. The order of business shall be—

- (1) Reading and Approval of Minutes.
- (2) Business arising out of the Minutes.
- (3) Reports of Standing Committees and Officers (if any).
- (4) Report of Committee (if any).
- (5) Communications.
- (6) Election of Candidates.
- (7) Unfinished Business.
- (8) New Business.
- (9) Paper, Display, or other Entertainment.
- (10) Votes of Thanks.

SECTION 3.—The Annual General Meeting shall be held on or about the — day of — in each year, at which Annual General Meeting shall be presented and considered the reports of all officers from whom the President may require reports to be presented; motions shall then be taken on the revision (if any) of the rules; and the election of officers and Committees shall take place.

SECTION 4.—Special meetings may be called by the President when in his judgment it may be necessary, and shall be called upon the written request (which must be accompanied by notice of motions) of any six members of the Society. No business shall be transacted at such meeting other than that for which the meeting shall have been called, and the nature of the business to be acted upon shall be stated in the notice to members.

SECTION 5.—Fifteen members shall form a quorum for the purpose of election or the transaction of other business.

SECTION 6.—Members shall be entitled to bring to any regular meeting friends, whose names and addresses shall be entered in the Visitors' Book kept by the Secretary (or his deputy) for that purpose, provided always that the same person is not eligible as a visitor more than twice in any one year.

ARTICLE IX.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

SECTION 1.—The entrance fee shall be —, and the annual subscription —, payable in advance. Annual subscriptions shall become due each year on the — (day) of — (month).

SECTION 2.—Any member or approved candidate may become a Life Member upon payment of a composition for all future annual subscriptions, the amount of such composition to be —. A Life Member shall in every respect except the payment of the annual subscription stand upon the same footing as an ordinary member. Should a Life Member resign or be expelled the Society (under the conditions of Article III.), or otherwise cease to be a duly qualified member, no part of the life composition paid shall be returnable to such Life Member.

ARTICLE X.

RESIGNATION OF MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 1.—Every member shall be considered a subscriber for the ensuing year unless his resignation in writing has been tendered to the Secretary one month prior to the date on which the regular annual subscription shall be due.

ARTICLE XI.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

SECTION 1.—Every member shall be required to notify the Secretary (and Exchange Officer, if any) of his change of address, and in default he shall be liable for any loss, delay, or fine incurred by such change of address.

ARTICLE XII.

OFFICIAL ORGAN.

SECTION I.—The official organ of the Society shall be *The Postage Stamp*, which journal shall be obtained by the member direct from his newsagent or bookseller at a charge of 1d. weekly per copy, or from the publishers at the regular subscription terms. Notices and reports of meetings shall be deemed to have been issued to all members of the Society as required by this Constitution provided that the same have been printed in due course in the official organ.

ARTICLE XIII.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

SECTION 1.—The Standing Committees, which shall be responsible to the President for the matters in their charge, shall be—

[On the Library.]
[On the Exchange Branch.]
[On the Expert Work.]
[On Publications, or other special matters taken in hand by the Society.]

ARTICLE XIV.

AMENDMENT.

SECTION 1.—This Constitution shall not be altered, amended, or modified except at the Annual General Meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

So far these statutes refer to the general requirements in the matter of a Constitution for a Philatelic Society. They will be varied and expanded according to the nature and development of the work of the Society, and Standing Committees will be formed to conduct a Library, Exchange Branch, or Expert Work when there may be occasion to undertake such work.

Most Philatelic Societies seem to require an Exchange Branch early in if not quite at the beginning of their career. We shall therefore in an early article give some specimen Exchange Packet Rules and Library Rules, which may, if desired, be incorporated as Articles in the Constitution of the Society.

My Favourite Country and Why

Nova Scotia

BY F. A. WRIGHT



I AM afraid I have more than one pet country, but I have always thought the stamps of Nova Scotia very hard to beat, especially that noble black stamp (12½c.). I remember about 1866 seeing in a small stationer's shop at New Cross (London) my first Nova Scotia. It was, if I remember rightly, the green stamp (8½c.) and was marked up at 4d. I should like to buy any amount of 8½c. stamps (used) to day at that price. The stamps (imperf.) of the first issue are certainly very handsome, but that is only to be expected when we find the engravers and printers to be Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. The 3d. blue, 6d. green, and 1s. violet stamps first saw the light in 1851 and the 1d. red brown in 1853. This latter is a square stamp, and the design consists of the late Queen Victoria's bust (head crowned) on a solid ground and in a diamond frame with 4 parts of an 8-pointed star in a curved frame. The words Nova Scotia, one penny postage round the edge of the outer frame, and the figure 1 in small white squares in each corner. The design of the 3d., 6d. and 1s. is somewhat similar, excepting that the shape in each case is diamond, and the centre consists of a crown in an octagonal white ground surrounded by a garter and 4 semi ovals containing a rose, thistle, shamrock and mayflower in the centre of a white star of 8 points.

The second issue consists of stamps of 1, 2, 5, 8½, 10 and 12½ cents, and were engraved and printed by the American Bank Note Co., New York. They were issued 1860-69, and perforated 12. The design (which is rather plain) of the 1, 2 and 5 cents, is a diademed head of the late Queen Victoria to left in a circular frame, a broad white line and a sort of wreath of flowers appear above the words Nova Scotia at top, and a similar white line with flowers beneath the value at bottom and scrolls at side of stamp. The design of the values 8½, 10 and 12½ cents is decidedly imposing. A full face portrait of the late Queen Victoria (crowned) on a solid ground contained in a broad oval frame. The words Nova Scotia at top, border of flowers at sides, flowers and scrolls at base of oval, and words of value in curved or straight labels at foot.

The points of interest about the first issue are (1) split values, e.g., a sixpenny and half of a 3d. stamp used together on same envelope, and (2) the value of the 1s. stamp, as much as £26 being paid at an auction sale for a fine copy.

With regard to the cents issue, there is the interesting fact that a quantity of the stamps, excepting the 5 cents, were discovered some years ago in the vaults of the Government Office at (I think) Halifax. And further the handsome appearance of the 8½, 10 and 12½ cents stamps, this last being, in my humble opinion, one of the most beautiful stamps ever issued.

In conclusion, I would say, that this is a most interesting country to collect, as there are not many stamps, and all are handsome. The difficulty of course is getting hold of the split values.

[Other readers are invited to write us about their Favourite Countries.—Editor].

One Hundred Years

Some Historical Notes on the famous Centennial Issue of New South Wales

Specially contributed to the One Hundredth Number of "The Postage Stamp"

BY ETRURIA

ONE of the first British possessions to issue a series of Commemoration adhesive stamps was the Colony of New South Wales, and this it did upon the suggestion of a small group of eminent philatelists. The occasion was one of those great historical epochs which even the most anti-commemorative collector cannot find much heart to protest against. It was the Centenary of the Settlement of Australia, January 20th, 1788, having seen the arrival at Botany Bay of the historic company of convicts under the control of a detachment of military. A few days later (January 26th) the British colours were hoisted on the shore of Sydney Cove, where the disembarkation took place, and the Proclamation and Commission constituting the Colony were read and a salute fired.

So in 1788 was New South Wales started upon its great career.

The first Governor of the Colony was Captain Arthur Phillip, R.N., and the Settlement comprised a major-commandant, 12 subalterns, 24 non-commissioned officers, 168 rank and file, and 40 women. In addition there was the large body of 600 male and 250 female convicts, to whom had been uttered "the hopeless words of never to return" to their native land.

The incident was already celebrated to the stamp collector, for among the most admired of all postage stamps are the famous Sydney Views, which bear a design (taken from the great seal of the Colony) suggestive of the first Settlement in 1788.

In 1888, New South Wales celebrated the hundredth anniversary of this great event in various ways, and Mr. Thomas Pugh, a member of the Philatelic Society of Australia, suggested at one of the Society's meetings a series of Commemorative postage stamps. The suggestion was readily taken up, and a small deputation comprising Ven. Archdeacon King, Mr. Pugh, Dr. Housion, and Mr. Fred Hagen was appointed to convey the suggestion to the Prime Minister of the Colony, Sir Henry Parkes.

In due course the suggestion was approved by the Cabinet, and it was further decided to throw open the designing of the stamps to public competition. The official announcement (in the *Government Gazette*) of the competition we quote from the *Federal Australian Philatelist* :—

GENERAL POST OFFICE, SYDNEY,
15th November, 1887.

DESIGNS FOR NEW POSTAGE STAMPS.

Designs will be received at this office until noon on Tuesday, the 6th December, for eight new postage stamps, intended to be commemorative of the one hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the Colony.

The designs must be drawn in black and white, to a scale four times the size of the present penny postage stamp. A distinct design will be required for each of the following denominations, viz. :—

- One Penny.
- Two Pence.
- Four Pence.
- Six Pence.
- Eight Pence.

- One Shilling.
- Five Shillings.
- Twenty Shillings.

The value of each stamp must be expressed in words, and the words "New South Wales Postage" and "One Hundred Years" to be common to all. Tenderers may submit designs for one or the whole.

A premium of £10 10s. will be given for the best design for each denomination, and £3 3s. for the second best.

The designs, for which premiums are given, to become the property of the Government, those that have not obtained prizes will be returned to the owners.

The designs are to be addressed to *The Secretary, General Post Office, Sydney*, from whom any further information can be obtained.

Each design to be marked on the right hand lower corner with some distinctive sign or motto, and the name and address of the tenderer enclosed in a sealed cover marked with the same sign or motto to accompany the design, which cover will not be opened until the selections have been made.

CHARLES J. ROBERTS.

The bait was successful in attracting many local artists to contribute suggestions and designs, and 956 drawings were submitted.

The first prizes of ten guineas each were ultimately awarded as follows :—

For 1d. Stamp	- M. Tannenberg.*
" 2d. "	- Miss Devine.
" 4d. "	- Henry A. Barraclough.*
" 6d. "	- M. Tannenberg.*
" 8d. "	- M. Tannenberg.
" 1s. "	- Charles Turner.
" 5s. "	- Charles Turner.*
" 20s. "	- Mrs. F. W. Stoddart.*

We have indicated by an asterisk after the name of the artist each of the designs which was actually adopted. It will be noted that the 20s. stamp of this series is one of the very few stamp designs which have been executed by ladies, of which this series provides several, the others being the actually issued 8d. (Lyre-bird) and 2d. (emu), both by Miss Devine. Of the designs gaining second prizes of three guineas each, none were adopted.

We now proceed to give an account, following the official description, of the designs of the eight stamps as actually issued.



1d. Inside a circle is a view of Sydney, taken from Mossman's Bay. Above the circle rests an Imperial Crown, and around the circle are the words, NEW SOUTH WALES POSTAGE and ONE HUNDRED YEARS. The surrounding space is filled with Australian ferns and the words, ONE PENNY. The stamp is printed in violet lake (violet). Issued 9th July, 1888.



2d. The design represents an Emu surrounded by a shaded oval band, on which the words ONE HUNDRED YEARS and TWOPENCE are inscribed. The four corners bear the words, NEW SOUTH WALES POSTAGE with which are interwoven the berries of the Lilly-pilly, the Corea or Native Fuchsia, and feathery sprays of Wattle. Colour, deep blue. Issued September 1st, 1888.



4d. A portrait of Captain Cook surrounded by an oval band on which the words NEW SOUTH WALES POSTAGE are inscribed, within the oval the words CAPTAIN COOK are printed. At the foot of the portrait is the Australian Coat of Arms resting on a cross band, on which the words FOUR PENCE are printed. The whole is fitted into a fancy square, the top bar of which bears the words, ONE HUNDRED YEARS. Colour, chocolate brown. Issued October 8th, 1888



6d. The design consists of the Queen's head in the left hand upper corner, to the right of which are four stars representing the Southern Cross; beneath these and on the right is the New South Wales Coat of Arms, surrounded by Australian flowers, viz., the waratah, wattle blossoms, eucalyptus, ferns, and heath, and surmounted

by a small scroll bearing the words ONE HUNDRED YEARS. This small scroll is surmounted by a larger one running diagonally through the centre of the design and bearing the words NEW SOUTH WALES POSTAGE. The value of the stamp is denoted by the word SIXPENCE legibly inscribed on a broad bar at the foot of the design. Colour rosine. Issued November 26th, 1888.



8d. A representation of the Australian Lyre-bird in an oval which occupies the centre of the stamp. At the foot of the oval and within, on a white ground, the words ONE HUNDRED YEARS are printed. The oval is surrounded by native flowers, the waratah and honeysuckle, and encircled at the top by the words NEW SOUTH WALES POSTAGE. The value of the stamp is denoted by the words EIGHT PENCE legibly inscribed on a broad bar at the foot of the stamp. Colour officially described as plum. Issued January 17th, 1889.



1/- A representation of a Kangaroo, surrounded by waratah, flannel, and other native flowers and shrubs. A scroll above the design bears the words ONE HUNDRED YEARS. Along the left-hand edge of the stamp are printed the words NEW SOUTH and in a corresponding position on the right-hand edge the words WALES POSTAGE. The value is denoted by the words ONE SHILLING printed in large characters on a broad white band at the foot of the stamp. Colour purple brown. Issued February 21st, 1889.



5/-. The design consists of an outline map of Australia, shewing the Colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia. The map is surrounded by an octagonal band, on the upper half of which are printed in large characters the words NEW SOUTH WALES POSTAGE, and on the lower half the words FIVE SHILLINGS. On the right hand side of the stamp, and placed over the above-mentioned octagonal band, is a representation of the New South Wales shield, and in a similar position on the left hand side is one of the Imperial shield. Immediately beneath the map the words ONE HUNDRED YEARS are printed in small characters. Colour, mauve lake. Issued March 13th, 1890.



20/-. The design represents the Governors of New South Wales in the respective years, 1788 and 1888, viz.: Captain Phillip and Lord Carrington. They appear as if on two coins, one partially hidden behind the other. The coin in the front bears the portrait of Lord Carrington; it is clearly and strongly defined, and near its edge are printed the words TWENTY SHILLINGS (the value of the stamp), and the figures 1888. The second coin bears

the portrait of Captain Phillip and the figures 1788; it is smaller than the other, as if far off, and is surrounded by clouds to convey the idea of distance and space of time. Floating between the coins, amongst the clouds, is a fluttering banner with the words ONE HUNDRED YEARS. The spaces surrounding the coins are filled in with Australian ferns and Christmas bells (*blandfordia nobilis*), the latter being appropriately suggestive of ringing in the glad Centennial time. Colour, light blue. Issued May 1st, 1888.

The engraving of the stamps was done by Mr. William Bell, and his work was reproduced by electrotyping to form the plates, which electrotyping as well as the printing was done in the Government Printing Office, the initials G. Pr. O. in the margins of the printed sheets being the imprint of the printing department.

The 20/- stamp which was issued first was printed on the watermarked paper provided for the old 5/- stamp of the coin type which was designed by Edward Henry Corbould, son of the artist who prepared the Wyon representation of the Queen's head for the 1d. black stamp. This watermark was later superseded by the figures and letters "20/- N.S.W." in a circle.

The old 5/- paper, which was of a dull buff colour, was also used for the 5/- stamp at first, but later on a new paper watermarked "5/- N.S.W." in a diamond shaped frame was introduced.

Dr. Houston in his large work on the *History of the Post Office in New South Wales* in mentioning that the penny value was printed on the ordinary Crown N.S.W. watermarked paper, adds that from the fact that one half of the plate was set in error, upside down, it will be found that one half of the watermarks are upside down also.

In consequence of the supply of this paper having run out on several occasions the value was printed on the "Duty Paper" with the watermark a large "N.S.W." The 2d. plate was set correctly, but otherwise the watermarks are ordinary Crown N.S.W., and also the large N.S.W. The 4d., 6d., 8d. and 1/- were only printed on the Crown N.S.W. paper.

All six low values are found perforated by three different comb machines. (1) 11 x 12; (2) 12 x 11½; (3) 12 x 12; the 4d. is also found perf. 11. The two lowest values

printed on the emergency "Duty Paper" have the first named perforation 11 x 12. The two high values which are of large size were perforated 10 at first when they were on the old 5/- watermarked paper, and 11½ to 12, 11, 10, compound of 11 and 10, on the specially watermarked paper. The 20/- has further perforation variations in a compound of 11½, 12 and 11.

There is a very considerable range of shades of some of the values, and the issue offers quite a large field to the single issue specialist who may also trace these Centennial dies through various colour changes which however occurred some years after the strictly commemorative purpose of the stamps had passed.

The following is the summary of this notable series, together with the current catalogue valuations:—

Centennial Series.

Watermark Crown and "N.S.W."

Perforated 11 x 12.

	Unused.	Used.
	s. d.	s. d.
1d. deep violet	0 2	0 1
1d. pale violet	0 3	0 1
2d. blue	0 0	0 1
2d. pale blue	0 6	0 1
4d. red brown	1 6	0 1
4d. bright red brown	1 6	0 1
6d. carmine	6 0	0 2
8d. rosy mauve	2 0	1 3
8d. magenta	—	3 6
1s. marone	7 6	0 9
1s. purple brown	6 0	0 6

Perforated 12 x 11½.

1d. violet	5 0	0 8
2d. blue	6 0	1 0
4d. brown	10 0	1 0
4d. pale brown	10 0	1 0
6d. carmine	—	2 0
8d. rosy mauve	—	—
8d. magenta	6 0	3 0
1s. marone	20 0	4 0
1s. purple brown	20 0	3 0

Perforated 12 x 12.

1d. violet	2 6	0 2
2d. blue	4 0	0 2
4d. red brown	20 0	0 2
6d. carmine	7 6	0 4
8d. rosy mauve	15 0	2 6
8d. magenta	—	3 6
1s. marone	40 0	4 0
1s. purple brown	—	4 0

Perforated 11.

4d. red brown	—	—
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On Fiscal Paper.

Watermark Large "N.S.W."

Perforated 11 x 12.

1d. violet	5 0	1 0
2d. blue	12 0	2 6

On Buff Paper.

Watermark "5/-"

Perforated 10.

352. 5s. deep violet	80 0	20 0
353. 5s. dull purple	40 0	—
354. 20s. blue	50 0	30 0

On White Paper.

Watermarked "5/- N.S.W." in a diamond-shaped frame

.. "20/- N.S.W." in a circular frame.

Perforated 11½, 12.

5s. deep violet	—	—
20s. ultramarine	—	—

Perforated 11.

5s. deep violet	60 0	15 0
20s. ultramarine	50 0	10 0
20s. blue	—	—

Perforated 10.

5s. pale violet	50 0	10 0
20s. ultramarine	£6	40 0

Perforated Compound of 11 and 10.

5s. pale violet	—	50 0
20s. ultramarine	—	—

Perforated Compound 11½, 12 and 11.

20s. ultramarine	25 0	—
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Make the Most of Your Business

Are You making enough Money out of your Business?

A Talk with the Up-to-Date Stamp Dealer

BY O. REGINALD GUM

MAKE all the money that you possibly can" was the wise refrain of a comic song which was in vogue not long ago. And I suppose that that is exactly what most of us must be trying to do. Anyway, the stamp dealer is not expected to be in business for his health, nor yet for the fun of the thing.

It behoves every dealer therefore to make the most of his business. No doubt most dealers are "doing pretty well thank you," but we should like to see a keener anxiety among some of them to do better.

It is a good business maxim that any business which is successful can be made more successful. Anything which has proved itself to contain the elements of success should be capable of fuller development.

How is the average stamp business to attain this fuller development?

No doubt there are various ways open to most stamp dealers. One can open up a new line of trade, another can open up a new shop in a new locality, but the way which must appeal to every dealer with the highest business instinct is to develop his trade by PUBLICITY.

In stamp dealing almost more (proportionately) than in any other branch of trade the bulk of the business is done through the Post. And a postal business has little use for any other shop window than ADVERTISEMENT.

A point that many stamp dealers seem to miss in advertising is that it should be regular and persistent. You would not think of opening your shop now and again just when you thought you would like to do so. No, you open it every week-day, and keep regular hours when your customers get to know you will be on duty. You cannot expect to do well with your advertisements unless you keep them going regularly too, so that your postal customers know where to see your postal equivalent of your shop window.

At least during the season your advertisements should

appear weekly. The active stamp collector does not buy a stamp one day and wait a month before he buys another. He is buying every week, and all the time, and if your shop or your advertisement "shop window" is not open he buys from "the other fellow."

The Postage Stamp is published weekly, and so enables you to keep in the most constant touch with your clients. Keep your advertisements bright and attractive, and drive them home to your customers week after week, and for every pound you are making now you will make double that amount in a short while.

Give it a good trial, and when you have done good business by post, through advertisement, don't slow up. Remember that to stop advertising does not mean that you are simply not making new custom. The business that stops advertising does not remain stationary—it is back-peddalling.

Our Advertisement Manager will gladly call or write, giving full particulars of the advantageous contract arrangements which can be made for advertisements in *The Postage Stamp*. Invite him to come and see you before you get too busy with the new season's rush. A postcard will do. Address it the Advertisement Manager, *The Postage Stamp*, 1, Amen Corner, E.C.

The "Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The Postage Stamp is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:

Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C.

F. C. Ginn, 143, Strand, London, W.C.

Lewis May & Co., 15, King William St., Strand, W.C.

W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.

James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.

Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.

The Court Stamp Co., 10, Marriott's Court,

Manchester.

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

China.—(Vol. IV. p. 190). *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* reports that current supplies of the 5c. are in a distinct shade of violet, instead of purple as formerly.

New Caledonia.—(Vol. III. p. 69).—The 1c. of the Jubilee issue of 1903 has been found with inverted surcharge according to *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*.

New Hebrides Condominium.—(Vol. IV. p. 235).—Our Antipodean contemporary, the *Australian Philatelist*, gives some particulars of the number of surcharged 1d. stamps on single CA paper that were issued. It appears that in the first consignment of stamps sent to Port Vila there were three sheets of this variety (360 stamps), while in a second consignment there were 16 sheets (1920 stamps). This makes a total of 2280 1d. stamps on the paper with single Crown and CA water-

mark, so the variety will hardly be as rare as was at first supposed.

New South Wales.—(Vol. IV. p. 201). The *Australian Philatelist* says:—"We have been shown the 9d. Commonwealth design with mixed perfs. The stamps have apparently been perforated on the 12 x 12½ comb machine, but the latter perforation not being satisfactory, has been patched up, and two vertical lines have been re-perforated on the 11 machine. These stamps are produced at the Melbourne Printing Office."

New Zealand.—(Vol. IV. p. 151).—We take the following interesting notes from the *Australian Philatelist*:—"Mr. Faris has sent us for inspection a corner block each of the 1d., 1d., and 6d values, showing plate numbers with a dot in the same colour as the stamp

below the number. The ½d. is numbered plate 1, the 1d. plate 2, and the 6d. plate 6. What do these dots signify? All are perf. 14 × 15.

"The same gentleman has also acquainted us that he has seen a block of four of the 1½d. value, now out of use, imperf. all round.

"Several of our English contemporaries have fallen into a slight error in connection with the new perforations of the current New Zealand stamps. They list the 4d. as perf. 14 × 15. Mr. Bate writes this may be correct, but he is disposed to think that perf. 14 × 13, 13½ is meant. He feels sure, however, that the assertion that the 2½d. and 5d. stamps have been issued perf. 14½ (comb machine) is quite inaccurate. These stamps are too big to go into either the 14 × 13½ or 14 × 15 comb perforators. There is no comb machine which perforates 14½ all round, nor is there any single cutter of that gauge. Mr. Bate adds that all the four machines at present in use gauge 14 × 15; he has pulls from them all, has examined them, and they are identical. When working with New Zealand current perforations it is not wise to take much for granted."

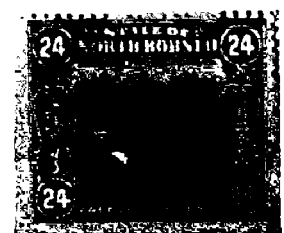
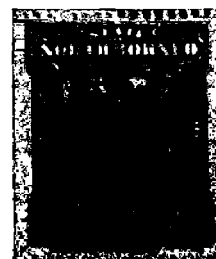
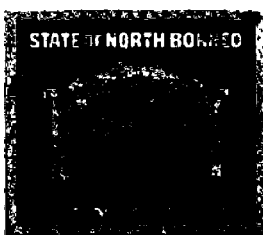
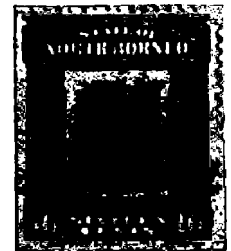
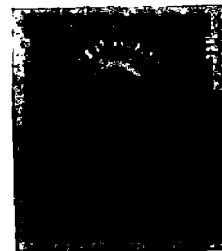
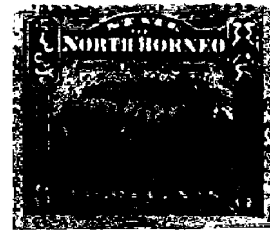
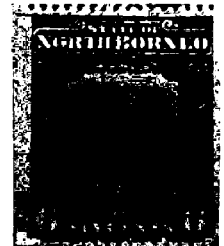
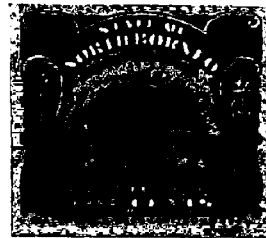
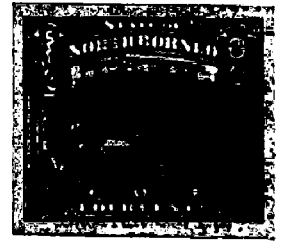
Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News states that the 2d. has been issued in a reduced design, but as no particulars are given as to the perforation we defer our formal chronicle of the variety until these are forthcoming.

North Borneo.—(Vol. IV. p. 249). The new set of pictorial stamps to which we referred last week, are all printed in two colours, the centre being in black in each case. The stamps were engraved and printed by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., and this firm's imprint appears at the foot of each stamp in tiny capitals, viz., "WATERLOW & SONS, LIMITED, LONDON." They are printed on white wove unwatermarked paper, and the perforation gauges exactly 14.

The central designs are as follows:—1c., tapir; 2c., a curious palm-like tree; 3c., a view with railway lines in foreground; 4c., a group of natives and English officials; 5c., an elephant and mahout; 6c., rhinoceros; 8c., ploughing with oxen; 10c., wild boar; 12c., parrot; 16c., horn-bill; 18c., wild ox; and 24c., cassowary.

There is a differently designed border for each value, on which "STATE OF NORTH BORNEO" is shewn at the top, "POSTAGE & REVENUE" and value in words at the base, while immediately above the centre "BRITISH PROTECTORATE" is shown in very small capitals. Inscriptions in Malayan and Chinese characters are shewn in the left and right borders respectively, and numerals of value are shewn in the lower corners on the 1c., 3c., 4c., 6c., 8c., 12c., 16c., and 18c. stamps, and in all four corners on the other values.

These stamps were placed on sale in Borneo on July 1st, and the 18c. was withdrawn on July 31st, after only a small quantity had been sold. This has since been replaced by the same stamp surcharged "20 CENTS" in red, as it was found this value was more needed than 18c. The list of varieties is as follows:—



No watermark. Perf. 14.

- 1c. chocolate and black.
- 2c. green and black.
- 3c. rose and black.
- 4c. scarlet and black.
- 5c. brown ochre and black.
- 6c. pale olive and black.
- 8c. rose lake and black.
- 10c. ultramarine and black.
- 12c. deep blue and black.
- 16c. purple brown and black.
- 18c. myrtle and black.
- 24c. violet and black.

Surcharged "20 CENTS" in red.

- 20c. on 18c. myrtle and black.

South Australia.—(Vol. III. p. 191).—The 2s 6d. value, on Crown A paper, although catalogued as having been issued in 1907, was actually only placed on sale on

June 10th last according to the *Australian Philatelist*. The list of large stamps now known on this new paper is as follows:—

Wmk. Crown A. Perf. 12.

- 3d. olive green.
- 4d. orange red.
- 6d. blue-green.
- 9d. brown lake.
- 1rd. buff.
- 1s. brown.
- 2s. 6d. bright violet.

Persia.—(Vol. IV. p. 202).—We gather from *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* that the 50 kran. stamp recorded on page 202 is not in the same design as the other values. The new stamp is an entirely different design, and has a gold border. We therefore amend our obituary as follows:—

New Design. No wmk. Perf. 11, 14.

- 50 kr. gold, vermilion and black.

A Century of Weeks

The Editor chats about "The Postage Stamp" and its Prospects

THE conductors of a journal which is in any way working a new field of journalistic enterprise, may very properly express their gratification at the completion of a first century of weekly numbers.

The Postage Stamp, which is 100 weeks old to-day, has certainly a field of its own, a field which has not been worked before. It has been throughout the hundred weeks, and still is, the only weekly stamp newspaper irrespective of the trade organs of particular stamp dealing concerns in this country.

The Postage Stamp has no fish of its own to fry. It is quite independent of any business other than that which must necessarily be associated with the business of publishing and of giving publicity to the advertisements of any and all *bona fide* stamp businesses without favouring any one firm more than another. As a free journal and unattached to any stamp dealing business, *The Postage Stamp* is free to give praise and credit when such are due, and it is no less free to criticise, where, in the opinion of its conductors criticism is justified and necessary.

Under the present management, *The Postage Stamp* will criticise where criticism is called for, but it will be as it has been in the past, entirely without malice. Much of the work that comes before our notice for review—for criticism—we recognise to be in nearly every case a labour of love—a labour which is undertaken primarily for the beneficent purpose of assisting brother collectors. This being so, it would be ungracious to criticise in a manner that would give offence, or hurt a worker who has no other desire than the public good and the extension of our and his own knowledge. If criticism be indulged in, it will be with an equally strong desire on our part for the public good, to prevent the circulation of error and misrepresentation, and to suggest where improvement might be strived after in future work, and this we take it, would, if indulged in with due consideration, earn the gratitude of any seriously minded author.

Neither shall we allow personal prejudices to mar our criticism. We realise that there are many grades and shades of philatelic thought and interest. We feel too that the highest interests of Philately and the Hobby of Stamp Collecting will be served best by keeping a very broad outlook editorially on the fair field before us. Because we ourselves have our own peculiar channels for specialisation, we shall not blind ourselves to the equivalent fascination which must lie in every philatelic

subject which is being thoroughly explored by other students. We realise too that in the broadest sense stamp collecting must be general to the majority, and it is in the majority that we must find our chief support, even as the trade must have its main support of numbers as well as a *clientèle* among the quality.

In one hundred numbers we believe we have succeeded in maintaining, in a fair measure, the ambition of the founder of the journal, the late Mr. Edward J. Nankivell, who, in his "Introductory" in Number One, said:—

"We hope to combine the publication of the highest class of useful and scientific articles with bright, varied and newsy pages, and to make it [*The Postage Stamp*] a storehouse and reference library of all that is worth preserving in the philatelic literature of the day."

During the coming season we shall continue our work still more vigorously in the same direction. We believe that a hobby, a study and a trade of the extent and importance of Philately requires and demands an independent organ which shall be published *weekly*.

Any other trade with the very considerable capital that the stamp trade has invested in it would have and support at least one sound independent weekly organ, which should be made the medium for all important news announcements, and which should be regarded as a recognised channel for constant communication between dealer and collector through the advertisement columns.

We have much to thank both the Trade and the Collector for in our past success. But like *Oliver Twist*, we realise that the source from which our encouragement has come in the past, can and will yield us more as we continue to deserve it, and we repeat in the words of the Founder and First Editor that we trust we may continue to rely upon the kind co-operation of our fellow collectors in the whole world of philately in our endeavours to make *The Postage Stamp* equally, if not more interesting and valuable, for many more hundreds of weekly numbers to come.

Bargains in Stamps.

If you want real bargains in Postage Stamps read the advertisement pages of *The Postage Stamp* every week. Every week there is something new, and many special bargains. If you miss a week you may miss the very stamp you want to complete a series

Editor's Letter Box

Publishing Offices.—I. AMEN CORNER, LONDON, E.C.

Editorial Address.—FRED J. MELVILLE, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

Articles, Contributions and Correspondence, should be addressed to the Editor, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the correspondent. Articles, etc., not accepted, will be returned when postage is prepaid.

Business Communications should be addressed to the Manager, and Advertisements to the Advertisement Manager, 1, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

THE POSTAGE STAMP may be obtained through Newspapers or will be forwarded from the publishing office to any address at the following rates of prepayment: Yearly, 6s. 6d.; Half-Yearly, 3s. 3d.; Quarterly, 1s. 8d.; Single Copy, 1d.

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Our Publishing Day and Advertisers.

In order to meet the requirements of the publishing trade our publishers now distribute copies of the Newsagents on Wednesdays instead of Thursdays as before. This compels us to go to press on Saturday morning. Hence it is absolutely necessary for our printers to have all advertisements at latest on Friday morning; consequently, copy must be in the Advertisement Manager's hands not later than Wednesday, 5 o'clock p m

Advertisers' Proofs.

We are anxious to consult our Advertisers' convenience to the greatest possible extent, but where proofs have to be supplied and returned our printers must have the "copy" by Thursday morning at the latest, as we now have to print off a portion of our issue on Saturday morning.

"The Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The Postage Stamp is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:—

- Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C.
- F. C. Ginn, 143, Strand, London, W.C.
- Lewis May & Co., 15, King William Street, Strand, W.C.
- W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.
- James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.
- Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.
- The Court Stamp Co., 10, Marriott's Court, Manchester.

Examination of Stamps.

So many of our readers have asked us to undertake the examination and identification of their stamps that we have made arrangements to accede to their wishes.

We shall be pleased to express an opinion as to the genuineness or otherwise of any stamps submitted to us, or identify them according to any catalogue at a charge of 6d. per stamp (minimum 1/-). All fees must be paid in advance with sufficient added to pay for return postage and registration.

Stamps upon which an opinion is desired should be mounted on a separate sheet from the letter accompanying them and addressed to "The Expert." c/o The Editor of The Postage Stamp, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

Collectors' Wants and Exchanges.

Our friends will note that we have opened a column for collectors to advertise their wants, at the nominal charge of 1d. per word. Many collectors even in London have not time to hunt about for stamps, whilst others resident in the country, have not the opportunity.

By using this column Collectors' Wants will catch the eye of all who are likely to be able to supply the stamps needed, for dealers watch such advertisements very closely, and collectors who want to dispose of duplicates will not fail to note the opportunity for exchange or sale.

Advertisements of stamps for sale are not admitted to this column.

Our Binding Covers.

In navy blue buckram, gilt lettered side and back, for binding any volume of The Postage Stamp, price 1s. 6d., from Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

Our Handbills.

We are still sending out hundreds of our handbills with specimen page to kind friends who are doing their best to help us to a big circulation. We want every reader to see to it that all his stamp friends take in THE POSTAGE STAMP. Shall we send you post free a dozen or two, or fifty, or a hundred, handbills to hand to friends and enclose in letters to collector friends? If so, write Baldwins, Printers of The Postage Stamp, Tunbridge Wells.

HOW TO CHOOSE A HOUSE

By Charles Emanuel & E. M. Joseph.

In crown 8vo. cloth gilt, 3s. 6d. net.

"There would be an end to the groans of the multitude of householders who discover, after the lease is signed, the hidden defects of their home if this remarkably practical book were always studied by the house hunter. It deals at the outset with the questions of freehold and leasehold tenure, and the many points where care is necessary in hiring or purchasing a house, and covers every point of legal procedure, of costs, stamps and registration. Illustrations make clear a number of points where description is difficult."—*Christian World*.

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PERHAPS YOU HAVE NEVER TRIED an advertisement in our columns. Perhaps it has not occurred to you to send your "Offers" along to THE POSTAGE STAMP. The next time you want anything why not use our columns? For particulars and prices see above.

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AGE STAMP

*An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors*

4 SEPTEMBER, 1909.

Price 1d.

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Letter Addressed in Verse.

A letter bearing the address in verse has just found its way to the post office at Princes Risborough, says the *Daily Mail*, 21.8.09. The envelope, bearing the Croydon postmark and the date August 17th, was thus addressed:

This letter please take to the land of white ducks,
The beechy and beautiful county of Bucks ;
And there, if your search on the map is most thorough,
You'll find a small township called Princes Risborough.
At the post office there will you then leave this letter.
My friends there are (W)right, so they couldn't be better.

The back of the letter bore the Tring postmark and the date August 18th, and the missive reached the Princes Risborough postmaster (Mr. Wright) the same day.

The Mail Train Apparatus.

The ingenious apparatus by which a travelling train drops and picks up mails at points on its route has been the cause of extremely few accidents, which says much for the general caution of the manipulators of the apparatus in the sorting tenders of our mail trains.

Many years ago, in the early days of the apparatus, a sorter put out the arm and net whilst passing through a tunnel, and the side of the carriage was torn away.

Accidents, however, are extremely rare. One has just occurred, and the following is the account given in the *Daily Mail* of 21.8.09:—

"A post office messenger, John Halsey, whose duty it was to set the apparatus for receiving the mails, was heard at the apparatus yesterday morning, but for some reason it was not set, and Halsey's mutilated body was afterwards found on the line. One of the pouches slung out by the mail train struck the framework and fell under the wheels of the train, some of the letters, which came from the north for the Luton area, being destroyed."

A Swiss Find.

A *Standard* correspondent, writing from Lausanne, August 18th, says that:—

"When part of the Archive Office at Bâle was being cleaned recently a sheet of fifteen rare postage stamps was discovered amongst a heap of dust-covered papers. The stamps, which are known to collectors as the 'doves of Bâle,' are very valuable and extremely rare. This sheet of fifteen stamps—the largest number known to exist in one set—has been roughly valued at £300, but

though a much larger price might be realised if the stamps were sold separately to collectors, it is improbable that they will come into the market."

"The Financier" on Automatic Stamp Vending.

My favourite paper, *The Financier and Bullionist*, says that "After trials extending over several years the German Post Office has decided to use the Abel automatic stamp delivery machine, and, according to the official organ of the Universal Postal Union, the step is not unlikely to be followed at an early date by other countries. The German Government has entered into a contract with the manufacturers of the ingenious machine, which is sold at the price of £40 delivered in Berlin, with a capacity of 1,000 stamps, the charge for a similar postcard delivery machine being £30. The manufacturing rights for France have been sold to a company which expects to put up the new distributor in about 6,000 post offices, and the American Stamp and Ticket Vending Machine Company has been formed in New York, with a capital of one million dollars, to exploit the Abel patent. Another instance of the inventive ability of our cousins German! We shall soon have sausages in the slot."

Stamps for a Missionary Exhibition.

Some of my readers may be glad to turn out their duplicates in a good cause. I take the following from the *Liverpool Daily Courier*.—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COURIER.

SIR,—You will probably be aware of the fact that there is to be a missionary loan exhibition here, at St. George's Hall, in September, at which it is proposed to have a stall for the sale of stamps, foreign and otherwise.

We should esteem it a favour if any persons or firms could give us a supply of these, and if they would send them either to the stamp department of the missionary loan exhibition at the Church House or myself, or upon receipt of a postcard the stamps would be called for.—Yours, &c.,

ERNEST W. HOOPER.

Mayfield, Woburn Hill, Liverpool, Aug. 19th.

Secretarial Reports and Champagne.

I gather that the Belgian philatelists had a rare old banquet at the nineteenth annual gathering of the Federation des Philatelistes Belges. The meeting was held at Gand, on the 4th of July, and proved as successful and enjoyable as its predecessors, in spite of inclement weather, which I may here mention is not an exclusively British climatic condition.

A two hours' sitting, during which (my authority informs me) champagne flowed freely, was devoted almost entirely to the report of the secretary, M. Pels. The meeting then adjourned to the Hotel Royal to partake of a sumptuous banquet.

The Call of the Convention.

This week in which I am writing is A.P.S. week, and there has been a sort of holidayish feeling in *The Postage Stamp* office. I expect the irritation the boss has been evincing is due to the same cause as my own keen desire to get away from London town to Yankee land. I have been lingering over a copy of the report of last year's Convention and wondering how things are going along at Atlantic City this week. Guess they are having a bully time of it, and Cornelius would dearly love to be along with the boys. There has been much interest aroused by the elections this year for the American Society, and I shall be keen to know who got in, and—well, just all there is to know. *The Postage Stamp* will get the news quickly, no doubt, but we should have arranged a long-

distance Marconi service, with a despatching station on the roof of the Hotel Rudolf (the headquarters of the Convention) and a receiving station at Amen Corner, or Brixton.

A Book about One Stamp.

Just in time for the Convention, the Handbook Committee of the American Philatelic Society has produced a very nice little booklet by Dr. Chase. This deals in a very thorough way with the "penny black" of the United States, which is a somewhat Irish way of describing the 3 cents *dull red* of the 1851 issue. But Dr. Chase uses the description, and in point of interest and possibilities for study I have no doubt the description is a very apt one. The book will be reviewed in *The Postage Stamp*, so I will not further discuss its interesting contents here beyond congratulating Dr. Chase and the A.P.S. Handbook Committee on the very successful start made in the field of philatelic literature.

Hustle—the Real thing.

While on the subject of the A.P.S. some of my readers may be interested to see the way secretaries hustle their members up in the States. Secretary Adair is a prime hustler and (vegetarian though I am) I should much like to have a high-ball or two with him during Convention week, though 'tis a vain hope this year. Here is the drumming up of Secretary Adair as published in *Mekeel's* the other week.

"What are the wild waves saying? Do you know? If not, it's up to you to attend the convention at Atlantic City and find out for yourself. This convention promises to be by far the most interesting from several stand-points that we have yet had. There will be something doing every minute and the oratorical fireworks supplemented by the acrobatically worded gems of rhetoric will leave nothing to be desired even by the most fastidious. Aside from all these the 'King's English as she is spoke' will no doubt be murdered artistically to the accompaniment of plenty of blue sulphur fumes and red fire. Could one desire more? Do you intend to miss this opportunity of a life time? Why, man alive, just go into training for a week and come along; a good verbal rough house will do your system good, freshen up your wits and give you an insight into the inner workings of political philately. Don't bother to bring an arsenal with you as all weapons must be deposited with the door keeper; this rule is rigidly adhered to. On the level, there's something doing, and if you want to get in on this barbecue, it's up to you to be there. Will I see you?"

H. S. ADAIR, Sec."

Jules Verne as a Stamp Collector.

It appears from a paragraph from one of the evening papers that the eminent writer of adventure stories, the late Jules Verne, whose literary output was probably greater than that of any of his contemporaries, found time for and pleasure in the pleasing pastime of stamp collecting. Mr. J. N. Raphael, who is quoted as the authority for this interesting piece of news, says:—"His books, his Town Council work, and his collection of postage stamps of which he and his wife, who worked at it together, had a very fine one—entirely absorbed him, and he devoured scientific publications of all kinds with a voracious appetite." And again: "I used to get there (*chez Jules Verne*) about midday, and we would usually talk stamps till luncheon."

Unappreciated Wit.

"Yes, you've got Great Britain and Colonies," sneered the Railway Carriage Socialist in reply to the Railway Carriage Imperialist; "but what else have you got?"

"Part II.!" responded a voice at the other side of the carriage.—*W. Ward in The Stamp Lover.*

Philatelic Peregrinations

1. To Hong Kong and Back

BY L. J. WORTHINGTON

PERHAPS a few details of the philatelic side of a journey to Hong Kong and back, from February to May this year may be of interest to some of your readers, although some of the information has already appeared, which I wrote on arriving home (*Ewen's Weekly* for May 12th). The ports we called at were Gibraltar, Malta, Port Said, Aden, Colombo, Singapore, and Hong Kong. I might here mention that I have, as far as possible, collected King's Head stamps with the marginal plate-number attached, and so I wished to get as many of the stamps of these places as I could with the plate-number. This I was able to do in every case, thanks to the civility of the postal clerks at each office, several of whom went out of the way to oblige, though it seemed to them curious that anyone should want them so. Of course I except Aden, as Indian stamps have no marginal number.

There was nothing to be noticed at Gibraltar, except that the clerks had then heard nothing of the arrival of the new stamps issued according to the new Colonial colour scheme (this was on the return journey in May), though the *Colonial Office Journal* for April stated that three values had already been shipped. The values of 2s. and upwards have the plate-number on the long side.

At Malta one was struck by the number of shops bearing signboards announcing that they sold stamps. The General Post Office sells stamps to these shops at a discount, in quantities of not less than £1 in total face value, who retail them. For this reason the General Post Office will not buy back stamps at face value. As probably all your readers know, the 3d. is still single Crown CA, and the 2½d. still bicoloured. The ½d. has a figure 2 on the left-hand margin, and is found in two distinct shades. The watermark too is frequently found inverted. The ½d. and 5d. stamps have no plate-number.

At Port Said the stamps were more interesting, as the plate-numbers were not all Number 1. I obtained the following copies:—Plate 1: 2, 3, and 4 millèmes, and 10 piastres. Plate 2: 1 mill. and 2 and 5 piastres. Plate 3: 1 mill. Plate 4: 5 mills. Plate 5: 5 mills. There were two different plates of the 1 and 5 mills. on sale at the same time, though the earlier ones were nearly exhausted. It was to be noticed that the plate-number of the 2 mills. was different to the others, which were of the ordinary Colonial type—a solid white 1 in a coloured circle. The 2 mills. had a coloured number (1) in an octagonal frame, and faced the opposite way to the others. The plate numbers are on the shorter edge of the stamps, and the margin is perforated on the left-hand side only. The French post office was on the opposite side of the street, and there I obtained the set to 1 franc, of which the 1c. to 30c. were purchased in pairs with the millésime—or number showing the year of printing—in between. The 5c. had two different millésimes, No. 1 and, I believe, No. 7, the two being in distinctly different shades.

Aden used Indian stamps, and officials could not be bought in the post office. Both the "Postage" and "Postage and Revenue" 1 anna were on sale.

Ceylon stamps only go up to 2r. 25c., i.e. 8s., and so the complete set could be got for a moderate price, especially as the three higher values are to be abolished, according to one of the local daily papers which I saw when there, which said that the 4c., 75c., 1r. 50c. and 2r. 25c. are to be abolished in 1910, and new values of 10c., 50c., 1r., 2r. 50c., 5r., and 10r. introduced.

At Singapore the 25c. and above were on chalky paper. The 5c. orange had not then been issued. Although the 3c. is coloured red—the Postal Union colour for stamps of face value of 10 centimes—4 cents were necessary to frank a letter to England.

The stamps of Hong Kong were interesting, since they have a despatch-letter and sheet-number on each sheet, as well as plate-numbers, in the N.E. corner. For this reason these stamps should be collected in pairs, with the plate-number above the left-hand stamp and the despatch-letter above the right-hand stamp. A new despatch-letter is used every six months, as stamps are received from England twice a year. The latest letter is or was in April—"O." Thus the 1c. had "C," the 12c. "G," the 20c., 30c., 50c., and \$1 "L," the 6c. and 8c. "M," the 4c. and 10c. "N," and the 2c. and 5c. "O" again. I found that the 12c. on sale was still single watermark, though the multiple (chalky) has already appeared.

During the fortnight's stay there I went up to Canton. That is a place where a collector has to spend money! There are five different post offices, viz.: English (i.e. Hong Kong), French, German, Chinese, and Japanese. The Hong Kong stamps had the same despatch-letters as at Hong Kong, except the 10c., which had "L." I found that all the Hong Kong stamps were perforated through the top margin, i.e., between the plate-number and despatch-letter, but I also found a 6c. without this perforation. The French post office had an assortment of stamps on sale, viz.: Indo-China, 1904 type, surcharged "Canton" and two Chinese characters, 25c. and 50c.; ditto, but unsurcharged, 1c. and 2c.; Indo-China, 1907 type, surcharged "Canton" in small red letters, 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 35, 40, and 75 cents. The 25c. and 1f. of this issue were not on sale. All except the 75c. had millésimes, chiefly No. 7. The German post office had the 2, 4, 10, and 40 cents and ½ dollar of the 1905 type, surcharged "China," without watermark, and the 1c. and 20c. with watermark. The Japanese post office had the ½, 1, 1½, 2, 3 (rose), 4, 5, 6 (brown-violet), 8, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 50 sen and 1 yen Japanese stamps, overprinted with two small characters. As far as I can remember, about 50 sen went to 40 Chinese cents. The Chinese post office had the current set on sale, the 2c. and 10c. being in Postal Union colours.

I visited Macau on the way down the river, and purchased the following stamps: ½, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 13, 16, 18, 47, and 78 avos. An avo equals a Chinese cent, i.e., 100=1s. 9d. All these Macau stamps except the ½ avo were issued un gummed, a sticky gum bottle being supplied on the counter for customers' use.

Lastly, a few words about the stamps sold in shops. There were many such shops in every port. In several cases the prices were quite reasonable, but in others absurd amounts were asked for, of course expecting to be beaten down. All seemed to have a fair knowledge of value, and differentiated between single, multiple, and chalky. At Colombo I saw several On Service King's Heads which looked like forgeries. At one small shop in Singapore I was able to buy several Brunei 5c. blue and black at 2d. each still. Hong Kong swarmed with dealers. The stamps on sale were, of course, chiefly Asiatic, and were, on the whole, fairly cheap. At Singapore I saw several sets of labels for sale at about 1s. 6d., purporting to be an earlier issue of Brunei, which were bogus.

New Zealand

Notes on the Perforations of the Early New Zealand Stamps, and some Remarks on the Relative Rarity of Perfs. 12½ and 13

From the "Australian Philatelist," July 10th, 1909

OUR esteemed correspondent, Mr. W. D. Ulph, of New Zealand, has directed our attention to the manner in which Messrs. Gibbons in their catalogue describe the perfs. of the 1864 issue on N.Z. paper, and the 1863-66 issue on large star paper, viz., perf. 12½ or 13. The figures look innocent enough, but the "or" makes a vast difference between them.

It may not be generally known that while perf. 12½ was the regular Government perforation, perf. 13 was not "official," but was authorised by the postmaster at Dunedin, and was in use for about one year and nine months before perf. 12½ came into existence.

Mr. Ulph thinks that the difference between this unofficial perf. 13 and the Government machine perf. 12½ is a much more important variety for cataloguing separately than many that are catalogued. He instances the fact that the New South Wales diadem stamps, 1860 issue, are separated into two classes of perforation having similar degrees of difference as the New Zealand stamps and asks the question, Why are the New Zealand stamps not treated on similar lines? There seems to have been some uncertainty regarding this Dunedin perforation 13 until quite recently, for the expression 12½ or 13 only appears for the first time in last year's catalogue.

On the 19th Nov., 1907, Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg read a short paper before the Herts Philatelic Society, giving some very important particulars as regards the earlier papers and perforations of New Zealand stamps, from which we gather that Mr. Hausburg during his rambles in New Zealand in 1906 got at the bottom of the matter. The Dunedin perforating machine was a single line cutter worked by hand. The gauge was about 13, and the important point to bear in mind when on the look out for this perforation, that it is always 13 or over. If less than 13 it belongs to the 12½, or Government series which may be called the common kind.

Mr. Hausburg states that the earliest dates at present known for the stamps on the various papers perf. 13 are:

Star watermark, 16th January, 1863.

Pelure, no watermark, 27th February, 1863.

Thick paper, no watermark, 18th July, 1863.

N.Z. paper, 1st August, 1864.

Incidentally we might remark that Mr. Hausburg gives information in the same article which proves that the pelure paper was issued during a temporary shortage in the supply of star paper. As the star paper was in use in 1862, and came into general use a couple of years afterwards, is it not also apparent that the printing of stamps on the paper watermarked N.Z. (generally known as fiscal paper), was also in consequence of a temporary shortage of star paper, but this is outside our subject. We might say, however, that there seems to have been a considerable variety of papers and perforations in use between December, 1863, and March, 1865, for Mr. Ulph has the 2d. in the following:—

Thick unwatermarked paper, perf. 13 dated from August 24th, 1863, to February 22nd, 1864.

Star watermarked paper, perf. 13, dated December 7th to 16th, 1863.

Star watermarked paper, perf. 12½, dated March, 1865.

N.Z. watermarked paper, perf. 12½, dated December or October? 1864.

N.Z. watermarked paper, perf. 13.

The last stamp is not dated. As, however, Gibbons chronicles the issue on N.Z. watermarked paper as 1864, Mr. Ulph reckons that his stamp was issued some time in that year. The main point is that he has it both 12½ and 13, and the same remark applies to the 2d. stamps on star watermarked paper. We have since gone through our firm's stock, and have found both the 1d. orange and the 1d. carmine-vermilion on star paper, perf. 13. The former is postmarked somewhat peculiarly, and the obliteration does not afford any information; the latter is an unused but damaged copy. We also found one copy of a 2d. on N.Z. paper, postmarked Christchurch, N.Z.—64. Several 2d. values on star paper, all postmarked Otago, a number of 6d., and one 1/- on the same paper.

Mr. Ulph writes that he has never seen perf. 13 with other than Otago or Dunedin postmark, and in his opinion any that were marked otherwise would most likely be just because people travelled from Otago and took a few stamps with them.

The same gentleman sends us his opinions regarding the relative rarity of the imperf. and perforated stamps both 13 and 12½, and we think the simplest plan will be to use his own words.

As to the N.Z. watermark, perf. and imperf., the following suggests itself:—1d. carmine-vermilion (SG. 66 and 70), apparently not a great many were printed on this paper, and as the perforated are much scarcer than the imperf. it might be reckoned that they were only issued imperf. officially, and that any perforated stamps found would be perf. 13 from Dunedin.

2d. blue imperf. are rare. As certainly two other papers were in use in December, 1863, and early in 1864, possibly the 2d. on N.Z. paper were not printed very early in 1864, and as the Government machine was perforating 12½ in the latter part of 1864 it does not leave very long for the use of the imperf. stamps. The fact that these stamps are to be found pretty plentiful perf. 12½, and they are known to exist perf. 13, the tendency would be to make the imperf. rarer still.

6d. red-brown. This value is probably on the same level as the 2d. Mr. Ulph does not know of its existence perf. 13, but has a perf. 12½ dated September, 1864.

1/- green. Mr. Ulph thinks that as these stamps are pretty close together on the plate, possibly, at first, the Government jibbed at perforating them, or being busy with the lower denominations, then more generally in use, they may have been overlooked. He asks the question, did the Government perforate this value at all? His only perforated copy is perf. 13, and if these stamps were only issued with the unofficial perforation it would account for the comparative rarity of them.

A reference to Messrs. Gibbons' catalogue will show that all the pelure paper stamps number 36 to 39 which were perforated were done unofficially at the Dunedin office, and being only issued there, it is quite reasonable to assume that not so many were obtained by the public as the imperf. stamps, which were issued in all the other provinces in New Zealand. The prices quoted by Messrs. Gibbons bear out this assumption.

Mr. Ulph would like to know if Messrs. Gibbons'

would supply any of the stamps quoted in their catalogue either perf. 12½ or 13 as required, at the same price?

Speaking from our own point of view as regards the relative values of the star watermarked paper, perf. 13 as against 12½, after having gone through our stock, we would say that the former are worth as many pounds as the latter are worth shillings.

We would therefore advise collectors to examine their so-called perf. 12½ first type New Zealand, and "ear-mark" those that are perf. 13.

Mr. Hausburg has seen the following:—

Perf. 13.

Thick paper, no watermark.

2d. blue.

Pelure Paper.

1d. vermilion.

2d. ultramarine.

6d. black-brown.

1/- deep green.

Watermark large star.

1d. vermilion.

2d. (plate 1 worn state) blue, ultramarine, pale blue.

3d. brown lilac.

6d. black-brown, brown, red-brown.

1/ deep green, blue green.

Watermark N.Z.

2d. (plate 1) pale blue.

1/- deep green, yellow-green.

Perf. 12½.

Watermark large star.

1d. carmine, carmine-vermilion, orange.

2d. (Plate 1, worn state) pale blue.

2d. (Plate 2) deep blue, blue, pale blue.

4d. rose carmine.

4d. orange, yellow.

6d. brown, red brown.

1/- green, pale green.

Watermark N.Z.

2d. (Plate 1, worn state) pale blue.

6d. red brown.

1/- yellow-green.

All the later stamps are perforated 12½.

Stamp Changes in China

Issue of Commemoratives to be Limited

From the Official Report on the Chinese Imperial Post

AN Eastern correspondent sends us a full extract on the subject of the prospective changes in Chinese stamps, referred to in the Report on the Working of the Chinese Imperial Post Office, 34th year of Kuang Hsü (1908). A brief extract was given in our Stop Press column from cabled news from Peking (July 31st issue, vol. iv., page 216).

"Some modifications were made in the colours hitherto adopted for Chinese postage stamps, with a view to bring them into accord with the conventional colours of the Union for international rates; the 10 cent stamp (25 centimes) was changed from green to blue, and the 2 cent (5 centimes) from red to green. Since the 1st January, 1909, the new colour stamps are exclusively used for these values. Another stamp, of the value of 4 cents (10 centimes), will also be changed in colour during the

present year, from brown to red. The large supply of brown 4 cent stamps now on hand makes the change in colour inadvisable for the present. It may be interesting to note in this connection that the Imperial Administration has decided to commemorate the accession to the Throne of His Majesty the Emperor Hsuan T'ung by the issue of three stamps, of the respective values of 2 cents, 3 cents, and 7 cents. These stamps will be oblong instead of square, and be printed in two colours; all three will have a yellow border, this being the Imperial colour in China, and the central picture, which will represent the Temple of Heaven—the sacred edifice for Imperial sacrifices in Peking,—will be green, blue, and purple, according to value. The issue will be strictly limited to 1 million of the 3 and 7 cents and 2 millions of the 2 cents."

The Evolution of a Variety

BY J. IRELAND

THE object of this article is to show how varieties are evolved and the bearing they have on the stamp, the catalogue, the collector, and the dealer.

Being a stamp which has gone through everything that is possible in the life of a stamp, the life history of the one and only 5d. stamp of New South Wales is taken as an example.

This stamp was issued in 1854, before the advent of perforating machines in New South Wales, on paper watermarked "5" at regular intervals, and the stamps were cut from the sheet as required.

In 1860, perforating the sheets between each stamp was commenced. We are informed in the catalogue that the machine used gauged 11½ × 12, and in 1861 or 1862 12½ × 13. In 1871 this stamp was printed on paper watermarked with a Crown and "N.S.W.," at regular intervals as before, and perforated on machines gauging 10, and afterwards a compound of 11½, 12 × 10.

In 1881 there was another variation in the watermark,

being a slight difference in the Crown. The different perforations employed gauged 11, 12 × 10; 11, 11 × 10; 11½, 12 × 11; and a few sheets were issued unperforated. Since 1871 this stamp has also been overprinted "O.S.," for official correspondence.

It will be noted that all these varieties are what may be termed additions to the design, and that the design is exactly the same as when it was first impressed in 1854. The effect on the catalogue is that the stamp is listed *eighteen* times. The effect on the collector is that if he collects by catalogue (he is considered unfashionable if he does not) he leaves eighteen spaces for this stamp, with the extreme probability that he never fills more than two. The effect on the dealer is that he only sells these varieties when the country in question is fashionable.

The reader may draw his own conclusions, and, if he is independent enough, form his own opinions, from these remarks, which he will find on investigation are perfectly true.

My Favourite Country and Why

Queensland

BY ANON.



It is a great many years since the stamps of this Colony became my premier favourite, and as the years roll on the knowledge obtained from their study seems more and more to strengthen my first impressions.

The first point I claim for my favourite is its excellence in portraiture, and I am sure the great majority of collectors will agree with me that the piece of work forming the centre of the first design is not only very beautiful, but that the wonderful likeness of our late Queen in the early days of her reign, has rarely, if ever, been equalled in other productions by that famous firm of engravers Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., of whom it has been recognized over and over again, that they had no equals in that respect.

Then there is the design in its entirety, and here again I am sure the greater number will agree with me that the perfectness of the proportion of the beautiful work depicted, combined with the wonderful simplicity of the design, allows my favourite again to score heavily.

Now I must admit that I have no fondness in my philately for the very straightforward and commonplace. There are many who would give Queensland the cold shoulder on account of the star watermarks alone to say nothing of the varieties of Script and the Crown and Q.

I acknowledge that the large and medium stars are sometimes very confusing, but once one familiarises oneself with the large extent of space on the stamp which the large star covers the matter is very considerably simplified. One must allow a certain amount of latitude for the variations in the stars themselves, they are not all of an even size although the catalogue gives the Large Star as measuring from 15 to 16 millimetres and the medium as 13 millimetres long. These papers it must be remembered were *hand* made, that is to say made in hand moulds, of which quite probably there was a number more than two. In these moulds on a ground of wire network the watermark designs were woven with pieces of wire, each no doubt shaped separately by hand, and they would in consequence vary quite considerably.

With regard to the truncated star there can be no question at all of difficulty as it almost invariably is heavily impressed and looks more as though it had been embossed than worked in to the paper during its manufacture. The right and left rays of the truncated stars are always exactly horizontal, whereas the large and medium stars are shaped with oblique lines.

On some of the Crown and Q stamps which are more easily accessible there is a good deal yet to be done by the specialist, who will probably find in time that practically all the perf. 18 and perf. 12 of 1868 to 1879 exist with the watermark inverted and with the watermark reversed. In this connection it should be noted that when one is

examining the stamp from the back on a dark ground the tail of the Q is always to the left in the normal, not to the right as in Gibbons' illustrations which have evidently been intended to represent the watermark as seen through the face of the stamp.

With regard to the truncated star series the catalogue has yet to be amplified in the matter of compound perfs. As yet only the 1d. and 2d. are given and the 2d. is by no means so rare as the catalogue quotation might suggest—at least this is my opinion.

Then the 1879-80 issue and all the following electro-typed series up to 1894 give quite a large field for those who have a liking for flaws and for stamps that have been built up in types of 4 or more repeated as required on the plate.

The catalogue gives the QUEENSLAND and FENCE varieties, and it mentions the LA joined, but there are many others which are equally permanent and consequently quite as interesting.

The issues of the 1d. and 2d. from 1879 to 1894 might be more clearly explained in the catalogue. A few diagrams such as Gibbons provide in many other countries of lesser importance would shew at a glance points which take a long time to assimilate from footnotes.

The first series have tesselated work in the angles whereas the new type of 1892-3 have an ornamental scroll design in the corners. This does not readily strike one on examining the illustrations. The 1882 1d. has a stop after the value whereas the 1887 one has not. The 1887 one differs of course in perforation from the 1890. There are other distinct differences in designs 1, 2 and 3 of this type which diagrams would render quite simple to the novice.

The later issues do not hold quite the same possibilities philatelically as those I have mentioned, but the prospective combination or unification of the stamps under the Australian Commonwealth is certainly an additional point of recommendation to those who like a country whose separate issues may soon have reached their end.

So long, therefore, that the varieties of watermark, papers, perforation and all other necessary evils for the specialist on these stamps of Queensland are not exhausted, I am sure it will remain my favourite, and the end looks very distant.

Bargains in Stamps.

If you want real bargains in Postage Stamps read the advertisement pages of *The Postage Stamp* every week. Every week there is something new, and many special bargains. If you miss a week you may miss the very stamp you want to complete a series.

Back Nos. of "The Postage Stamp."

Those of our friends who are lacking any back numbers of the present vol. will do well to write direct to our Publishers, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, 1 Amen Corner, London, E.C., for what they require. Many newsagents do not care to bother about back numbers. Any number still on sale may be had for the published price and postage, i.e., 1d.

Cook Islands

As Collected in the Simple Life

BY J. IRELAND

THE stamps of the Cook Islands are not at all unmanageable; there are only 43—or 53 including shades—listed in Stanley Gibbons' catalogue. In the simple life there are but 17, of which 9 are current. Why they are so poorly represented in the collections I have seen it is difficult to say. I can only account for it being unpopular by there having been no new issue since 1893 with the exception of three new colours in 1902, and at that time "King's heads" began to boom. However, it is not wise to neglect unpopular countries, especially in Australia, where they may be incorporated in the Commonwealth at any time.

The following is the reference list:—



1892. Type set.

1d. black. 2½d. blue.
1½d. mauve. 10d. carmine.



1893. New Designs—two.

½d. blue (1898).	2½d. rose.
¾d. green (1902).	2½d. blue (1902).
1d. brown.	5d. olive-black.
1d. blue (1894).	6d. purple (1898).
1d. rose (1902).	10d. green.
1½d. lilac.	1s. carmine.
2d. brown.	

There is nothing here that calls for special mention. It will be noted that the 1d. brown was only in issue one year, and the ½d. blue four years. These stamps therefore, especially the 1d. brown, should be fairly scarce. This is one of the easiest Australian countries to get complete.

The Postage Stamp Binding Covers.

Handsome dark blue covers in buckram, gilt lettered side and back, may be had from our Publishers, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Amen Corner, London. Price 1s. 6d.

United States Essays of 1869

BY REV. L. C. WALTER

In a recent issue we published an illustrated article by the Editor on the subject of the 1869 issue of the United States. From "Mekeel's Weekly" for August 7th, just to hand, we reprint the following interesting notes on Essays for this popular series of stamps, which supplement the Editor's recent article.

OF U.S. essays I have seen none more interesting than those designed in preparation for the 1869 issue. Most of them are known as "small figure varieties," the only difference between them and the accepted types being in the figures of value, those on the essays being considerably smaller.

The 1c. essay has the figure of value enclosed in a small beaded transverse oval, with the word "cent" in very small letters in the background, the figure separating the first two letters and the last two. The "1" is identical in pattern with that used on the regular stamp. This statement holds true practically throughout the

series.

Some two years ago a 1c. essay was sold at auction, the stamp having the regular design between two draped flags, with a shield below. This made quite a large stamp. The specimen—the only one I have ever seen—is a die proof in black on white glazed paper, and not very well printed.

The 2c. essay has the figure of value on an ornamental band encircling the ribbon bearing the words "Two cents."

The 3c. essay has the figure of value on a shield-shaped tablet.

A 5c. essay was prepared, practically the same design as that of the 6c. stamp, the difference being that each lower corner has a small figure "5" and the lower border reads "Five cents."

The 10c. essay contains a picture of Lincoln, the same as that adopted for the 90c. stamp, but showing less of the shoulders; faces at the sides, "U. S. postage"

above, and "Ten Cents" below in curved bands, "10" in plain figures in the upper corners and "U. S." in the corners below.

In an auction catalogue of December, 1907, I find a 10c. essay described as having a picture of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence in the centre; a die proof in gray black on India on card. Having never seen this essay, I cannot describe it further.

I happen also never to have seen the 15c. essay, but it is probably safe to guess that it differs from the regular design only in size of the numerals. The 12c. essay differs from the stamp as issued only in the size of the figures. So also the 24c. essay is otherwise identical with the type issued, except that some ornamentation has been omitted on account of the larger numerals in the regular stamp.

The essay for the 30c. value pictures the surrender of Cornwallis to Washington at Yorktown, the frame being a horizontal panel, ends oval, upper and lower sides parallel. "Postage" above with "U. S." in upper corners, "Thirty cents" in graceful curves below with

the figures "30" in a circle between the two words. A die proof of this essay makes a very fine appearance. I understand that the design was rejected because the Government did not wish to remind our British friends of any unpleasantness.

The 90c. essay has the figures of value in small beaded ellipses, while the portrait is that of Washington as used in the 1861 issue.

These essays for the most part are to be found in a wide variety of colours. I have never seen any explanation of such a series of colours except that they were made to determine in what colour the stamp would appear to best advantage. It is hard, however, to avoid an uncomfortable suspicion that there were thoughts of the collector's pocket-book.

The prices asked for these essays have almost as wide a range as the colours. I have seen the same essay of 1869 priced by one dealer at \$5 and by another at \$1. On the whole, I think that nearly all of this series can be bought at from one to three dollars each, and possibly less if one knows how to go about it.

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

China.—(Vol. IV. p. 261).—Further particulars are forthcoming of the commemorative issue, which have been obtained from the Imperial Post Office at Peking, viz.:—"The Imperial Administration has decided to commemorate the accession to the Throne of His Majesty the Emperor Hsuan T'ung by the issue of three stamps of the respective values of 2 cents, 3 cents, and 7 cents. These stamps will be oblong instead of square, and be printed in two colours; all three will have a yellow border, this being the Imperial colour in China, and the central picture, which will represent the 'Temple of Heaven,' the sacred edifice for Imperial sacrifices in Peking, will be green, blue, and purple, according to value. The issue will be strictly limited to one million of the 3 and 7 cents and two millions of the 2 cents."

Ecuador.—(Vol. IV. p. 20).—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. inform us that on the 10th August another new series of commemorative stamps was to be issued to celebrate the Centenary of Independence and of the Exhibition held in Quito in consequence thereof. No information concerning the design of these stamps is yet to hand.

Gaboon.—This French colony is to follow the example of its sister colonies by issuing a series of pictorial stamps. There will be three different designs, one showing the head of a native woman, another showing the head of an armed native warrior, and the third showing a view of the harbour at Libreville. All will be of the usual large size adopted for French colonial picture issues.

Great Britain.—(Vol. IV. p. 20).—Several correspondents have shown us the current ½d. and 1d. stamps with the control letters, "H9." The complete list of King's head "controls" now stands as follows:—

½d. dark green, A, B, C, C4, D4.

½d. yellow green, D4, D5, E5, E6, F6, F7, G7, G8, H8, H9.

1d. scarlet, A, B, C, C4, D4, D5, E5, E6, F6, F7, G7, G8, H8, H9.

Panama.—(Vol. IV. p. 162).—The 10c. in the new design, showing portrait of Jose de Obaldia, has now

appeared. We described this stamp with the Canal Zone overprint on page 311 of our last volume. The new stamps issued to date are:—

New Designs.

No wmk. Perf. 12.

2c. vermilion red and black.

2½c. red.

10c. violet and black.

Queensland.—(Vol. IV. p. 162).—We take the following interesting paragraph from the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*:—"Our publishers have recently purchased a used copy of the 6d. green, current design, but with figures in two top corners omitted. This stamp is listed in Kohl's catalogue as being a proof. Our copy, however, was postally used, and is dated August, 1902. It was one of several, picked out of a big wholesale consignment of Queensland stamps, and we have little doubt but that one or more sheets of these stamps were used at the Brisbane Post Office."

Roumania.—(Vol. IV. p. 141).—The *London Philatelist* records the discovery of several new varieties of compound perforations, i.e., the 1½b., 5b., and 10b. of 1876-78 and the 9b. of 1879. The list of these now known is as follows:—

1876-78. No wmk. Perf. compound of 13½ and 11.

1½b. olive green.

5b. bistre.

10b. blue.

1879. No wmk. Perf. compound of 11, 11½ and 13½.

1½b. grey black.

3b. olive green.

5b. blue green.

10b. pale rose red.

50b. bistre buff.

Southern Nigeria.—(Vol. IV. p. 249).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 2d., 4d., and 6d. in the new colours conforming to the Crown Agent's scheme. The complete list of varieties on the paper with multiple watermark now stands as follows:—

Wmk. Multiple Cr. CA. Perf. 14.

- 1d. green and black.
- 1d. green.
- 1d. carmine and black.
- 1d. carmine.
- 2d. orange brown and black.
- 2d. grey.
- 3d. lilac and orange brown.
- 4d. olive green and black.
- 4d. red and black on yellow.
- 6d. mauve and black.
- 6d. purple.
- 1s. black and green.
- 1s. black on green paper.
- 2s. 6d. brown and black.
- 5s. yellow and black.
- 10s. purple on yellow.
- £1 violet and green.

Tasmania.—(Vol. IV. p. 224).—A correspondent informs the *London Philatelist* that he has found a block of six of the 4d. on Crown A paper having the centre and left vertical pairs perf. 11 × 12½, and the right-hand pair perf. 11 on three sides and 12½ on the other. He expresses the opinion that the sheet was perforated 11 with the exception of the last two vertical rows, which were left imperf. This defect was noticed and remedied on the 12½ machine, thus adding another compound perf. to our list, which now stands as follows:—

Wmk. Crown A. Perf. compound of 12½ and 11.

- 1d. rose red.
- 2d. dull purple.
- 4d. buff.
- 1s. rose and green.

Turkey.—(Vol. IV. 202).—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co send us the first value of the new series showing the Imperial "toughra" of the new Sultan, Mohammed V. The stamp in question is the 20 paras, and it is similar in design to the value it supersedes except as regards the toughra and the inscription in Turkish characters below this. The three projecting lines at the top of the toughra, which in the old design pointed to the centre of the crescent moon above, now slope to the left, and the small sign to the right of this is not so complicated. The inscription in Turkish has been considerably compressed, and there is an appreciable space between the base of this and the surrounding circle.

New design. Perf. compound of 12 and 13½.

20 par. rose carmine.

Uruguay.—(Vol. III. p. 81).—It is rumoured that Messrs Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., are preparing a new set of stamps for this republic. The designs are said to include several views, a portrait of General Artigas, and an allegorical head of Liberty.

In the Stamp Market

BY O. REGINALD GUM

The Story of Philatelic Fashions.

The Summer and Autumn of 1904 provided British philately with probably its greatest amount of enthusiasm, not excelled by that of the two previous years. I allude to the degree of passion connected with the discovery of the new multiple watermark. Discovery it certainly was, for no notice of the impending change had been given out from official quarters. People who had been occupied in endeavouring to complete their Queen's heads had not troubled to secure the newer King's head issues, under the impression that they were to be the last word for a few more years to come. The new discovery made them rush from their "feminine" quest to secure the rapidly becoming obsolete "singles." Chalk surfaced papers were the next evidence of any creation of interest among the "fashionable," but they fell through on account of so many people evincing a laziness, rather than go to the trouble of distinguishing the two varieties of paper. The lull following the "chalkies" made it essential that the new issue caterers should encourage the philatelic butterflies to settle on other flash objects. Thus the seductive flares in the guise of the Cayman Island, Papua, Solomon, New Hebrides and other similar publications of adhesive labels, have until lately attracted a body who are always ready to play a blind-follow-my-leader game.

Whilst many of our friends have been carefully amassing sheets of Papua's or Solomon's, another change has been wrought in the stamps of our Empire. This time it is a change that must affect every collector. Many collectors who collect generally take no notice of single or multiple watermarks, near or far placed impressions, nor of ordinary or surface papers. But of varied coloured designs they are bound to take notice. Thus the new coloured papers on which the "De la Rue" Colonials are being printed will obsolete the whole of the notorious purple and other coloured "King's heads" so long in use. There is no doubt that many collections are deficient in the sets of "multiples" in used condition—the only state that gives a true reflection of the

value of any postage stamp. Take for a good example many of the African Colonials. Such values as 2½d., 4d. and 5d. are doubtless much more often represented in unused condition, for the simple reason that since there is little occasion for the postal use of these values to-day, they are seldom met with. These values, or indeed any above the penny are really scarcer than the respective Queen's Head ones on account of course of the great postal reductions. Certainly trade has more than trebled, but on the other hand, if anything, the higher values are less affected, for what twelve years ago took 5d to pay postage on, the same weight (1 ounce) will now be conveyed for a penny.

As we have already gleaned from the Colonial Office notices, a great number of the bicoloured stamps are now obsolete as far as fresh printings are concerned at any rate. When the winter season arrives and the various philatelic societies have again got into full swing, all attention will be directed towards the gathering in of these purple "bodied" specimens. The rush will be the means of showing the dealers which and what are the really scarce varieties, and the 1910 catalogues will be eye-openers for the majority of philatelists. Thus the section of the trade that has cultivated the cannibal isles of Cayman, Papua or Solomon, will find their time occupied in searching for the bicoloured multiple.

The "Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The *Postage Stamp* is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:

- Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C.
- F. C. Ginn, 148, Strand, London, W.C.
- Lewis May & Co., 15, King William St., Strand, W.C.
- W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.
- James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.
- Cheap Stamp Co, 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.
- The Court Stamp Co., 10, Marriott's Court,

Manchester.

How to Start a Philatelic Society

A Helpful Guide to the Philatelic Organiser

BY THE EDITOR

At the present moment most Secretaries of Philatelic Societies will be preparing their programmes for the coming season. On this account we have held over our outline Exchange Packet and Library Rules, and give some notes on the subject of the preparation of a programme, in the hope that a few of the suggestions may come in useful to honorary secretaries in the arduous task of completing their programmes for the winter.

Preparing the Programme.

THE preparation of a syllabus of meetings for our Society is a task that will probably fall to the Hon. Secretary. He will, of course, approach every member to assist in providing the entertainment in the way of papers and displays for the season.

For obvious reasons it is not practicable to give here a skeleton programme. But we should urge the officer in charge of the programme to strive after variety. Variety is the spice of life, and it will make our meetings "go."

To secure a really bright and varied programme one must preserve an open mind on subjects of a controversial nature. One must be prepared to give papers and displays of foreign stamps a fair show, though it may be found necessary to have a preponderance of British and British Colonial subjects for papers and displays. It is not necessary to suggest subjects for displays; the members providing these will know what portions of their collection are most ready for showing at a meeting.

But there are many collectors who, although not prepared to give a display, might be encouraged to prepare and read a paper, and it will often be found useful to be able to suggest a topic to a member as suitable for such treatment. Specialized subjects come readily enough to the member who has devoted particular study to a subject, but for those who have not set subjects I give a few general titles which may be used by the secretary to draw out a collector from the passive into the active membership.

A Few General Subjects.

Philatelic Terms Explained.

King's Heads.

The Universal Postal Union—What it is and what it does.

Limited Specialism.

Collecting for Pleasure and Profit.

Talks about Forgeries and their Detection.

The Advance of Penny Postage.

How to Value a Stamp Collection.

Bypaths of Philately.

Philatelic Literature—Talks on Stamp Books.

British Stamps used Abroad.

Errors of Great Price.

How to Arrange a Stamp Collection.

Postmarks.

How to make Stamp Exchanges more Popular.

A large number of other subjects will be readily suggested by a glance through your back numbers of *The Postage Stamp*, which will be found to contain much of the material requisite for the preparation of general subject papers.

Meetings for the Many not the Few.

The great point about attractive meetings is to make

them interesting to the majority. This can only be done by making everyone interested enough to take part occasionally in the work or pleasure of the meeting. If everyone in the room can be led to say a few words now and again their interest and concern in the Society's welfare will be assured. To induce this and to generally liven the meetings have periodical debates. Do not let the old collectors have all their own way and say. Try and encourage even the youngest member to speak if he has anything to say. Encourage all to feel that they are not mere dummies set there to listen to long rigmaroles of mystifying erudition. Once a modest member has "felt his feet" by saying a few words on the subject of a matter under general discussion in the meeting he will not be difficult to lead on to preparing and reading papers, and assisting the general work of the Society.

Subjects for debate may not quite so readily suggest themselves to the preparer of the programme, so I give a few topics below. Some of course are well-worn, but those it may be stated usually provide the briskest debates.

Subjects for Debates.

Is Philately a Hobby or a Science?

Unused *versus* Used.

Generalism *versus* Specialism.

Are the present requirements of Condition too severe?

Is a Simplified Catalogue Necessary?

Blank *versus* Printed Albums.

Is the Commemorative Stamp a danger to Philately?

Is Specialism going too far?

Is Simplification going too far?

Old Issues *versus* New.

Is a Philatelic Encyclopædia Practicable?

Is Forgery on the Increase?

Which is the more Dangerous, Forgery or Fakery?

Do we Read enough about our Stamps?

Should Stamps be Mounted at the Side or Top?

Should Descriptions of Forgeries be Published?

Is our Cheap Approval System Bad?

Should Collecting in Schools be Encouraged?

Is the Popularity of Stamp Collecting on the Increase?

Should Stamps in Exchange Packets be Priced gross or nett?

Will Adhesive Stamps be superseded by Mechanical Appliances?

Are we too Imperial in our Collecting?

Are "Specimen" Stamps Collectable?

Postals *versus* Fiscals.

Entires *versus* Adhesives.

Stamps *versus* Coins. [An inter-club debate might be arranged between a Numismatic Society and our Society after our members have gained some experience and facility in debate.]

Should Reprints be admitted where Originals are not accessible?

Is a Dealer responsible for the Genuineness of his Stamps?

Are Auction Prices a Safe Guide to Values?

Is a Repaired Stamp admissible to a Collection?

Would Philately justify a Chair in a University?

Is a Catalogue by Collectors for Collectors Practicable?

For debates, if they are to become a frequent feature, it would be as well to have something in the way of standing orders, and the inexperienced chairman will in any case be glad to have a few of the rules which may generally be taken as covering the requirements of the successful debate. No debate can very well be carried on if the speakers are allowed to take part in the debate without rising from their seats; if they do not rise there is always a danger of the discussion becoming mere general gossip, which the chairman will have considerable difficulty in following or controlling.

A few general rules are appended.

Rules for the Debates.

1.—A member wishing to speak must rise and address the Chairman. He shall not proceed with his speech until he has been "named" by the Chairman (i.e., until he has received the Chairman's permission).

2.—If several members rise at the same time the Chairman shall decide the order in which the members shall speak.

3.—Resolutions [and amendments] must be proposed and seconded before being debated, though the proposer and seconder may explain the motion. Motions [or amendments] cannot be withdrawn except with the unanimous consent of the meeting, and at the desire of the proposer and seconder.

4.—No member may speak for more than [5, 10, 15] minutes.

5.—No member shall speak twice on any question, except that the mover of a resolution [or amendment] shall be allowed [5] minutes to reply, and the mover of the original resolution shall be allowed to speak on any amendment to the motion.

6.—Members taking part in the debate shall keep strictly to the subject of the motion, and the mover in replying shall be restricted to points raised in the course of the debate.

7.—The Chairman shall put the question by a show of hands, first calling upon those in the affirmative (for the motion or amendment) and then upon those in the negative.

8.—Resolutions shall be handed to the Chairman in writing and shall bear the proposer's name.

9.—The Chairman shall have a vote, and in the event of the votes being equal he shall have a casting vote. In the event of his being unwilling to use the casting vote, the votes being equal for and against, the motion shall be considered not to have been carried.

10.—On demand of . . . members a ballot [or roll call] shall be taken on the motion before the meeting.

11.—The Chairman's decision shall be final in all points of order, and in regard to the precedence of members in speaking.

Combined Displays and Papers.

Another way of drawing out the backward member is to have combined displays and ten minute papers, both of which have lately become features of several of our most successful societies' meetings. These two features may be taken together or separately, but they should not be overdone, as in practice it will be found rather difficult to keep up a good standard, particularly with ten minute papers. The idea of a combined display is that every member (or as many of them as will) should bring something for display on the evening on which this item is down on the programme. It is open to the Secretary to name a special subject for a combined display or to leave it to the members to bring what they like, though the latter plan is not to be generally recommended owing to the very natural habit of members of neglecting to bring anything at all and relying on the other members to have

been energetic enough to fill the programme for the evening.

Some subjects for the combined display may be set down as—

Combined Displays.

My Twelve Best Stamps.
My Most Handsome Stamps.
My Twelve Rarest Stamps.
My Favourite Stamp.
Curiosities.
Uncatalogued Varieties.
Errors
Blocks and Strips.
Fifty "Fine" Copies.

An evening might also be set apart when every member will be expected to bring his collection (or part thereof), with a special inducement to young members to bring up their small albums, and let the older ones see if they can help them out in any difficulties they may be encountering.

Ten-minute Papers.

These may, of course, be five-minute papers or fifteen-minute ones, according to the prospect the Secretary has of filling up the evening in a bright and varied way. The chief idea is to get as many as possible to take part, as the ten-minute paper will often discover to the Secretary latent talent in a member, who may be made good use of for future and more ambitious papers. The item may be put down on the programme in an open way or under special titles, e.g. :—

Ten-minute Papers - any subject.
My Favourite Country, and Why.
Why I Collect Stamps.
The Growth of my Collection.
Ten Minutes with my Best Stamps.
Stamp Books I have Read.
Hypaths of Philately.
Problems I should Like to Solve.

Lantern Lectures and Small Exhibitions.

Other matters which may well be entertained by the preparer of the programme as occasion arises are lantern lectures and small exhibitions. Generally there will be found in even the smallest Society, a member who has or can borrow and operate a lantern, and some slides can be borrowed also. The Junior Philatelic Society lends a very nice set of slides illustrating the history of the postage stamps of Great Britain. These can always be had for use in connection with philatelic societies.

When a lantern lecture is on the programme a general invitation should be extended to the public to attend in the hope of finding new collectors.

Exhibitions can be made to do quite a lot of good on just a small scale, provided that they are of a popular and not too scientific and too severely philatelic in character. Already in *The Postage Stamp* the view has been expressed that the shop window exhibition recently held by the Trenton (U.S.A.) Philatelic Society might be tried in some of our provincial towns as a means of catching the interest and attention of the outsider. Such a show must have a good missionary influence in fanning into a flame the spark of interest which many people have for the ubiquitous little postage stamp. Such work makes new collectors and the increase of collectors in your town must inevitably promote the welfare of the Society responsible for arousing the interest.

Spanish Military Franks.

According to *El Eco Postale*, letters from Spanish troops engaged at Melilla are now franked. The suggestion has also been made that letters from families at home should also be franked, a concession which would be very much appreciated by the class of people concerned.

Editor's Letter Box

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Articles, Contributions and Correspondence, should be addressed to the Editor, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the correspondent. Articles, etc., not accepted, will be returned when postage is prepaid.

Business Communications should be addressed to the Manager, and Advertisements to the Advertisement Manager, 1, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

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Our Publishing Day and Advertisers.

In order to meet the requirements of the publishing trade our publishers now distribute copies of the Newsagents on Wednesdays instead of Thursdays as before. This compels us to go to press on Saturday morning. Hence it is absolutely necessary for our printers to have all advertisements at latest on Friday morning; consequently, copy must be in the Advertisement Manager's hands not later than Wednesday, 5 o'clock p.m.

Advertisers' Proofs.

We are anxious to consult our Advertisers' convenience to the greatest possible extent, but where proofs have to be supplied and returned our printers must have the "copy" by Thursday morning at the latest, as we now have to print off a portion of our issue on Saturday morning.

"The Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The Postage Stamp is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:—

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 F. C. Ginn, 143, Strand, London, W.C.
 Lewis May & Co., 15, King William Street, Strand, W.C.
 W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.
 James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.
 Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.
 The Court Stamp Co.,
 10, Marriott's Court, Manchester.

Examination of Stamps.

So many of our readers have asked us to undertake the examination and identification of their stamps that we have made arrangements to accede to their wishes.

We shall be pleased to express an opinion as to the genuineness or otherwise of any stamps submitted to us, or identify them according to any catalogue at a charge of 6d. per stamp (minimum 1/-). All fees must be paid in advance with sufficient added to pay for return postage and registration.

Stamps upon which an opinion is desired should be mounted on a separate sheet from the letter accompanying them and addressed to "The Expert," c/o The Editor of The Postage Stamp, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

Collectors' Wants and Exchanges.

Our friends will note that we have opened a column for collectors to advertise their wants, at the nominal charge of 3d. per word. Many collectors even in London have not time to hunt about for stamps, whilst others resident in the country, have not the opportunity.

By using this column Collectors' Wants will catch the eye of all who are likely to be able to supply the stamps needed, for dealers watch such advertisements very closely, and collectors who want to dispose of duplicates will not fail to note the opportunity for exchange or sale.

Advertisements of stamps for sale are not admitted to this column.

Our Binding Covers.

In navy blue buckram, gilt lettered side and back, for binding any volume of The Postage Stamp, price 1s. 6d., from Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

Our Handbills.

We are still sending out hundreds of our handbills with specimen page to kind friends who are doing their best to help us to a big circulation. If you want every reader to see it that all his stamp friends take in THE POSTAGE STAMP. Shall we send you post free a dozen or two, or fifty, or a hundred, handbills to hand to friends and enclose in letters to collector friends? If so, write Baldwins, Printers of The Postage Stamp, Tunbridge Wells.

HOW TO CHOOSE A HOUSE

By Charles Emanuel & E. M. Joseph.

In crown 8vo. cloth gilt, 3s. 6d. net.

"There would be an end to the groans of the multitude of householders who discover, after the lease is signed, the hidden defects of their home if this remarkably practical book were always studied by the house hunter. It deals at the outset with the questions of freehold and leasehold tenure, and the many points where care is necessary in hiring or purchasing a house, and covers every point of legal procedure, of costs, stamps and registration. Illustrations make clear a number of points where description is difficult."—*Christian World*.

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With an Appendix containing Forms of Addresses, Chemical Elements, Coinage systems, Common Foreign Phrases, Mensuration Notes, Metric System, Correction of Printers' Proofs, Notes on Punctuation, Signs and Symbols.

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 1 Amen Corner, E.C.

PERHAPS YOU HAVE NEVER TRIED an advertisement in our columns. Perhaps it has not occurred to you to send your "Offers" along to THE POSTAGE STAMP. The next time you want anything why not use our columns? For particulars and prices see above.

By Sir Robert Ball.

Great Astronomers.

Illustrated. 3s. 6d. net.

In Starry Realms.

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In the High Heavens.

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The POSTAGE STAMP

An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors

Founded by
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.
Edited by
FRED. J. MELVILLE.

No. 24. Vol. 4.
(Whole Number 102)

11 SEPTEMBER, 1909.

Price 1d.

Gossip of the Week

BY CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Our Very Best Thanks To All.



of Auld Lang Syne and for the
Postage Stamp,

In the Name of Philatelia.

Philatelia, Philatelia, what a variety of improprieties are perpetrated in thy name! Spotless Goddess, as thou art, thou must have read (and blushed to read) in the *Kölnische Zeitung*, (if indeed thou canst read German, and speak it without a gargle) that that journal condemns the undignified behaviour of certain German girls. These flirty frauleins have forsooth taken thy name in vain. Under the pretext of stamp collecting, they enter into correspondence with negroes at Togo, and Not-To-go, (that is to say, at other places as well as Togo). Some of them have fallen in love and even suggested marriage.

O wretched wights
That they should live to woo such knights!

Ach, mein goodness, donner und blitzen, is this sort of thing to be allowed in the best seasoned German-families? Nein, ich glaube nicht or in other words, I don't think. The *Kölnische Zeitung* insists that in the interest of public order, these cases of secret correspondence should be put a stop to, "in order that the negroes may learn that between them and the white race there is an impassable gulf fixed, which they cannot be allowed to bridge."

Giving Up Collecting.

But just fancy the saucy little minxes pretending to be indulging in the pleasing and edifying pastime of stamp collecting, when all the time they were figuratively whispering sweet nothings to unseen dusky Romeos under the deo- or the banyan trees of Togo-land. Men were deceivers ever, and have always had a stock use for the excuse of going to see a man about a dog. But the fair frauleins will have no such clumsy methods in their cunning. But love and light winna' hide when there are emissaries of the *Kölnische Zeitung* hanging around, and so there will be some specialised (or idolised) collections of Togo on the market in Germany, and much weeping and gnashing of teeth in the boudoirs of those who have taken the name of Philatelia in vain.

Love me Love my dog.

Some of my readers may not be aware that the nimble postage stamp may be made use of for the conveyance of love as well as other bacteriological items. During a case in the papers only a short while ago in our courts a counsel referred to a stamp on a letter having "a sarcastic tilt." But philatelists of experience will remember the story of the commercial traveller who was also a stamp collector. This gentleman was engaged to be married. He was on one occasion pursuing his vocation in France and while there he received a letter from his fiancée. Most people would not have thought the postage stamp on a letter from England worth saving. But our traveller did. He bought a locket to put it in, and from time to time he would produce the stamp and kiss the side on which the gum had been, thinking all the time of his own sweet yummy yummy moistening it with her own sweet lips. It came as an awful blow to the poor chap when, on his return home, the girl told him that she had moistened the stamp on poor dear Fido's wet nose.

Postage Stamps as an Aid to Aviation.

Mr. Hubert Latham's great achievement with his aeroplane at Rheims had a philatelic significance. So much I gather from the very graphic description of the incidents of the flight in the *Daily Mail*. Just before he started in his Antoinette monoplane a slight delay was caused by the discovery of three small holes in the underpart of the wings. These were stopped up with two

penny (? 10 centimes) stamps and one halfpenny one. "Now I am stamped for England," Mr. Latham is reported to have said, "I ought to have thought of this at Sangatte."

Pictures in Postage Stamps.

A correspondent sends me the following curious item from one of the daily papers:—

"A unique exhibition of stamps and oil paintings is being held this week at Earlsam Hall, Forest Gate. The pictures chiefly illustrate the Boer War. While each incident is rendered in oils, the surrounding decorations, which are very elaborate, are made in postage stamps. Hundreds of thousands of stamps have been used, the largest picture being 12ft. by 11ft. in size, while the smallest are 7ft. by 6ft.

"Mr. Earl, who designed the pictures and arranged the stamps, spent 8½ years on the work, and was 70 years old when he started. Mr. Earl is ignorant of the value of the stamps. There are twenty-nine pictures on view, and the owner has built a special van to carry them about."

Another *very kind* friend sent me on the same day two picture postcards, the picture on which are made up of little bits of stamps glued on in the shape of ships, windmills and other luxuries. "I know you are interested in stamps," my friend writes. So I am, but not in "bits" unless they happen to be rare "splits."

Letter from Amani Amani.

I have to acknowledge a very charming letter from a correspondent in German East Africa this week. There are probably very few of us in regular touch with this outlandish part of the dark continent, so I will give some extracts from the letter which is written in very good English, and is from Amani, under date August 25th

"In number 18, Vol. III. of *The Postage Stamp* I see the copy of a letter written to you, or rather to the late Editor of the said paper, by a lady friend of mine in England.

"Let me congratulate you on the success of your paper, which is not only read in Europe and other cultivated parts of the globe, but has even penetrated to the darkest parts of Africa. The P.S. is no doubt the best Penny Weekly in existence."

[This is a matter of which I have long had a suspicion myself, and I am glad to find my impression confirmed.—Cornelius W.]

Adventures of "The Postage Stamp."

"I get it regular through the medium of my friend and have now three volumes of it bound. It is with great pleasure that I am looking forward to the latest numbers of *The Postage Stamp*. Two numbers of your paper (No. 26, Vol. I. and No. 1, Vol. II.), which arrived here in the spring of last year, during the long rainy season, had a very bad experience. On the way to our station is a little mountain river to be crossed, which carried that day so much water that one of the native mail carriers lost the ground and his mail bag, which, fortunately, only contained newspapers, was carried away by the stream and couldn't be recovered, until the next day, by a search party. You can imagine in what condition we at last got the contents of the bag for that was a little too much, even for the best waterproof mail bag.

A Bargain that didn't come off.

"Another instance of how full of lost opportunities our hobby is, may interest some of your readers. Last year a friend of mine went on a five months' expedition through German East Africa touching British Central Africa, as the present British Nyassaland then was called,

and the Belgian Congo. Soon after his departure from here I read in *The Postage Stamp* about the intended change of name from British Central Africa to British Nyassaland; as the 1d. and 6d. stamps of that country had only just been issued with multiple watermark I thought it a good investment to buy a few sheets of the latter. I wrote a letter to this effect to my friend. But alas! my friend had already left Rilossa, a place in the hinterland of Daressaland, where I thought my letter would reach him; he did not get that letter until his return to my station, the letter following him all the way. My friend, who is also a stamp collector, never knew of the change of watermark that had taken place in those two values and the intended change of name of that country. He brought, however, a few sets of the single watermark issue with him. The 6d. British Central Africa with multiple watermark which I could have had at face value a few months ago, if my letter had reached my friend in time, cost now at least 10 times its original value.

"Hoping you have some use for these lines,

"I am, Sir,

"Yours very faithfully,

"H. BRONNLE."

Mails Abroad.

That able journalist and descriptive writer, Mr. Foster Fraser, has evidently started on his travels again and has contributed a very readable article in modern journals to the *Sunday Chronicle* in which, *en passant*, he describes the Eastern mail boats taking on the mails at Port Said.

"Snort, splash, and crunch. Here was the little torpedo-like Isis, down from Brindisi, in Italy, with the mails for the East, and which were dispatched from London seven days after the Morea left Tilbury. Make her fast. Open the hatches. Up with the mail bags. Another set of natives are requisitioned—happily cleaner.

"As each man leaves the Isis with a sack he is given a tally stick. This he hands to a man on the Morea. Thus reckoning is made of the bags delivered and received. Thousands of bags there are—and imagination can dance in riot of the messages in the hundreds of thousands of letters in the multi-coloured sacks. This hold for the India mails; that hold for the China and Far Eastern mails; forward for the Australian mails. Plop they go into the darkness. At Aden the Indian mail will be transferred to a Bombay boat, and thirty sorters will make up new bags before India is reached. At Colombo the Far Eastern mails will be transferred to a China boat. But the Morea herself will take the mails 'down under' to Freemantle, Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney. Two hours, and the work is done. Then away, due south."

Mr. Hadlow gives up Auctioneering.

This week I have received a letter from Mr. Hadlow, who tells me he is giving up philatelic auctioneering, having transferred his auction business to Messrs. Plumridge & Co. I am glad to hear that it is not a complete retirement for Mr. Hadlow will still continue his business as a dealer in stamps, and will continue to give special and personal attention to commissions received by him for purchases at the various auction sales.

Back Volumes of "The Postage Stamp."

A number of new readers have been enquiring about bound back volumes of *The Postage Stamp*. The set of these can still be had at the following prices: Vol. I, 7s. 6d.; Vol. II, 6s. 0d.; Vol. III, 6s. 0d. The set of Volumes I to III will be sent carriage paid for 19s. 6d. Application for these volumes should be made to Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

The American Convention

Important Report of the Board of Vice-Presidents



CLIFFORD A. HOWES,

Vice-President of the American Philatelic Society.

The first news of the great Convention at Atlantic City comes in the form of a very thorough report on the state of the Society by the Board of Vice-Presidents. It deals with the increase of membership; junior members; references; substitution; the Library and other matters, all of which form an interesting and searching commentary on the life and prospects of the leading Society in America.

To the President and Members of the American Philatelic Society.

GENTLEMEN,—The present Board of Vice-Presidents, elected in 1907 and re-elected last year, begs to submit herewith its second and final annual report:—

The Society's Growth.

The growth of the Society during the two years just passed has really been phenomenal—some 350 new members during the first period and some 250 during the second, or a total increase of approximately 50%. The Board congratulates the Society upon this showing, but in so doing feels it necessary to preach a little sermon. We all desire the growth, prosperity and increased influence of the American Philatelic Society; we need the interest and active support of the rank and file of American collectors to attain this end: a large membership is therefore a desideratum of the highest importance to our organization, and for that goal we have been striving. This is all as it should be: but without wishing

to put any check on the good work, or dampen the zeal of the Recruiting Committee, which has accomplished so much, this Board does not hesitate to say that it believes the race has been more for *quantity* than *quality*.

Membership a Reciprocal Relationship.

We speak from the fulness of our experience, and we feel sure that members of former Boards and other past officers will agree with us. Membership in the Society is a reciprocal relation. The individual becomes one of the props upon which its strength and influence rest; conversely the Society becomes a sponsor for the individual in many ways, not the least of which is the use of membership as a reference. Of course no organization can undertake to guarantee the reliability of all its members, but if it be generally known and realized that complaints against members, when properly presented, will be thoroughly investigated and if proved result in expulsion, with full name and address published in the official journal, we feel that it will act as a deterrent to some of the "props" that might be inclined to weaken at times. This course is, in general, known to our members, and is the one now being followed. But it sometimes proves a case of "locking the stable door after the horse is stolen," and it is in an effort to obtain proper use of the lock in the first place that your Board offers the following suggestions.

Recommendation regarding References.

Because of the fact that references are given without the assent of the party referred to, and because of the use of fictitious names, we recommend that:—

1. Every member proposing another person for membership must have the *actual signatures* of the references appearing on the application.
2. Before publishing an applicant's name, the Secretary shall write the references given, and if any results are unsatisfactory the case shall be referred to the Board of Vice-Presidents, as is now required for objections received after the name appears—(Art. II. Sec. 1).

The Admission of Juniors.

Another point to be considered is the admission of juniors. This has been brought to our attention and we find that some are of the opinion that the joining of the younger collectors should not be encouraged. There are of course two sides to the question. The By-laws place no age limit on membership, but do recognize the need of a guarantee from some responsible person for a minor (Art. II., Sec. 1). This Board has considered the matter, and, while it does not recommend that we seek junior members, yet it does not desire to shut them out if they are really anxious to join us. The young collectors of to-day are the philatelists of to-morrow, and any help and encouragement we can give them may repay us many fold in the future. But proper restrictions seem necessary in this case also, and, acting on the Attorney's suggestion, we recommend that:—

3. The membership list be so arranged as to segregate the names of all under 21 years of age, and that this latter list be plainly headed "Junior Members."

4. The Attorney be instructed to draw up a proper legal form of guarantee for adoption, so that a guarantor could not deny his signature nor raise any technical question as to his responsibility.

The Good Offices of the Board.

During the year the Board has received an undue number of complaints of one kind and another. Many have been trivial, some have been quite serious. As far as possible we have endeavored to satisfy the complaints by using our good offices, but many forget that to properly set a case before the Board all correspondence and exhibits must be submitted *with an affidavit* (see Art. II., Sec. 2). We wish to emphasize this requirement, as an immense amount of correspondence has been imposed upon busy men, a great deal of which seemed unnecessary. The membership appears to regard the Board as a sort of clearing house for all their troubles, and, while we realize that the By-laws give strong support to such an impression, yet we feel that more discretion might be used by individual members in very many cases.

We have desired to deal justly with all complaints sent to us, and when we deemed legal action necessary or desirable we have recommended such cases to the Attorney. We have been obliged to recommend the expulsion of ——— members during the year, and have refused admission to ——— applicants.* A number of cases are still on file.

Substitution.

The Insurance Fund has been drawn on for a total of \$—— for cases of substitution occurring in the Sales Department, and credited with \$—— from the sale of substituted stamps.* This question of substitution seems to be an ever-present one with all Sales Departments, and is one of the reasons for our previous recommendations in regard to stricter inquiry into the credentials of applicants, and also for the separate list of "Junior Members," so that, not only our officers, but members, and outsiders as well, may know who are personally responsible and who are minors. Under present conditions the Insurance Fund is amply able to take care of all claims, and the Sales Superintendent is ever on the alert to track down offenders.

New Branches.

We have to report the formation of two new Branch Societies, viz.:—Wichita, Kan., and Binghamton, N.Y., and the forfeiture of the charter of Branch 19 of Scranton, Pa., for non-compliance with the By-laws.

The Society's Library.

The Board has made an endeavour to do something for the Society Library, which has seemed to be in a quiescent state and of really but little benefit to the membership. A glance at the catalogue on pp. 171-5 of the last Year Book shows a not very startling nor particularly up-to-date collection, at least for such a Society as ours. Correspondence with the Librarian of the Carnegie Library at Pittsburg and our Assistant Librarian, has developed the fact that there is a large quantity of unbound matter in the form of pamphlets and magazine files, and that such matter is not regularly catalogued until properly bound. We thus have much material that does not appear in the published list and is therefore "dead" to all intents and purposes. Mr. Craver, the Librarian at Pittsburg, has taken much interest in the subject and offered to print a small edition of our catalogue to show the goodwill of the Carnegie Library, but

is waiting now to know our disposition of the unbound matter. I quote from his letter:—

"My idea is to put pamphlets in cheap pamphlet binders, which can be bought in quantity and kept in stock. This binding is temporary, but would last almost indefinitely with the use that these monographs meet. The periodicals, many of which are not bound, would of course need to be regularly bound. I think \$100 would fully cover all the work on hand. This would enable us then to print a catalogue of everything on hand, a catalogue which would be really useful."

Mr. Burgoyne, our Assistant Librarian, writes that "Mr. Craver is heartily desirous of pushing the library along and is hopeful of due encouragement from the Society." It would seem that the Society, if it is to have a library at all, should make it a worthy one, or at least make it of ready service to the members. Up to the present the library has been augmented almost solely by gifts, and is therefore not getting a full or even representative collection of what is being published. The Society should appropriate a stated amount each year for subscriptions to current periodicals, for purchase of the most important new works, and for binding up magazine files and pamphlets. We therefore recommend that:—

5. The sum of \$100 be appropriated and placed at the disposal of the Librarian of the Carnegie Library at Pittsburg for binding and putting in proper shape for cataloguing the unbound magazine files and pamphlets now unavailable for the use of our membership.
6. The sum of \$50 to be appropriated and placed at the disposal of the Assistant Librarian for the purchase of standard philatelic works that may appear during the year, for subscriptions to representative periodicals, and for such binding as he may deem necessary. The selection of purchases and subscriptions to be left with the Assistant Librarian, or with him and the Philatelic Literature Committee jointly. Also that the Assistant Librarian recommend an appropriation to the Convention each year that in his opinion will cover the expense of keeping up the library, as outlined, for the ensuing year.

Investments.

Taking up now the matters referred to the Board by the last Convention at Columbus, we note first the question of the reinvestment of the stock and insurance funds. This matter was taken up with the President and Treasurer, and after some correspondence resulted in the investing in City of St. Paul Bonds, costing \$2612.34, to yield 3½% interest. This seemed to be the best that could be done at the time.

The Handbook Competition.

Second.—A resolution of the last Convention authorized a Committee to undertake the publication of handbooks. The resolution distinctly states:—"The conditions under which said books should be issued shall be left to the Committee, whose plans for publication shall be endorsed by the Board of Vice-Presidents before definite action be taken." The resolution was adopted "subject to such restrictions as the Board of Vice-Presidents may see fit to require." Accordingly, the Committee appointed submitted its plans to the Board, and these were finally approved by Messrs. Howes and Green, with Mr. Kelley dissenting. A competition, with two cash prizes of \$45 and \$30, was announced, subject to certain published rules. Two manuscripts were submitted, but one was unfortunately too late. This left no competition, but the manuscript accepted was deemed worthy of publication, and on this account was given the second prize of

* The Clerk has failed to supply the information called for here.

§30. An edition of 2,200 is in press and will soon be issued. Further details will doubtless be found in the report of the Committee.

The Board wishes it distinctly understood, because of certain criticisms, that *the Society voted to publish hand-books*, and that the Board was merely authorized to pass upon the plans formulated by the committee appointed to carry out the Convention vote. We are individually very glad that the Society has at last awakened to its duties, and has started to do something more practical than convene once a year. We trust it will not again return to the somnolence that has distinguished it during many years past.

Badges.

Third.—The question of an official badge was referred to the Board with full power to act. Concerning this we will say that several designs have been submitted and we have asked for others by notice in the official journal. Only nine all told have been received, and but two of these are deemed worthy of consideration. It is to be noted that these two (one is illustrated in two styles) are of practically the same design, the single being submitted by W. H. Hollenbach and the pair by M. R. Ward. While recommending these to the notice of the Society as the best design submitted, the Board does not desire to exercise its "full power to act." The design is appropriate, but from its character does not seem to show up as well, or be as striking to the eye because of its distinctiveness, as might be. We feel that the best, most appropriate and most distinctive design for a *philatelic* badge or button has yet to be submitted, and with this remark we pass over the attached exhibits to the consideration of the Convention.

"American Philatelist" to be Issued Quarterly.

As the members are aware, a mail vote was called for by petition on three amendments to the By-laws, one establishing the *American Philatelist* as a quarterly, one proposing that all proxies be voted by the Credentials Committee, and one proposing that the Sales Superintendent and Editors of the official organ be prohibited from holding proxies as are the Directors of the Society. The quarterly proposition was easily carried, and we look forward to a model publication along the lines proposed. The other two propositions were lost. A majority of the votes were in favour, but statutory limitations on the affirmative vote were not fulfilled.

As a matter of fact, it is understood that the prohibition against proxy-holding by the Directors (Art. III. Sec. 6) is illegal, and that it can be kept in the By-laws only by sufferance. We favored the addition of the Sales Superintendent and Editors of the official journal to the prohibition against the Directors, but inasmuch as this amendment failed and the ban cannot legally be enforced anyway, we decided to recommend to the Convention the following amendment, of which the required 60 days' notice was given in the official journal:—

6. Amend the By-laws by striking out Section 6 of Article III.

It is recognized that among the Directors are often some of the best men in the Society, and that a number of these officers are liable to attend every Convention. We therefore feel that the prohibition works in general more to the disadvantage than to the advantage of the Society, and in consequence present the amendment for its removal.

Specialised Catalogue of United States Stamps.

The recent proposition by our esteemed International Secretary, Mr. L. Harald Kjellstedt, that the Society publish a specialised priced catalogue of United States stamps, seems to be meeting with much favor. The

Board heartily endorses the idea as a desirable one, and would like to see it carried out if it can be done by a Committee of competent philatelists, such as we believe can be found. But we do not recommend the pricing of such a catalogue, if issued by the Society. Too many considerations, too many widely different interests and ideas, all in conflict, would be involved in trying to make the Committee a mercantile firm for pricing its wares. Any notes on *relative* values, as deduced from the quantities used, issued, known, etc., would be valuable aids; anything further would not only be superfluous, to our minds, but unwise, unnecessary and even hazardous.

The Official Organ.

We have found that heretofore there has been no written contract with the paper chosen as the official organ. This leaves many openings for misunderstandings and other objectionable happenings, as we have found out. We therefore recommend that:—

8. The Attorney be instructed to draw up a proper legal contract, with the advice and approval of the Secretary and Board of Vice-Presidents, which any paper receiving the vote for official journal shall be required to sign.

Members Dropped.

In regard to publishing the names in full of members dropped for non-payment of dues, many of which may have defaulted unwittingly, the Board desires to recommend, for many obvious reasons, that:—

9. Lists of members dropped for non-payment of dues shall appear in the official organ by number only; but members expelled by the Board of Directors shall have full name, address, and membership number published.

Other Recommendations.

Finally, we wish to speak of a handicap under which the Board, and probably previous ones, have suffered. From the time of the Convention last year until the appearance of the Year Book, *five months later*, the Board was without official notice or information for its guidance of the changes made in the By-laws or the matters referred to the Board by the Convention. Of course the early publication of the Quarterly will remedy this to some extent, but, because of the important position of the Board in the work of the Society, such a contingency should hereafter be prevented from occurring. We therefore recommend that:—

10. Immediately upon the transcription of the Convention Report, the Secretary shall have a brief digest made for the Board of Vice-Presidents, stating in full all changes made in the By-laws and matters referred to the Board, and also noting any other important actions taken.

Following this report, and forming a part of it, will be found the Annual Report of the Sales Superintendent, duly audited. We commend this excellent report to your favorable notice, and heartily endorse the remarks for the betterment of the service therein contained.

In laying down our duties we beg to thank the membership for their confidence in us in twice electing us to serve them, and also to thank the other officers of the Society as well as individual members for their hearty co-operation in all matters that we have had to bring before them.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signed] C. A. HOWES, F.R.P.S., Chairman.
L. L. GREEN.

(No Signature) Clerk.

Board of Vice-Presidents.

The Stamp Trade of Paris

Special Commission Tour

BY O. REGINALD GUM

FAMILIARITY breeds contempt" most of us learned to write in our schoolhood days. Continued and unbroken residence in a locality becomes in time tiring—that is in most instances. London, that has no boundaries, soon palls—Paris, girded by hills, on all the four points, to a comparatively small area, has the magic charm of everlasting eternity. Of course I refer to the ordinary common lucky or luckless being. From a philatelic point of aspect, the city of intrigues, history and life, possesses the charms of a day longer than eternity. This philatelic paradise however differs from other fancied forms of paradises—it bars none, nor draws any liue. All sorts of philatelists are to be found in, and go to Paris—good, bad or indifferent. In London, Berlin, New York, everywhere else, stamp collecting is a pastime appealing to a percentage of the community. Philately in Paris appeals to the community. It is self-evident. In London it takes time to know the ropes—to find where stamps and stamp collectors abound. Ask the first individual you chance to meet in a London street if he can direct you to a stamp dealer's "abode." He will shake his head and appear dumb. He does not understand you. You then ask him where you can buy stamps, and this everyday sort of idiot directs you to a post office. In Paris—"Marchand de Timbres Postes?"—"Oui, M'sieur. Dans cette rue là."

Let us hope that when all good philatelists die, they'll go to—Paris—good, bad or indifferent.

The Parisians PAY us a compliment that we have not earned—that we are a nation of shop-keepers. They can afford to pay us the honour—especially as far as stamp dealing is concerned. We've not started to learn! I hope the reader will not run away with the idea that O.G. is some foreigner casting slurs. O.G. is proud that he is genuine "cement" not "removed." Transparent films cover nothing, but if everything is covered up one learns nothing. I neither wish to laud or decry Paris—undoubtedly the centre of philately, be it containing the greatest interest, the most dealers (meaning professionals of course), the sounding of prices, or the uttermost rubbish made to fleece the unwary.

If you possess the knowledge of your science, Paris is—well, the centre for further. If you are a tyro, you go verily as a pigeon among hawks—if you are not careful. Do not misunderstand, Paris is not a city of philatelic swindlers—it possesses dealers and collectors of a world-wide reputation—honest and charming. Still, what is not known about, or cannot be done with stamps in Paris, is not known about or cannot be done with anywhere else in this world—and the existence of paper is confined to this planet!

Going precisely to see how the stamp market reflects as at present, I was not many hours in Paris before I found out the following points which keen readers should carefully digest:—

That high value current Great Britains are dropping, but many current Colonials are rising—fast. Seven years of the former lessens the demand, but not the supply. A non-minor change in the latter provokes a demand that cannot be satisfied. I may give a hint to the great popularity of British and British Colonial stamps in France, as well as other portions of the Continent.

The new fugitative colours prevent any tampering with other than postal cancellations, as possible before with Queen's heads. Of course, this little game was never profitable in England—we are too keen—but the average Continental collector, gradually finding out his sleepiness, began to shun our postal-cum-revenue stamps until he found that their material and making prevented him being "did." To add to this, we "islanders" (as we are generally called) are enjoying a great height of popularity on the Continent—even in Germany—and no one now remembers, in the presence of the Britisher, our unfortunate war of ten years ago, and of course, O.G. took care not to refer to even the stamps of St. Helena!

Somewhere in Paris, the Postal "Emissioners" of Crete, Persia, Servia, and a few other "chise" countries, must, I think, have a special representative agent. The stuff is in great shoals, and it is here that one is first able to learn of new issues long before Prince George's satires, the Shah's assassins, or Peter's regicides actually see their own stamps. Here it is that all the news from Berne and Geneva comes. Do not ask me to say how, when, or where our Parisian friends get hold of their Universal Postal Union information—it is something I have yet to learn, even if I be excused the self-indulgence of saying I know a few things philatelic in or about Paris.

In connection with this collusion with someone at the head of the U.P.U., I might say that very often several stamps may have been issued a good period before ever being chronicled. I will give a couple of instances of this, that occurred during the past twelve months. Certain Parisian dealers began to suddenly buy up as fast as they could the King's head St. Viucents. Their orders began to be circulated among dealers in England quite a period before any journal noted the new issue of the Peace and Justice design. The other instance was when two or three English dealers were pressed with demands from Paris for the new 12c. orange-bistre Argentine. Though we are generally well advised as far as the great "Americano du Sel" Republic is concerned—these orders were placed before any change of colour to blue was chronicled. Thus these philatelic "early birds" got their "worms" at from ½d. to 1d. each—a stamp that sells well from 6d. to 10d., and will increase further yet!

Asked which stamps seem to glut the French market to-day, I should give the notoriety between Persia and Hayti. The cause of the former is shrouded in the mists of anything, but causes that will stand probing. The state of the State of Hayti during the past year has led to much "juggling" of the black officials, who believe in the axiom "every man for himself."

The now world-renowned "Bourse" remains much the same as of the past few years. The boards of youngsters—typical Parisian rabble—are still keen for their bi-weekly swoop upon the unlucky foreigner, who so foolishly allows himself to purchase over a francs worth of stamps in five minutes, or dares to plunge beyond a sou upon a single specimen. Condition, yet alone bonâ-fides of the specimens offered for sale does not enter into the terms of the transactions transacted. As the old phrase—"expect no mercy, nor give any."

Personally, I rather think that one could do a few exchanges, as well as the orthodox present day method of bartering, with most of the dealers. So great is the scope in Paris, that I would undertake to double whatever I

spent in a day by the end of the week—that is as a collector. Certainly there are a great many collectors who will not—wilfully—sell a stamp again, or even part with one in exchange. These philatelic autocrats deem it condescending to “deal.” Since they will enjoy the unfortunateness of being a very long time dead, in common with their fellows, why should they not squeeze the last and every particle of enjoyment out of their chosen hobby? This is a pleasure one enjoys among our co-hobbyists in Paris—collectors or dealers, you can always do a deal one way or the other.

In philatelic circles, diverse differences in the tongue, presents no difficulties. Your friend O.G. has never blinked a bit, nor suffered himself any shyness in the company of people who spoke French, German, Dutch, Russian, Italian, Spanish, Arabic, Danish, Swedish, or even the most non-understandable “Amurrican.” He did not understand the topic of verbality, nor did he know but what they who were speaking were conspiring to cheat him—but he did know how many centimes made a franc and how many francs equalled a sovereign!

The philatelist who at present vegetates his summer or any other time holiday in some locality he has visited often before—who would like a Continental trip—especially one where he could see and enjoy the visions of a few stamps, but does not because he knows not the language of any land but his own—need not fear a trip outside the U.K. Philately is the most cosmopolitan hobby in the world—and the freest brotherhood of all, Christian, Jew, Mohammedan, Confucian, or Bhuddist, Liberal, Tory, Autocrat or Democrat, mean likewise no prejudice in the name of Philately. Paris is proof of all this—it would seem difficult to discover two Parisians of similar spiritual or temporal views.

However. To give a brief conclusion of my aspect of the Paris market of to-day. In a great number of stamps, the prices are less than our own English, but then for

countries that do not attain to any great degree of popularity. Of British stamps I have given mention. Danish stamps are reasonably quoted, and such things as the new newspaper stamps in sets can be procured cheaply. High values of most Europeans are marked down low, and seem much more frequent than at home.

U.S., especially the higher values are to be found at rates lower than anywhere else—but copies must be picked. Various parcels of remainders of stamps, only recently current, seem to have been secured by several of the wholesale dealers, but few will do any greater harm than as of yore, coming as they do from countries that long ago lost their philatelic virtue.

One thing is said for the French, they do not suffer to the extent we do in unused new issues—they do prefer to wait until the used come along. Probably they have been taught this lesson by their own issues of French Colonials. No doubt the sale of all our own Colonials at the Crown Agents in London would teach an admirable lesson to philatelists who continually encourage miserable little bankrupt islands to publish series of sticky labels specially for their benefit. One continental dealer I know is doing a roaring trade in Cayman Islands stamps—because he has had the ingenious foresight to get them stuck in batches on envelopes and mailed. The C.I. Post Office in this case has to pay something more than a printing account, though a subsidy to the receiving government and the carrying Steamship company will not prevent them getting a goodly profit.

Before leaving Paris, a French collector asked me not to forget to mention that no country of the world has so much legitimate history crowded into her postal issues than “la belle France”—namely the 2nd Republic: the Consulate, the 2nd Empire, the Commune, carrying with it also the war issues, and lastly the 3rd Republic.

As peaceful hobbyists we ignore their awful and unhappy causes.

Death of Mr. John F. Seybold

A Famous American Collector of Stamps on Original Covers

THE news referred to on our front page last week of the death of Mr. John F. Seybold, the notable American philatelist, is unhappily only too true.

Mr. Seybold, as many of our readers will be aware, was one of the leaders of the fashion of collecting stamps on the entire original, and for years he had been amassing a superb collection replete with many of the important rarities which, it is scarcely necessary to point out, were doubly difficult to secure in this condition.

We get the confirmation of the terrible news from a news message dated from Syracuse, New York State, August 13th, in which it is stated:—“John F. Seybold, a noted philatelist and well-known merchant of this city, shot himself to death in his store early this morning. He suffered a nervous breakdown three weeks ago, and has been despondent ever since. Mr. Seybold’s collection is said to be worth \$100,000.”

The late Mr. Seybold was in close touch by correspondence with collectors and dealers all over the world, his style of collecting necessitating the assistance of searchers for rarities on covers in many lands. The painful news of the illness which brought about his death will be received everywhere in philatelic circles with the deepest regret.

Mr. Seybold had quite set on foot the modern fashion in the United States for collecting adhesives on original covers, and many of his fellow countrymen were converted to his method of collecting.

Mr. Seybold was only fifty-one, having been born at Syracuse on July 22nd, 1858. He began to collect stamps in the early seventies. He was in every sense the true collector, never selling a stamp unless it was a duplicate, and even these were often given away to start friends on the same path.

As a collector he is reputed to have amassed 70,000 to 80,000 stamps, which must be one of the greatest collections in the States. The collection is in two parts. The great general collection numbering upwards of 70,000, and the magnificent collection of rarities on originals, of which latter he had the 12d. black Canada, the Brattleboro, a large fillet Mauritius, the Geneva green on white used as an adhesive, a pair of Basle, two 4c. Vauds used together, six 10c. United States 1847 all on one cover, and many beautiful strips of old imperforate issues on originals.

In Hawaiian rarities on original covers the collection was particularly strong, Mr. Seybold having a special enthusiasm for these interesting and puzzling stamps. Only a few months ago he wrote us naming some of his choicest possessions in Hawaiians, and the following are some extracts from his most interesting letter:—

“Your interesting article on the Crocker Collection of Hawaiian Stamps has aroused a great deal of attention in this country, as no doubt that is the most interesting article that has so far appeared in your spicy paper. While Hawaiian stamps are so popular and eagerly

sought after at the present time, I thought perhaps your many readers would be interested to know that the writer of these lines has been a student and searcher for these rarities a good many years, and has succeeded in adding many fine specimens to his collection, as the following items will prove. These fine rarities are all on the whole entire letters or envelopes, viz. :—

5c. surcharged in manuscript, on 13c.; 3 fine copies, each on envelope used in combination with U.S. stamps.

Another 5c. on 13c., off the cover; very fine Honolulu postmark.

5c. blue, 1855; 8 copies, each on letter with U.S. stamps.

5c.—5c., 1855 (unsevered pair), and 13c., with 2 copies U.S., 10c., 1861.

5c. and 13c., 1855, with U.S. 12c. black.

3 single copies 13c., 1853, each one on entire envelope.

2c. blue, numeral, on bluish paper, on whole envelope.

1c. black, numeral; 8 copies, each one envelope.

5c. blue, numeral, Scott 21-22, 6 copies, each on separate envelope, used with U.S. stamps.

5c. blue, numeral, Scott 21, single copy, and an unsevered pair used with 3c.—5c. U.S., 1861, all on one envelope. This cover is of the greatest rarity, probably the only one in existence.

2c. rose, No. 27 and 28 Scott, all on covers.

"In addition to these I have many other fine things in Hawaiians on covers, but not so rare as those I mention. I hope these few lines will stimulate your readers to give Hawaiian stamps more attention. They will find them of the most interesting character.

"Yours truly,

"JNO. F. SEYBOLD.

"Syracuse, N.Y., U.S.A."

Mr. Seybold was a bachelor. He had several hobbies besides his stamps, and had fine collections of coins, paper money and autographs.

Another U.S. Commemorative

New 2c. Stamp for the Hudson-Fulton Celebration—Public Annoyance at the "New Stamp Nuisance"

A WASHINGTON correspondent informs us that the United States Postmaster-General, Mr. Hitchcock, gave the order on August 18th for the printing of a new 2c. stamp to mark the Hudson-Fulton Celebration which is to take place in New York from September 25th to October 9th, 1909.

Another correspondent, Mr. Charles R. Morris, sends us a leading article from the *Washington Post*, and he further states:—

"As an American member of the J.P.S. it is with extreme regret that I have to announce that my Government has seen fit to issue another commemorative stamp.

"We already have the reputation of issuing a new stamp every week and we seem to be living up to it, I am sorry to say.

"The occasion for this stamp is so trifling as to make it ridiculous and appear rather as an advertising scheme than in commemoration.

"No one, I think, regretted the issue of the Lincoln memorial stamps, for Lincoln was a greatly beloved and admired President and nothing that the United States can do to revere his memory can be out of place, but it is getting extremely tiresome to have so many issues of exposition and celebration stamps.

"I wish you would find space for the enclosed editorial from to-day's *Washington Post* which I honestly believe echoes the sentiments of everyone, even the stamp collectors

"I hope our English brothers will not blame their American philatelic brethren for this new stamp nor for the Alaska-Yukon, for we are tired of them as well as you."

We gladly give publicity to the above letter for it must be obvious that quite independently of the philatelic side of the nuisance it must be quite a nuisance to business people to have to deal with a variety of stamps of one and the same denomination, and on this account alone it is liable to be blamed by the outsider as brought about by the stamp collecting hobby. On our correspondence this mail we find four different 2c. stamps, the regular series, the Lincoln, the Alaska-Yukon and the "Series, 1902," and these in two cases are represented by both perforated and imperforate copies.

The following is the leading article from the *Washington Post*, August 19th, 1909:—

THE NEW STAMP NUISANCE.

The issuance of a new design of 2-cent stamp commemorative of the Hudson-Fulton celebration is not only a superfluous sentimentality but will occasion considerable confusion to the great licking public. This form of contribution by the government to such events is unnecessary, inconvenient, and expensive. Perhaps the 50,000,000 for the Hudson-Fulton celebration must be issued, but they should be the last of their kind.

Whenever there is a celebration, fair, or exposition held in honor of more or less distinguished defunct worthies, or to mark the anniversary of some event which can be tortured into an excuse for pomp and ceremony, a call is made for a change in the stamps, and, of course, for an appropriation if possible.

Postage stamps are purely for utility—to facilitate communication by mail in the business and social intercourse of the people. They are in no sense works of art, nor can they ever be of such rarity as to be curiosities when they are issued and used by the million. And even if they had those qualities, it is not for this reason that they are issued, nor is it the proper function of the government to use its machinery for advertising purposes.

The whole country will be glad if the Hudson-Fulton celebration is a fitting pageant in honor of the great names which inspire it, but the new 2-cent stamps should have no place in the programme. The stamp adds nothing whatever to the dignity or success of the celebration, and becomes merely a confusion to the public. Congress should not again make the postal service a mechanism for booming celebrations.

There is much sound common sense in the article just quoted and we trust that the matter will be taken up by one of the important American philatelic bodies, who no doubt, realise that such frequent issues add not one iota to the dignity of the issuing Government, to the celebration or to the pursuit of philately.

We have been favoured with some early particulars of the design from the previous day's issue of the *Post* (18 8.09).

NEW 2-CENT STAMPS.

WILL BE ISSUED COMMEMORATIVE OF HUDSON-FULTON CELEBRATION.

A new 2-cent stamp will be issued by the Post-office Department to commemorate the Hudson-Fulton celebration, which will be held in New York from September 25th to October 9th, 1909. Postmaster-General Hitchcock yesterday gave the order for the new issue.

Fifty million of these stamps will be issued, and it is hoped by the Postmaster-General to have them ready

to place on sale by September 20th. The design for this new stamp was submitted to Postmaster-General Hitchcock yesterday, and approved.

It is considered one of the most artistic stamps ever issued by the department, oblong in shape, at the top the inscription: "Hudson-Fulton Centenary," with the dates—1609 and 1909.

In the centre is a picture of the Half Moon sailing up the Hudson, and the Clermont steaming in the opposite direction, with an Indian in a canoe near by. The stamp will be printed in the same color as the present 2-cent stamp.

New Zealand Notes

BY "MAORI"

IN response to a cordial invitation from your worthy Editor I will endeavour to contribute from time to time short articles on "stamps" as we Maorilanders view such trifles. The number of collectors in New Zealand is legion, and I am of opinion that the popularity of our hobby out here at the Antipodes is greatly due to our own many and interesting issues, especially our pictorials. I know that this idea is almost rank heresy to some philatelic writers in Europe, but there is no doubt that these pictorials attract many to the fold who otherwise would scarce give even a passing glance at the ordinary stereotyped Queen and King adhesives.

Naturally the bulk of our collectors are omnivorous, but there are amongst our ranks a great many specialists and I think the order of popularity of various groups is as follows:

1. General Collection of the World.
2. New Zealand specialised.
3. New Zealand and Australia.
4. New Zealand, Australia and Islands.
5. New Zealand Fiscals.

Taking the groups seriatim. No. 1 contains some very fine lots. A collector in the North Island has his treasures in no less than eight volumes and amongst them are a good many stamps cataloguing over £10, such as early

Mauritius, Nova Scotia Is., Ponce Ceylon, etc.

Some of the New Zealand specialised collections must rank amongst the best in the world. All our specialists take especial interest in our issues, 1898 to date, and a wonderful show they often make. It is astonishing how scarce and, indeed, unobtainable certain varieties are, and big prices are given in the colony for all good things. We welcome with pleasure the recent thoroughly deserved rise in our New Zealand issues. Full face in good order having been fetching over catalogue for fine copies for some time past. Gibbons is far too low even now for very many lots.

The Australian and New Zealand combined have many votaries and some lovely lots can be seen, especially Victoria and New South Wales, with which Commonwealth States most of our early commerce was conducted.

But of all the groups I like our Colony's fiscals best. Here we have some 530 known varieties to go on with and new discoveries are constantly being made. A well-arranged collection of New Zealand fiscals is a thing of joy and the collecting of them is increasing rapidly.

To help our many collectors our well-known firm of Wilcox, Smith & Co. are ever anxious, and to them, the oldest firm of dealers in Australasia, philatelists owe many thanks.

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

Antioquia.—(Vol. II. p. 260).—A curious oblong stamp alleged to be a provisional for use in Medellin is illustrated in *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*. It has "50 cent" in the top left-hand corner and below and to the right of this is a wide band, covered with what appears to be heads of Indian corn. A messenger boy and the word "MEDELLIN" complete the design. The stamp is lithographed by J. L. Arango and is perf. 12. Pending further information we list this variety with some reserve.

Barbados.—(Vol. IV. p. 188).—The new ½d., 1d. and 6d. stamps referred to on page 188 have now been issued and specimens have been shown us by Mr. W. H. Peckitt and Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. The full list of varieties on the paper with multiple watermark is now as follows:—

Wmk. Multiple Cr. CA. Perf. 14.

- ½d. slate-grey and carmine.
- ½d. brown.
- ½d. dull green.
- 1d. rose.
- 1d. carmine.
- 2½d. bright blue.
- 6d. mauve and carmine.
- 6d. purple. 15
- 8d. orange and ultramarine.
- 2s. 6d. violet and green.

Benadir.—(Vol. II. p. 224).—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. write us as follows:—"We send you herewith an interesting block of six stamps, 2c. on 1 base, which is part of a sheet with surcharges misplaced. The top row has the surcharge normal, with the 'C' on the left hand and the '2' on the right, except that they gradually slant

upwards, so that the first stamp on the left has the surcharge in the right place, just above the word 'BENADIE,' whilst in the tenth stamp it is nearly at the top of the stamp. Each succeeding row of ten stamps has the surcharge more and more to the right, until in the bottom rows the first stamps show only the letter 'C,' the remainder are surcharged '2C.' instead of 'C2,' and the last figure '2' instead of being on the last stamp is on the margin of the sheet."

The following diagram will clearly explain how the surcharge appears on the six stamps submitted by our correspondents:—

		2 C
	2 C	
C		
		2 C
	2 C	
C		

Crete.—(Vol. IV. p. 235). According to *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* a copy of the 25 lepta of 1900 with the "ΠΡΟΣΩΠΙΝΟΝ," overprint of 1902, has been found with the letter "Σ" omitted.

Crete (Austrian).—(Vol. IV. p. 56).—Mr. W. T. Wilson points out that the current 25c. on white paper which was recorded some months ago does not exist. As several other correspondents have written to the same effect there seems little doubt that this is an entirely mythical variety or a chemical changeling.

India.—(Vol. III. p. 250).—Mr. W. T. Wilson has shown us a copy of the new 25 rupees stamp to which we referred in February last. The complete list of large stamps is now as follows:—

Wmk. Star. Perf. 14.

- 2r. yellow-brown and carmine.
- 3r. green and brown.
- 5r. violet and ultramarine.
- 10r. pink and green.
- 15r. brown and blue.
- 25r. blue and reddish-brown.

Leeward Islands.—(Vol. IV. p. 188).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the new ½d. stamp referred to on page 188 and tell us that the supply of these was received in the colony early in July. The stamps were at once distributed amongst the different islands included in the colony with instructions that none were to be sold until August 4th, on which date they were simultaneously placed on sale at all the post offices. The stamps are on the paper with multiple watermark and make the list of varieties on this paper as follows:—

Wmk. Multiple Cr. CA. Perf.

- ½d. brown.
- ½d. purple and green.
- ½d. green.
- 1d. purple and carmine.
- 1d. carmine.
- 2d. purple and ochre.
- 2½d. purple and ultramarine.
- 2½d. bright blue.
- 3d. purple and black.
- 6d. purple and brown.
- 1s. green and carmine.

Levant (Austrian).—(Vol. IV. p. 181).—Mr. W. T. Wilson informs us that the 1 piastre of the current set on white paper, recorded on the authority of Mr. W. Ward in our issue for May 22nd, does not exist. Possibly the copies we presume Mr. Ward had, or had seen, at the time he wrote us, are only chemical changelings and our readers should delete this variety from their lists.

Queensland.—(Vol. IV. p. 272).—The current 1s. now appears in a very deep shade of mauve, quite distinct from the colour previously in use, according to *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*.

Switzerland.—(Vol. III. p. 287).—The *London Philatelist* records the 40c. of the re-drawn type of 1904 on plain white paper and perf. 12.

Transvaal.—(Vol. IV. p. 189).—Mr. L. D. Wainwright informs us that he has the 2s. 6d. stamp on the paper with the multiple watermark. It is a used copy, bearing the Johannesburg postmark and dated 26th July, 1909. The complete list of varieties on the paper with multiple watermark is now as follows:—



Wmk. Multiple Cr. CA. Perf. 14.

- ½d. green and black.
- ½d. green.
- 1d. scarlet and black.
- 1d. carmine.
- 2d. purple and black.
- 2½d. ultramarine and black.
- 2½d. ultramarine.
- 3d. sage-green and black.
- 4d. chocolate and black.
- 6d. orange and black.
- 1s. red-brown and black.
- 2s. yellow and black.
- 2s. 6d. mauve and black.
- 5s. black and mauve on yellow.
- 10s. purple and black on red.
- £1 violet and green.

Venezuela.—(Vol. III. p. 105).—The 5c. lithographed stamp of 1887 is listed by *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* perf. 12 instead of 11.

Bargains in Stamps.

If you want real bargains in Postage Stamps read the advertisement pages of *The Postage Stamp* every week. Every week there is something new, and many special bargains. If you miss a week you may miss the very stamp you want to complete a series.

Back Nos. of "The Postage Stamp."

Those of our friends who are lacking any back numbers of the present vol. will do well to write direct to our Publishers, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, 1 Amen Corner, London, E.C., for what they require. Many newspapers do not care to bother about back numbers. Any number still on sale may be had for the published price and postage, 4s., 1½d.

Correspondence

N.B.—Correspondence on all matters of general philatelic interest is cordially invited. All letters for publication should be sent to the Editor, The Postage Stamp, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, and letters should also be distinctly marked INSIDE with the name of this journal.

Great Britain ½d. Control No.

To the Editor "The Postage Stamp."

Dear Sir,

Great Britain current halfpenny stamp has appeared here to-day with new Control Number H9. Postmistress received sheets this morning, and I was the first individual to whom she sold stamps with the new Control Number attached.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

July 31st, 1909.

JAMES P. BURNS.

Belgium and France.

To the Editor of "The Postage Stamp."

Dear Sir,

I have just been reading Mr Dingwall's article on the values of certain Belgian stamps, which you reproduce from the *Stamp Lover*.

About a couple of months ago I sorted out a mixed lot of old Belgian stamps containing a fair number of the 1865 issue. I did not pay particular attention to the exact number I had of each value, but out of about fifty of the 40c. value there were only two which were perf. $14\frac{1}{2} \times 14$. Out of about the same number of the 30c. there was, as far as I can remember, only one perf. $14\frac{1}{2} \times 14$. The commonest shade seemed to be a very light brown. There were several of a very deep brown, but not one which could be called "black-brown."

At the same time I looked over a lot of several hundreds of France, Emperor's Head and Head of Liberty types, and was struck with the scarcity of the 10c. bistre and 20c. blue with the head of Liberty (Gibbons Nos. 156 and 160). Though most values were well represented, there was only one of each of those mentioned.

Trusting these notes may be of some interest,

I am, yours faithfully,

Aug. 12th, 1909.

C. W. MAYS.

P.S.—Mr. Dingwall mentions the cancellation of the Belgian 1865, 40c. I noticed that nearly all of my 40c. were pretty heavily cancelled, while the 30c. were in nearly every instance splendid specimens. C. W. M.

Tasmanian Watermarks.

To the Editor of "The Postage Stamp."

Dear Sir,

Mr. E. Heginbottom, in his letter, 22nd July, 1909, states he has not seen the 1d., section D, division 3—A to left. This stamp I have had for some months, and it is dated on postmark "No. 24—08," with "OUSE" (?) above.

Could you inform me what Mr. Heginbottom means by "Inverted watermarks . . . in sideways position," as I have always considered the "A to left" to be the inverted watermark of "A to right."

Yours faithfully,

12th Aug., 1909.

J. V. JACKLIN.

Catalogue Value of Stamps 25 Years ago.

To the Editor "The Postage Stamp."

Sir,

I came across an old S.G. Catalogue for the year 1884 the other day and thought it might be interesting to furnish the prices of some of the rare stamps in that year.

	s.	d.
Austria (Newspaper) 50 kr. red unused	1	0
British Columbia 2½d. ('61) used	3	0
" Guiana 4c. ('53) unused	25	0
Canada 12d. unused	20	0
Ceylon, imperf., 4d. unused	3	0
Gt. Britain, 2s. brown, used	5	0
Madeira, 240 reis ('68) unused	5	0
Mauritius (worn plate) 1d. red ('48) used	8	6
Natal, 3d. ('57) unused	20	0
" 6d. ('57) " " " "	30	0
Nevis, 6d. ('61) " " " "	3	0
" 4d. ('67) " " " "	1	0
" 1s. ('67) " " " "	2	0
New Caledonia, 10c. ('60) unused	5	0
Newfoundland, 8d. ('57) " " " "	2	6
New South Wales, 3d. ('50) used	2	6
Moldavia, 81p. unused	7	6
" 108p. " " " "	10	6
St. Vincent, 5s. ('80) unused	8	6
Sandwich Islands, 13c. ('53) unused	1	6
South Australia, 1d. ('55) unused	0	6
Spain, 3 reales ('52) used	50	0
" 2 " ('53) " " " "	45	0
Switzerland, Basle, unused	7	6
" Geneva, 5c., unused	10	0
" Winterthur, used	4	6
" Zurich, 6 rep. (vertical lines)	3	6
Transvaal, 1s. ('69) unused	2	6
Tuscany, 2 soldi ('50) used	27	6
Turks Islands, 4d. on 1s. prune, unused	15	0
Naples, ½ tomasi ('60) used	80	0
U.S.A., 10c. ('37) unused	1	6
" 90c. ('51) " " " "	5	0
" 90c. ('69) " " " "	6	0
Virgin Island, 1s. ('67) unused	2	0
Western Australia, 2d., ('55) used	5	0
" " 6d., ('55) " " " "	5	6
" " 1s., ('55) unused	4	0

F. A. WRIGHT.

The "Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The *Postage Stamp* is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:

Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C.

F. C. Ginn, 143, Strand, London, W.C.

Lewis May & Co., 15, King William St., Strand, W.C.

W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.

James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.

Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.

The Court Stamp Co., 10, Marriott's Court,

Manchester.

Editor's Letter Box

Publishing Offices:—1, AMEN CORNER, LONDON, E.C.

Editorial Address:—FRED J. MELVILLE, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

Articles, Contributions and Correspondence, should be addressed to the Editor, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the correspondent. Articles, etc., not accepted, will be returned when postage is prepaid.

Business Communications should be addressed to the Manager, and Advertisements to the Advertisement Manager, 1, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

THE POSTAGE STAMP may be obtained through Newsagents or will be forwarded from the publishing office to any address at the following rates of prepayment: Yearly, 6s. 6d.; Half-Yearly, 3s. 3d.; Quarterly, 1s. 6d.; Single Copy, 1d.

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Our Publishing Day and Advertisers.

In order to meet the requirements of the publishing trade our publishers now distribute copies to the Newsagents on Wednesdays instead of Thursdays as before. This compels us to go to press on Saturday morning. Hence it is absolutely necessary for our printers to have all advertisements at latest on Friday morning; consequently, copy must be in the Advertisement Manager's hands not later than Wednesday, 5 o'clock p m

Advertisers' Proofs.

We are anxious to consult our Advertisers' convenience to the greatest possible extent, but where proofs have to be supplied and returned our printers must have the "copy" by Thursday morning at the latest, as we now have to print off a portion of our issue on Saturday morning.

"The Postage Stamp" on Sale.

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 W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.
 James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.
 Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.
 The Court Stamp Co., 10, Marriott's Court, Manchester.

Examination of Stamps.

So many of our readers have asked us to undertake the examination and identification of their stamps that we have made arrangements to accede to their wishes.

We shall be pleased to express an opinion as to the genuineness or otherwise of any stamps submitted to us, or identify them according to any catalogue at a charge of 6d. per stamp (minimum 1/-). All fees must be paid in advance with sufficient added to pay for return postage and registration.

Stamps upon which an opinion is desired should be mounted on a separate sheet from the letter accompanying them and addressed to "The Expert," c/o The Editor of The Postage Stamp, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

Collectors' Wants and Exchanges.

Our friends will note that we have opened a column for collectors to advertise their wants, at the nominal charge of 1d. per word. Many collectors even in London have not time to hunt about for stamps, whilst others resident in the country, have not the opportunity.

By using this column Collectors' Wants will catch the eye of all who are likely to be able to supply the stamps needed, for dealers watch such advertisements very closely, and collectors who want to dispose of duplicates will not fail to note the opportunity for exchange or sale.

Advertisements of stamps for sale are not admitted to this column.

Our Binding Covers.

In navy blue buckram, gilt lettered side and back, for binding any volume of The Postage Stamp, price 1s. 6d., from Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Amen Corner, London, E.C.

Our Handbills.

We are still sending out hundreds of our handbills with specimen page to kind friends who are doing their best to help us to a big circulation. We want every reader to see it that all his stamp friends take in THE POSTAGE STAMP. Shall we send you post free a dozen or two, or fifty, or a hundred, handbills to hand to friends and enclose in letters to collector friends? If so, write Baldwin, Printers of The Postage Stamp, Tunbridge Wells.

HOW TO CHOOSE A HOUSE

By Charles Emanuel & E. M. Joseph.

In crown 8vo. cloth gilt, 3s. 6d. net.

"There would be an end to the groans of the multitude of householders who discover, after the lease is signed, the hidden defects of their home if this remarkably practical book were always studied by the house hunter. It deals at the outset with the questions of freehold and leasehold tenure, and the many points where care is necessary in hiring or purchasing a house, and covers every point of legal procedure, of costs, stamps and registration. Illustrations make clear a number of points where description is difficult."—*Christian World*.

SIR ISAAC PITMAN & SONS, LTD.

Items in Brief.

110,000 Postage Stamps.

A grocer at Haywards Heath has collected 110,000 postage stamps. The hobby has occupied his spare time for nine years.
—*Daily Express*, 21.8.09.

700,000 Stamps.

Mr. H. H. Kemp, of Glebe Road, Norwich, writes to the "Express" giving particulars of an even greater stamp collection than that of 110,000 mentioned in the "Express" a few days ago. He says he has collected, in sixteen years, 700,000 stamps, neatly packed in fifties.—*Daily Express*, 25.8.09.

Room Papered with Postage Stamps.

Mr. Richard Sharpe, of the Jubilee Stamp House, North Bersted, Bognor, has been collecting postage stamps for forty-four years. He has an entire room papered with them, and festoons of stamps hang across the room. There are about five million stamps in all, and their face value is more than £80,000.
—*Daily Express*, 26.8.09.

Australian Map on Coins.

New silver coinage, bearing the map of Australia on one side, and the King's head on the other, is now being prepared for the Australian Commonwealth at the Imperial Mint.—*Daily Express*, 28.8.09.

Readers of *The Postage Stamp* will remember that the 5s. stamp of the Centennial series has a map of Australia on it also.

112 Miles in 76 Months.

A postcard bearing the date stamp April 17th, 1903, has just reached Belcot, Longley Road, Tooting, from Bournemouth. It took six years and four months to travel 112 miles.
—*Daily Express*, 28.8.09.

PERHAPS YOU HAVE NEVER TRIED an advertisement in our columns. Perhaps it has not occurred to you to send your "Offers" along to THE POSTAGE STAMP. The next time you want anything why not use our columns? For particulars and prices see above.

Pitman's Sixpenny Books

Civil Service Long and Cross Tots

Civil Service Copying Forms

French Commercial Phrases

German Commercial Phrases

French Business Letters

German Business Letters

Spanish Business Letters

Easy French Sentences

Advanced French Sentences

Easy German Sentences

Examinations in German, How to Pass

SIR ISAAC PITMAN & SONS, LTD.,
1 Amen Corner, London, E.C.

The POSTAGE STAMP

An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors

Founded by
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.
Edited by
FRED. J. MELVILLE.

No. 25. Vol. 1.
(Whole Number 103)

18 SEPTEMBER, 1909.

Price 1d.

Gossip of the Week

BY CORNELIUS WRINKLE

No Penny Post with Turkey.



I REFERRED a few weeks back to the efforts which an influential Committee of British and Turkish gentlemen were making towards the achievement of penny postage between Great Britain and Turkey. I regret to read in one of the newspapers that the proposal has been turned down by the British Authorities. Mr. Buxton declined to establish a penny post with Turkey on the grounds

that such a step would cost £350,000 a year.

I gather however from M. Mihranovitch that the effort to bring about a penny postal agreement between the two countries will not be allowed to drop.

Disappearing 1½d. Values.

A correspondent writes me that he hears from an official source in Natal that the 1½d. value of that Colony will not be again issued or supplied after the stock at present in hand has been exhausted.

Another correspondent writing from New Zealand says:—

"You will doubtless be aware long ere this that the 1½d. N.Z. stamps are no longer procurable, as there are no more to be printed."

A Post Office Hamorist.

In a short personal paragraph suggested by the recent attainment of his 46th birthday by Mr. W. W. Jacobs, a writer in the *Daily News* recalls some others of the long list of literary men who have been attached to the General Post Office staff. Mr. Jacobs "may be said to have been a 'discovery' of Mr. Jerome K. Jerome, for his first ambitious literary efforts appeared in *To-Day*, when that paper was under Mr. Jerome's editorship. Mr. Jacobs is one of a long list of literary men who have been employed in the General Post Office—a list which includes such names as Anthony Trollope, Edmund Yates, Sir Spencer

Walpole, Mr. A. B. Walkley, and Mr. H. Buxton Forman, the editor of *Keats*. His (Mr. Jacobs') father was manager of a wharf at Wapping—a circumstance which in all probability accounts for the large part which river life plays in his novels and stories."

The Petition to Berne.

Mr. Bernstein has sent me a copy of the petition prepared and submitted to the Universal Postal Union, in accordance with the resolution passed at the First British Congress. I quote the terms of the petition in full:—

At a Congress of the representatives of all the Philatelic Societies of Great Britain held in Manchester on the 18th, 19th and 20th February, 1909, the following resolution was unanimously passed:—

"That this Congress is of opinion that a petition should be prepared and presented to the Universal Postal Union, soliciting their help in the prevention of further issues of commemorative and other stamps which are unnecessary for the public service."

"We, the Committee appointed to draw up this petition, beg respectively to remind you that at your Congress held in 1897 at Washington it was decided that stamps issued for a special object peculiar to the country of issue, such as stamps, called commemorative stamps and available for a limited time only, should no longer be valid for international postage.

"In addition to these, large numbers of stamps are constantly being issued, although which, whilst not restricted as to period of currency, nevertheless are unnecessary for the public service and are apparently only produced for the purpose of sale to stamp collectors of the young and inexperienced class. Serious philatelists deplore the appearance of so many such issues, because they tend to lower the reputation of the Postal Authorities of such countries whose business it is to cater for the wants of the letter-writing public, and not the stamp collector.

"In the category of stamps which we submit ought to be discouraged, and whose status you are respectfully asked to consider, are many provisional (surcharged) issues. These, in isolated cases, may be necessary but the great majority could be easily avoided, and we respectively submit that their issue could be discouraged and restricted by some ruling or recommendation of the Universal Postal Union.

"We regret that some of our own Colonies are serious offenders in this respect, and the attention of our Colonial Secretary has already been drawn to this matter. We feel that the clearly expressed opinion of the Universal Postal Union, whose work in the cause of civilisation has been of such extraordinary value, and whose recommendations command universal respect and attention would have a strong effect in preventing the future issue of these unnecessary and purely speculative postage stamps.

"In conclusion, we would respectfully point out that this petition expresses the views not only of the British Philatelic Societies assembled in Congress, and of the leading members of the stamp trade in this country but of the Societies and dealers in all parts of the world."

Cost of a Simplified Collection.

Mr. Ewen has been compiling some interesting statistics with regard to his own special system of "simplified" stamp collecting. I saw his model collection on this plan some little time back, and certainly it has much to recommend itself to the collector who is anxious to cover a very wide field. It involves taking all types and colours, but not duplicating the same type in the same colour even if surcharged with varieties of overprints, or varied with different watermarks or perforations; and the cheapest form of each stamp (surcharged or unsurcharged, used or unused, &c.). For several weeks Mr. Ewen has published long lists of figures for each group of countries shewing their total emissions and values, and now he gives his grand total in which the "cost to a collector of a complete simplified general collection, postal adhesives only," as £6,599 13s. 6d., quite a respectable little sum. Of course this figure includes a number of great rarities, the omission of which would knock off the bulk of the thousands.

How Many Stamps Are There?

While in a statistical mood, the Norwood dealer has given some estimates on other matters, which I must confess, strike me as much more curious and interesting. What is the value of all the stamps in the world? Even on the simplified basis, the total must be enormous. Here are Mr. Ewen's figures of those which he estimates to be in the hands of dealers and collectors.

Catalogue Price.	No. of Different Stamps.	Estimated Average Quantity each.	Total Quantity.	Total Value.
½d. per 100 or less	52	20,000,000	1,040,000,000	£17,000
½d. per 100 or less	441	1,000,000	441,000,000	54,500
6d. to 10d. per 100	705	200,000	141,000,000	17,000
	1198	—	1,622,000,000	£88,500
2/10ths 1d. to ½d. each	1711	100,000	171,100,000	205,000
¾d., 1d. each	954	50,000	38,160,000	175,885
	3863	—	1,831,260,000	£469,385
1½d. to 2½d. each	1485	20,000	29,700,000	187,229
3d. to 8d. "	1773	10,000	17,730,000	367,500
9d. to 2/- "	1244	5,000	6,220,000	407,604
	8,365	—	1,884,910,000	£1,431,718
2/3 to 5/- each	672	2,000	1,334,000	239,936
6/6 to 10/- "	305	1,000	305,000	120,833
11/- to £1 "	124	500	62,000	51,437
	9,466	—	1,886,621,000	£1,843,924
24/- to £5	115	200	23,000	50,920
£6 to £100	33	100	3,300	68,500
£20 to £700	4	10	40	20,000
£1000	1	1	1	1,000
	9,619	—	1,886,647,341	£1,984,344

or say roughly, two thousand million stamps, value two million pounds sterling at dealers' purchasing rates, or three million pounds at sale prices. It must not be forgotten that the figures given above are only average ones.

500,000 Stamp Collectors.

"If the above estimate were correct and every man, woman and child on the face of the earth were to collect stamps, they would just about have one stamp apiece.

"Fortunately, however, everyone does not collect stamps. Probably there are not more than 500,000 collectors, of whom few will have less than 500 varieties, whilst

100,000 have more than 500 varieties.

50,000 " " 1000 "

25,000 " " 2000 "

10,000 " " 5000 "

whilst perhaps 10,000 to 20,000 are group or single-country collectors. Of these latter not more than 1% probably have collections up to exhibition standard."

I am afraid that on this point it is hopeless to arrive at anything like a reasonable estimate. So many collectors owning both fair collections and insignificant ones being quite beyond the ken of any dealer or philatelic organisation.

Dealers and their Stocks.

The next estimate is a peculiarly interesting one.

"Our estimate of the number of stamp dealers is as follows:—

Stock value £100,000 or over, at cost	1
" 10,000 " "	10
" 1,000 " "	100
" 100 " "	1000
" 10 " "	10,000

"The latter class are of course mainly "Collector-dealers," stationers, etc."

I should much like to know who, in my colleague's opinion, is the solitary one who carries a stock valued at over £100,000? It is not quite such an easy point to answer as it looks.

Swedish Postmarked Proofs.

My correspondent, Mr. Nils Strandell, writes me in reference to the variety of Sweden 30 öre brown numeral type imperforate, mentioned by me a few weeks back. "I would only hereby draw your attention to the fact that this is a proof which has been postmarked to order by some post office clerk in Gothenburg. I have seen quite a number of imperforate proofs postmarked in Gothenburg on the same date, and as to the 30 öre you will please find an illustration of such a pair in the *Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidskrift*, page 93. On page 1, I have illustrated a similar pair of the 50 öre official imperforate which I first considered to be a regular stamp, but which later turned out to be only a proof (see page 23). This has also been cancelled in Gothenburg on the same date."

I am much obliged for the information, and for copies of the *Tidskrift*.

Next Week's "Special."

For several weeks we have been devoting special attention to matters American, and we have already given our readers two special American numbers. Next week we shall publish our third American Special in which we hope to complete our reports of the great Convention of the American Philatelic Society in Atlantic City.

Our next number will also complete our fourth volume, the index to which is now in course of preparation. Readers should check up their files of this journal at once and apply to the publishers for any back numbers which may be missing. Applications for back numbers should be sent *direct to our Publishers*, Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, 1, Amen Corner, London, E.C., for what they require. Many newsagents do not care to bother about back numbers. Any number still on sale may be had for the published price and postage, i.e., 1½d.

Philately

BY H. N. MUDGE, *President Elect of the American Philatelic Society*

In this paper read before the last convention of the Society of which Mr. Mudge is President-Elect he makes the interesting proposal that a special committee of philatelists should undertake the formulation of a proper definition of the word Philately.

WITH apologies to the author of "The Man with the Musket," a partial hint of the motive of this paper may be epitomized as follows:

Collectors pass on from the rage of renown,

From a ceaseless commotion and strife,

Pass by where the status of multiple crown

Adds only to the cares of one's life,

On, out for a time from philately's height

Where we worry and struggle and pine;

Your theme is the theme of achievement most bright;

A matter of sentiment is mine.

Let it be stated at the outset that this matter is not the phase, or phases, of sentimentality that draws and holds us individually to the shrine of our fascinating science, and makes of us, "once a collector always a collector." The sentiment bearing on that which is in mind is less subtle, but perchance more praiseworthy in that it is unselfish. In that it is akin to patriotism, where one expects no reward for love of country beyond the pride it instils in one's breast on account of its many virtues, fancied or real. It is that sentiment on the part of collectors which prompts a feeling of satisfaction, and possibly of pleasure and pride, at a proper appreciation of philately on the part of a non-collecting friend. It is the feeling that so gratifies that, without thought or prospect of direct profit to one's self, one is imbued with a desire for all the world to know of the pleasures of philately; or at least to understand and appreciate what the science really is. It is the something that makes the collector interested in his local and his national stamp organization, whether he traces specific personal benefits therefrom or not; that makes many a worker sacrifice time and substance for the welfare of such organizations long after the honors have palled that may have been the reward of his efforts, and after he may have passed the apparent—note the qualification, apparent—point of their usefulness to him as mediums through which to attain philatelic knowledge or holdings. Of the sentiment referred to is born the belief in a wide-spread dissemination of popular philatelic knowledge for the double purpose of making converts to our cause and the infusion of such a general intelligence among new collectors as to our science that its rationalism, dignity and interesting features may be generally admitted. The belief that approves and fosters such work as has been attempted by the National Stamp Committee without expectation of direct personal gain, the sentiment being satisfied if such indirect returns are realized as have just been mentioned. The kind of sentiment applicable to the matter in hand goes further than all this, and from a philatelic point of view to even greater height, it being also the sentiment of tolerance! for who among those following a purely intellectual pastime are more tolerant as a class with the differences of choice in the matter of collecting than are philatelists?

With this line of thought fixed in mind we are perchance in mood to approach receptively the specific matter which this paper aims to exploit. This is nothing more or less than the definition of philately.

The history of the coinage of the word and the attempts made for a different one is interesting, but not germane to the present purpose. The word philately has come to stay; the fight for the recognition of our pastime as a dignified science has been waged and practically won under that appellation, and it is too late, even were it desirable, to change it. But the original definition, and its subsequent extension, has not kept pace in comprehensiveness with the development of the science; neither have lexicographers seemed to take much interest in the word, or on recognizing its existence they as a rule have not been particularly fortunate in attaining for it an exhaustive definition. In this last it is possible that philatelists themselves are somewhat at fault.

In all probability the first acquaintance the stamp collecting tyro makes with the meaning of the word is in the "hints for collectors" of the Standard Catalogue. There he is informed that the word philately is derived from two Greek words meaning "fond of" and "exempt from tax;" from which the following deduction is made: "As stamps denote the prepayment of postage, or the tax, they are symbolic of exemption from taxes, hence the word secondarily means a fondness for stamps." Fortunately the definition of the Century Dictionary follows, for this deduction is of such a nature that the average mind is perforce inclined to take it on faith that philately means "fondness for stamps." The matter is handled much more logically in the English "Glossary of Philatelic Terms" by Major Edward B. Evans, who deduces from the same premise as follows: "As the stamp upon a letter or a document denotes that the postage or tax has been paid, and the article is exempt from further taxation, so the word Philately, which would more strictly mean fondness for exemption from taxation, was brought into use with the meaning of fondness for the stamps denoting that the tax had been paid." This last, expressed simply as fondness for stamps denoting a tax paid, while inadequate and subject to certain misconstructions, is not so bad even now, as far as it goes, and might still serve a basic purpose; but it will be remembered it is practically philately's first definition, laid down at a time when the science was in its infancy. Hence it is in order to see what better, if any, definition has followed.

One would instinctively turn to England, where Philately is so popular and so universally understood by the people at large, for a model definition of the word, but will be much disappointed on doing so. The "Imperial Dictionary," an entirely English production, defines philately, in the supplement, as being "the collection of postage stamps, especially of rare or foreign issues, as objects of curiosity." In the supplement of Worcester's Dictionary, the generally adopted standard of England, although American in its authorship, the word is defined as "a name given to the mania for collecting and arranging postage stamps."

Without wasting time on an analysis of these unsatisfactory definitions, but with possibly a smile at the "mania" and the "as objects of curiosity" implications, let us see what the American Standards have done for our cause. In Webster's "International" we find the terse statement that philately is "the collection of postage stamps of various issues." The compilers of "The Century Dictionary" evidently awoke to the inappropriateness of the word "postage" as used in the two preceding

definitions, and sought to correct the circumscription that its use alone gave the subject by adding the word revenue, the "Century's" definition being as follows: "The fancy for collecting and classifying postage stamps and revenue stamps as objects of curiosity; also, the occupation of making such collections." In this, what an improvement the word "fancy" is over the word "mania" as previously quoted; the inclusion of both postage and revenue stamps aims undoubtedly to encompass all? but what a pity the word "curiosity" was allowed to remain. Why would not "as objects of interest" have been better than "as objects of curiosity"? The definition would then have been given a compass consistent with the facts. It would have included not only the lighter interest of curiosity, but the extreme interest that stamps excite in the most of us along educational lines—they being potent teachers to many in the fields of history, geography, the fine and the graphic arts, politics, finance and commerce.

Behold now, in the final definition to be quoted, that philately at last seems to be coming in to its own. A lexicographer has arisen, who, if not a philatelist himself, was wise enough to call to his aid one who was. Whatever the facts may be as to this, certain it is that whoever was responsible for the definition was familiar with the Standard Catalogue; otherwise how would one account for the "private" telegraph feature in such connection? Here it is, from the so-called "Standard" Dictionary of Funk & Wagnalls. "The study and collection of labels or stamps issued by public authority to indicate prepayment or freedom from charge, or payment due, as postage or revenue stamps, and also stamps of private telegraph and letter carrying companies called also timbrology."

This definition, to say the least, is in close touch with the present day development of our science. It, like the science itself, is comprehensive, and it is nicely discriminating. At the outset it proclaims the dignity of philately by the use of the word "study," thus putting it, as it should be, on a higher plane than can be conceived by the use of "mania" or "fancy" in practically the same connection. The phrases "public authorities" and the "letter carrying companies" define a scope certainly warranted by present day methods, giving a standing to even such extremes as state revenues and the so-called "locals." Again "labels or stamps" instead of "stamps" or "postage stamps and revenue stamps" has the proper breadth to harmonize with the facts. Under this change from all that has gone before, a standing, generally admitted among the broad-minded thinkers of the fraternity, is given the lovers of such features as the early hand-stamped "Pais," and the so-called penalty envelopes; while those who refuse to admit the envelope stamp into the postage stamp family are foiled, for they certainly cannot ignore its relationship under both "stamp" and "label."

Furthermore, note particularly that the word "prepayment" expresses better than anything we have hitherto

come across the actual status of the postage stamp proper; also note that the words following "or freedom from charge, or payment due," put the "department" and the postage due stamps in line to be recognized as a component of philately.

But the best of this definition as a whole is its value to us as collectors with the public at large. While comprehensive and up-to-date, it is also so simple and clear as to be easily understood by laymen. It can not fail to leave in the mind of the non-collector at least the impression that there is more than mere boy's play in our beloved philately. Hence, we as a class are benefitted by such a definition.

True, there may be those who think they can make a better one; and as the definition stands, with all its great merits there may be something in it to criticise. In fact, the writer of this paper confesses to the belief that it will not be technically correct in every respect until changes have been made in it—changes involving only five words. But restraint will be exercised, and the imagined improvement not divulged; for it is felt that others are more competent in the matter than the writer. And who more competent than a special committee of the American Philatelic Association?

Now fellow members, the real purpose of this paper has been developed. It is simply to suggest that a special committee, of broad philatelic minds, be appointed from the membership of our Association to formulate, either by amendment or original construction, a proper definition of the word philately. One that will be consistent with the wide scope of philately's modern development, and at the same time be so clearly and simply expressed as to convey to the mind of the general public a true appreciation of the dignity of our science. After this, the further suggestion is made, it should be the duty of such a committee to attempt securing the adoption of the definition by all standard dictionary makers; at least its adoption in all dictionaries, of importance, of the English language.

If it is true that it is the function of a dictionary to "record usage," it can scarcely be gainsaid but what the large membership and the stability for twenty-two years of this Association places it in position to advise as to philatelic usage. Hence it is more than probable that the dictionary makers, if properly approached in the name of the American Philatelic Association, would be glad of any intelligent criticism, and be favorably disposed towards any conclusion that might be arrived at by our experts.

Of course, if this is attempted, it will be as a matter of sentiment—of the kind previously described. No one will receive direct, individual benefit from it. If successful, however, all will receive manifold indirect benefit; for after all, is there a more potent influence for good in any cause than the right kind of sentiment? And in the long run does not general good become the individual good? The suggestion outlined herein is respectfully submitted.

A Dream of 1940

Emeté in the "Madrid Filatelico," July 27.09

I HAD a dream, provoked by worry, for I cannot deny that Philately really worries me.

It may be that on account of this frank confession some may judge me a lunatic; but even if this be the case, who can say with any certainty that my dream of to-day shall not be a reality of the future?

In this dream we were not in the year 1909, but in 1940. In London the centenary of the postage stamp was being celebrated. For some time previously the

solemn festival had been announced all over the world. In England things are carried out as in Spain; there was no fear of such a celebration turning out a fiasco, as was the case with the Quixote centenary.

A set of commemorative stamps was immediately issued, setting forth the advances made in art in the twentieth century, equally in the designing, colouring and printing. The press of the whole world treated the anniversary as an event of immense importance.

Philately had now become a general habit, if I may use the phrase, and the world, both learned and unlearned, acknowledged that Philately had, by facilitating human relations, been the great civilising element of peoples.

A great exhibition had been organised, divided into two parts, one retrospective (the world in 1840), the other contemporary (the world in 1940). In this manner it was demonstrated that in one century the progress of mankind had made greater strides than in all the previous centuries of the Modern Era.

Besides this general exhibition, there was another and magnificent one devoted to Philately. What collections! what rarities and historical documents of inestimable value!

A universal philatelic congress had been convoked, and here all matters relating to philately, both in detail and in their general aspects, but above all in their relations to, and influence upon, the progress of mankind, were treated with the loftiness of view of which that Areopagus was capable.

As means of communication were very rapid (I do not remember whether aerial navigation had been established) the journey to London by land and sea was made with great ease, and with return tickets too.

Numerous excursionists arrived not only from Melbourne and Sidney, but from the Fiji and Sandwich Is-

lands. It was a universal festival, localised in the capital of England, the cradle of the postage stamp.

"The Times" hit on a happy idea, and published a huge number in colours, reproducing by countries and in chronological order, and to a reduced size, facsimiles of stamps, not of entire series, for this would have been impossible, but of each issue.

The edition ran into many millions of copies, which being spread over the whole globe, completed the popularisation of philately.

In this manner the world was convinced of the fact that Philately summed up the history, graphic, living, palpitating, of a whole century, after having co-operated to produce human solidarity, in tightening the bonds of fellowship between different peoples, being the soul, the verbum of this life of relationship.

I awoke.

But 31 years must pass before the realisation of the event of which I have dreamed.

I was saddened at the thought that these are many years to add to my present age. I shall not be present at the festival.

But my dream will become a reality.

The world is already awakening to the fact, and will by then be convinced that Philately has been a veritable social element in the history of civilisation.

My Favourite Country and Why

Uruguay

BY T. W. GARDNER

MY favourite country" is usually a difficult question for a general collector to answer, as there are probably several countries for which he has a special liking, the reasons in some cases being hard to state, and in others being purely a matter of personal taste which it is difficult to put into words.

In the writer's own case, the countries of South and Central America, especially Uruguay, Peru, Chili, Brazil, Argentine and Guatemala, appeal strongly to him, and this perchance originated in the fact that for some years he had a friend in Montevideo, so that many varieties of the stamps of Uruguay and the neighbouring States came to hand. Hence the later issues of Uruguay are fairly complete in the writer's album, a fact which always appeals to every collector. Then it has been comparatively an easy matter to obtain the new issues as they came out, for they are practically all fairly common.

Another point which appeals to one as a general collector is that there are surcharges to add to the interest of collecting, the $\frac{1}{2}$ cent of 1898 being a case in point.

The issues of Uruguay, too, furnish the collector with examples of both lithographed and engraved stamps, the 1900 set existing in both types.

The designs also of many of the stamps are exceedingly handsome, the peso values and the 20, 25 and 50 cents of the 1895 issue being especially so.

The re-issue of various types in different colours is another point of interest in the stamps of Uruguay.

Many of the designs are of historical, biographical, economical or geographical interest, an additional fact which helps to make a country one's favourite. Uruguayan celebrities are pictured in General Artigas, M. Santos and J. Suarez, the 1897 commemoration series of the latter forming a handsome trio. The industries of the country,

are represented by cattle, a figure of Ceres (the goddess of Agriculture), a gaucho and the arms of Uruguay.

A theatre (Solis), the fortress and the cathedral of Montevideo are typical of the architecture.

The quelling of two modern insurrections is celebrated by surcharges on two issues,—“Paz,” with the date, and in the first case, an olive branch in addition. Varieties of perforated, unperforated and rouletted stamps can also be found, the latter particularly in the early issues. In the latter, the collector with moderate means finds it difficult to obtain anything like completion, but a judicious outlay will bring in specimens of each issue, and thus every series can be represented in his collection, which is productive of much satisfaction.

All the above points tend to make Uruguay the country from the stamps of which the writer obtains most pleasure and these remarks are penned with the hope that they may enlist the admiration of other collectors for the stamps of the “Republica Oriental del Uruguay.”

The "Postage Stamp" on Sale.

The *Postage Stamp* is now kept on sale and may be had every week at the following dealers' establishments:

Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C.

F. C. Ginn, 143, Strand, London, W.C.

Lewis May & Co., 15, King William St., Strand, W.C.

W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, London, W.C.

James Rhodes, 62, Market Street, Manchester.

Cheap Stamp Co., 12, Malvern Road, Kilburn, N.W.

The Court Stamp Co., 10, Marriott's Court,

Manchester.

How to Form a Classified Collection of Siam

BY J. IRELAND

TO make a collection of the stamps of Siam according to catalogue is now beyond the means or hopes of most collectors, therefore the application of the principles of the Simple Life will perhaps prove of interest. The numbers in the catalogue run up to 170 stamps. By the Simple Life method we shall reduce them to 49. At the same time, for the benefit of the specialist, a plan will be suggested for working out the varieties of surcharge which exist to a great extent in this country.

A blank album is of course necessary, and the stamps should be arranged in the following order. It is a good plan to leave two quadrille spaces between each stamp.

Siam.

Page 1.

First issue, 1888 (Aug. 4th).

Engraved and printed by Messrs. Waterlow & Son, Ltd., London.

1 lotte, blue	1 songpg, yellow ochre
1 att, rose	1 salung, brown-orange
1 pynung, red	

Second issue, 1887 (April).

Engraved and printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., Ltd., London.

(1890)

1 att, green	8 atts, green and yellow
2 atts, green and rose	12 atts, lilac and rose
3 atts, green and blue	24 atts, lilac and blue
4 atts, green and brown	64 atts, lilac and brown

Third issue, 1900.

Engraved and printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., Ltd., London.

1 att, green	8 atts, green and orange
2 atts, green	10 atts, blue
2 atts, red and blue	12 atts, brown and red
3 atts, red and blue	14 atts, blue
4 atts, rose	24 atts, brown and red
4 atts, brown and rose	28 atts, brown and red
6 atts, rose	64 atts, brown and purple

Note.—Owing to the depreciation of the tical, the 2 atts, 3 atts and 4 atts were changed in colour in 1904 and three new values introduced, namely 6 atts, 4 atts and 28 atts.

Fourth issue, 1906.

Engraved and printed in Paris.

1 att, green and yellow	8 atts, olive and black
2 atts, grey and lilac	9 atts, blue
3 atts, green	12 atts, blue
3 atts, grey and lilac	18 atts, brown-red
4 atts, red and sepia	24 atts, brown
4 atts, rose	1 tical, yellow and blue
5 atts, rose	

Note.—In 1908 the value of the tical regained its former status, and the 2 atts, 3 atts and 4 atts were changed in colour and two new values added, 9 atts and 18 atts.

High values, 1909. Equestrian Statue.

1 tical, green and lilac	10 tical, yellow and rose
2 tical, rose and orange	20 tical, grey and brown
3 tical, green and blue	40 tical, grey and brown
5 tical, lilac and green	

This will complete Siam on the Simple Life. It is of course optional whether the notes are included, but if not the date of changes of colour and new values should be written over the stamps.

The arrangement of the provisional issues for the specialist follows.

Page 2.

Provisional issues. Overprinted on first issue.

1 tical on 1 lotte (1885).
1 att on 1 pynung native characters (1889).
Varieties of overprint follow.

Page 3.

Overprinted on second issue. The 2 atts stamp.

1 att, type 12 (1890).
Varieties of overprint follow.

Page 4.

The 3 atts stamp. 1890.

1 att, type 12. 2 atts, types 15 or 17.
2 atts, types 18 or 19. 2 atts, type 19 on type 12.
Varieties of overprint follow.

Page 5.

The 12 atts stamp. 1895-1898.

1 att, type 37. 4 atts, type 40.
3 atts, type 39.

Varieties of overprint follow.

Page 6.

The 24 atts stamp. 1894-98.

Overprinted 4 atts in the following types:—

20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	40.
1908.					

1 att, type 53. 2 atts, type 55.
Varieties of overprint follow.

Page 7.

The 64 atts stamp. 1894-98.

1 att, types 25 to 23 and 37. 2 atts, types 29 to 36 and 38.

Page 8.

The 10 atts stamp. 1908.

9 atts, type 56.
Varieties follow.

Page 9.

The 14 atts stamp. 1905.

Overprinted on the third issue.

1 att.
Varieties follow.

Page 10.

The 28 atts stamp. 1905.

2 atts.
Varieties follow.

Page 11.

The 5 aits stamp. 1908.
Overprinted on fourth issue.

4 aits, type 54.
Varieties follow.

Page 12.

Overprinted on long fiscal stamps. 1907.

10 ticals. 40 ticals.
20 ticals.

All type 52.
Varieties follow.

Kedah

A Graphic Description of the Transfer

By a Special Correspondent in "The Singapore Free Press"

The fuller particulars of this interesting event promised in our Stop Press column in the August 21st issue have been unavoidably held over. We are glad to be able to publish the following description of a ceremony which marks an event to which Philatelists have long been looking forward with the keenest interest.

Alor Star, Kedah, July 16th.

FOLLOWING my telegrams sent you *via* Penang, I now forward a more detailed account of the ceremonies which took place here yesterday in connection with the transfer of Kedah from Siamese to British suzerainty.

Mr. Maxwell arrived here in the F. M. S. launch Rapid at noon. He was in plain clothes—sola topi, blue coat, white trousers, &c. and had no official escort of any description. At the wharf he was received by Mr. Williamson, Financial Adviser to Siam, who has been acting as adviser here since Mr. Hart left for India; Mr. Williamson introduced him to various personages present beginning with Tunku Mahmood, brother of H. H. the Sultan and President of the State Council; the members of council; Dr. A. L. Hoops, State Surgeon and Inspector of Prisons; and the other European and Malay Officials. There was some short exchange of compliments then Mr. Maxwell inspected the guard of honour of fifty Sikhs drawn up under Mr. B. E. Mitchell, Commissioner of Police, and drove with Mr. Williamson to Bakar Bata, the adviser's residence, in a carriage placed at their disposal by the Sultan.

At the Balei Besar.

The formal ceremony of handing and taking over in the Sultan's presence was fixed for three o'clock in the afternoon at the Balei Besar, or chief Council Chamber a handsome building near the palace. Here a large crowd had assembled, inside being all the Principal Officials, members of the royal house, and hajis; the only unofficial European present being your correspondent. Outside was a guard of honour and a large concourse of the people. Unfortunately owing to a delay in making translations of the various documents, it was four o'clock before Mr. Williamson and Mr. Maxwell were able to start from the Government offices and by this time His Highness the Sultan had arrived at the Balei Besar and taken his seat in the centre of a number of chairs reserved for the Members of the State Council. When he appeared all present rose, but he motioned them to be seated and waited the arrival of the procession with the despatches. His

The general collector who merely wishes to classify the provisional from the regular issues would take just one variety of each surcharge and get them all on one page. The principle to bear in mind is to give the stamp first place and to treat the overprint as an addition.

In December, 1899, stamps of a new type were submitted by Messrs. De La Rue but these were rejected. It is understood a few got into circulation by inadvertence but as they were not officially issued they may be ignored by the general collector.

There is a guide and history of Siamese stamps by the Editor under the title of "Siam: Its Posts and Postage Stamps" (6d.).

Highness is a spare, dignified looking Malay and the reports we have heard of late regarding his mental and physical condition would appear to be greatly exaggerated, for he bore himself yesterday with perfect composure and ease, was most affable in his manner, and followed the proceedings with evident interest. Like all the other Malays present he was in plain European clothes—frock-coat, etc.—and did not wear any of his Siamese orders.

Shortly after His Highness's arrival the beating of drums announced that the procession with the despatches had left the Government offices, situated a few hundred yards away. The documents themselves were borne under a yellow silk umbrella and carried by a high court dignitary in a golden tray of exquisite Malay workmanship. Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Williamson followed immediately after, the former in the uniform of the Civil Service, and the latter wearing the full insignia of the second class of the Order of the White Elephant, recently conferred upon him by the King of Siam. They were escorted by several of the principal European and Malay officials, the royal drumbeaters and banner bearers, and various other persons including the Malay who until a few years ago held the then important office of Lord High Executioner. During the progress of the procession the nobat, or religious band, emitted weird but not untuneful music. On its arrival at the Council Chamber the guard of honour presented arms, certain officials advanced to the bottom of the steps and Tunku Mahmood conducted the envoys with the despatches into the Sultan's presence. His Highness bowed, the envoys seated themselves, Mr. Williamson on the Sultan's right with Tunku Mahmood and Mr. Maxwell on the left with Tunku Sulong, the Sultan's eldest son, while other high officials sat facing them, the golden tray with the letters being placed on a table covered with a cloth heavily embroidered with gold. All present remained standing until the envoys were seated.

The Speeches.

The formal speeches and reading of documents then took place, each being first read in English and then in a Malay translation by an official who placed a long strip of royal yellow silk across his left shoulder while reading, which he did in a rather inaudible voice.

Mr. Williamson first rose and said:—

"Your Highness, we are assembled here this afternoon to inaugurate an event of the utmost importance in the history of Kedah. Yesterday Your Highness granted an interview to Phra Viset Phakdi, who had been specially

commissioned by His Majesty the King of Siam to be the bearer of a Despatch to Your Highness from H.R.H. Prince Damrong, Minister of the Interior. In this Despatch you were informed of the signature and ratification of a Treaty between Siam and Great Britain, by the terms of Article 1 of which the Siamese Government has transferred to the British Government whatever rights of suzerainty, protection, administration and control they have hitherto possessed over the State of Kedah and the adjacent islands. The Despatch further intimated to Your Highness that the British Government have appointed Mr. William George Maxwell to be the future Adviser to the State of Kedah and that Mr. Maxwell would arrive at Alor Star on the 15th July. Your Highness was likewise informed that I had been instructed by the Siamese Government to deliver to you a Despatch which will confirm to Your Highness the fact of the signature and ratification of the Treaty, and will furnish you with some particulars as to the future boundaries between Siam and the territories to the south of it.

"In my capacity as representative of His Siamese Majesty's Government on this occasion, I now beg to hand this Despatch to your Highness, and with your permission I will read to you an English translation thereof."

In this Despatch Prince Damrong informed the Sultan of the conclusion of the Treaty, informed him of the coming transfer and recapitulated the clauses defining the new frontier, which, he said, followed permanent natural boundaries, an arrangement which should prove mutually advantageous. In the closing sentences Prince Damrong said that it caused the King of Siam deep regret that the relations which had so long existed between Kedah and Siam were about to cease, and declared that it was only because His Majesty was convinced that the new arrangement would be for the benefit to Kedah that he had consented to it. The letter concluded with an expression of thanks for Kedah's loyalty to Siam in the past and hopes for her future prosperity.

After reading this, Mr. Williamson said: "I now beg to introduce to Your Highness Mr. Maxwell, the new Adviser, whose appointment has been officially intimated to you both by H.R.H. Prince Damrong and by H.E. the Governor of the Straits Settlements."

A Despatch from the Governor.

Mr. Maxwell then rose and spoke as follows:—

"Your Highness, Mr. Williamson has now intimated to Your Highness that the Siamese Government has by Treaty transferred to the British Government all rights of suzerainty, protection, administration and control whatsoever it possessed in the State of Kedah. I have now the honour to inform your Highness that I am authorised to say that His Majesty the King of Great Britain accepts the transfer and that His Majesty is graciously pleased to extend his protection to Kedah.

"I am further instructed to inform Your Highness that the debt due to the Siamese Government by the Kedah Government has been paid off to Siam. The Despatch from H.E. the Governor of the Straits Settlements to Your Highness—which I now beg to hand to Your Highness—will inform Your Highness that I have been appointed to take over from Mr. Williamson the duties of Adviser to Your Highness.

"With Your Highness' permission I will now read an English translation of the Despatch."

In this Despatch which was dated Government House, Singapore, July 10th; the Governor after the usual compliments accredited Mr. Maxwell as British Adviser—to take over from Mr. Williamson the duties of Adviser to the Sultan under the arrangement between Siam and Kedah, and the duties and jurisdiction of Mr. Consul

Frost in regard to British subjects. His Excellency added that he hoped to pay his promised visit to Kedah on August 6th, and looked forward with pleasure to making the Sultan's personal acquaintance.

After reading this Mr. Maxwell said:—

"I venture to take this opportunity of expressing a hope that the new era in the history of Kedah will be one of contentment and prosperity, and to assure Your Highness that my earnest desire is to assist Your Highness' Government in ensuring the progress and well-being of the State."

Signing the Transfer.

Mr. Williamson then again rose and said:—

"Your Highness, now that Mr. Maxwell has presented to you the Despatch from the Governor of the Straits Settlements, of which he was the bearer, the only formal business remaining to be done is the signing of the deed of transfer by myself and Mr. Maxwell as the representatives, respectively, of the Siamese and British Governments. With your Highness' permission we will now proceed to this business. The deed will be signed in duplicate, of which the Siamese and British Governments will each retain one copy."

Courts for British Subjects.

The transfer having been signed, Mr. Maxwell turned to the Sultan and said:—

"I have now to inform Your Highness that the jurisdiction of the Court of the British Consul will cease in Kedah; and that all cases which formerly came before that court will now be tried in the ordinary courts of this State. I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to request that Your Highness may be pleased to grant me authority to sit in any case in which a European or British subject is concerned, and in which I may think that it is advisable that I should sit."

Sultan's Protest against New Frontier.

To this His Highness gave a ready assent, and then proceeded to express his thanks to Mr. Williamson and Mr. Maxwell. He said that there was, however, one matter which he thought required further consideration, and that was the new Kedah boundary line as defined in the Treaty. This boundary would deprive Kedah of territory which it had held since time immemorial, and he trusted that the British and Siamese Governments would respect the rights of Kedah in this matter. He concluded his speech with an expression of thanks to the British and the Siamese Governments and with renewed thanks to Mr. Williamson and Mr. Maxwell.

Mr. Maxwell then asked the Sultan whether the 6th August (a Friday) or the 7th August (a Saturday) would be more convenient for the Sultan to receive the Governor. The Sultan replied that Saturday would be more convenient, and Mr. Maxwell promised to inform His Excellency accordingly.

Coffee was then handed round, and after a few minutes' general conversation His Highness withdrew and Messrs. Maxwell and Williamson drove off to Bakar Bata.

As I wired you this morning, everything went off most smoothly, the weather was splendid, Mr. Maxwell made an excellent impression, and I have found everywhere a desire to welcome and co-operate with the new regime.

New F.M.S. stamps were introduced this morning in place of Siamese, but the rates remain the same for the present, both for letters and telegrams. They are terribly high, and will, it is to be hoped, be reduced in the near future to the same as in the Straits and F.M.S. A money order branch should also be established at the same time, in order to give facilities for remitting money to the Colony and elsewhere; at present it has to be sent by hand, an expensive and not altogether safe system.

Why I do not Favour the Simple Life

BY H. H. HARLAND

[In the following letter the writer discusses some of the arguments against the simplified collecting to which considerable attention has lately been given in *The Postage Stamp*. We are glad always to give a hearing to both sides.]

Dear Mr. Editor,

I have been trying to follow the arguments as set forth in favour of "collecting in the simple life" and I have before me as an illustration Mr. Ireland's contribution on Western Australia in No. 97. Now I consider that such articles as these are very interesting to the collector, as it shows that the writer has thought and is willing to give his thoughts to others to help them over difficulties which have occurred to him and may have occurred to them. Still we are not all built alike either in our ideas or fancies, but as fair comment should be, has been and I sincerely hope always will be appreciated rather than resented, I am going to take the liberty of giving a touch to another side of the question, and if I give Mr. Ireland a jog as I go along he must take it kindly for it is without malice aforethought.

There is no denying that the article in question reads very well and very simple, but it certainly leaves a broad field for contention to those who study more closely and so solve those mysteries in the production of the varieties which surely cannot be classed as wanting in interest even if they are to be dubbed as unnecessary.

Taking Mr. Ireland's article as a whole I am afraid he has not only become a convert to simple life but also an enthusiast gradually approaching the bigot, and when people get even a wee bit bigoted they should be very careful. As an older collector I trust he will not mind my warning him of the pitfalls. For instance, the statement at the end of his article as to unused shows to my mind a lack of sufficient thought, and therefore dangerous, and in fact sadly reading like the text of a new issue merchant's advertisement, which of course it is not; but Western Australians, I don't wish to quibble, but surely these are awful examples to give of the rise in value of unused. I think Mr. Ireland got a little off the line in his haste to complete, the samples given of the great rises in unused are, generally speaking, selected from the "highly specialised list" including the single and multiple watermark, ordinary and chalky papers and varieties of surcharge, &c., but these are *absolutely condemned* in simple life. Perhaps he is not aware that on the simple life plan laid down by him, excluding shades, surcharges, watermarks and perforations, practically every value of this particular colony since 1855 is still obtainable at, very near to, or even under face value, and according to the market at present there is little hope of them doing any high jumping; but of course his argument as to the unpopularity caused by the varieties recorded and priced in the catalogues may have produced the slump, but I rather think that the thousands of unused sets of recent issues (compared with the mere hundreds of the old days) well written up as they are with dazzling possibilities of immediate and immense rises is somewhere much nearer the actual cause.

The basis laid down on methods of production also seems to me a bit weak. As the 1854 issue was only line engraved, we get 18 in the set, but if the printers had

followed it up by typographing the same, although probably none but an advanced collector could have separated them, I take it we should have the numbers doubled. Still they did not so it does not matter.

Now I have collected in a simple plan, although one not quite so far reaching as this, but reading that one set of say "French Ivory Coast" stamps, with a foot note reading "the same are issued for all the Colonies (of which a list was given) with the name at the bottom altered" was all that was necessary to complete my collection of such made me think a little deeper as it struck me that if that was all that was necessary to collect French, why not collect the De La Rue types of our English Colonies (King and Queen issues) on the same lines? Anyway, to me it was too simple, although if it is only to be able to say "complete" that is required many might take advantage thereby and profit by it.

I have also collected on the "Imperial" lines with the allotted space for everything that the dealer feels inclined to mention in his price list. Like the Simple Life, it is very good of its kind, but both styles have a jarring effect on an individual of my temperament. Both dictate what you are to collect, and how you are to do it. "Pull the string, pay your money, and we will do the rest style." When you have bought the album, the catalogue, the stamps, the tweezers and the mounts, you have only to hire someone to do the licking and the sticking, and the collection is made without the slightest trouble, let alone any knowledge of it bar its cost.

Now I suppose I have degenerated, still I quite willingly acknowledge the many benefits I derived from my first forms of collecting, and I have always advocated a general collection as a basis for every serious collector. I must say, however, that I consider the "Imperial" lines the better of the two. The old day pleasure of filling up the blanks for a time I found certainly very interesting, the fact that those blanks stared at me every time I turned my book out was good for me, for it incessantly brought to my memory the scarcer stamps, and after a time they led me to find out the whys and wherefores of their scarcity. Many a time I have heard one say "I cannot understand how you can remember all the stamps you have," and my answer would be "but I cannot, I only remember those I have not," those beastly blanks were the basis of a knowledge permanently retained, and the reminder is now no longer required; they taught me my table of rarities at a period in life when such knowledge is easily acquired and permanently retained.

Personally, I cannot agree with this Simple Life plan for the greater part of my interest would cease if I collected in a groove. In my mind the broader paths of philately are far the better, as it helps both junior and senior by its necessary study carrying with it easy and interesting forms of education.

To study stamps on the basis of the specialist has a fascination none but he knows. A minor variety of paper brings out the process by which it is produced, a minor variety of the design makes him study its form of production with its various processes, engraving, lithography, typographing, &c. A perforation variety leads to the study of the machines that produces it, and so on, and

surely such knowledge, even if it be but a minor matter in our particular mode of life, must be good for us.

I have heard people say of an advanced collector "he can talk of nothing but stamps," but my experience of that same collector has been to find that his knowledge, largely obtained in following up the queries raised by his hobby, is far and away ahead of many of those recognized as exceptionally well read.

Our hobby, thoroughly studied, with its historical, geographical and political surroundings probably has no rival in respect of its educational qualities; take away those surroundings with the basis which generally leads to their study, viz. :—the variety, and in my opinion you

leave it commonplace, therefore I do not feel disposed to swap my greater interest for the privilege of being able to say gentlemen, "Simply complete."

Now I don't suppose for one moment anything I have written will convert, neither do I wish it to, but for all that, if anything should appeal sufficiently to the reader as to lead to a better study of the collection, whether on a simplified or a specialized basis, not only I, but all readers of *The Postage Stamp* I am sure, will appreciate the fact, especially so if the results obtained are sent to our Editor for publication.

Croydon,
August 25th, 1909.

H. H. HARLAND.

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.

After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

Bulgaria.—(Vol. IV. p. 211).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us another provisional. This is the 15st. of the 1889-90 issue surcharged "1909" at the top, like the 1 stot, recorded on page 201, and also surcharged "10" in exactly the same manner as the 15st. portrait stamp chronicled on page 211. Our Bulgarian friends are really getting quite ingenious with the printing press. Apparently there has been an official "spring-cleaning" lately and some old stock discovered, and this is being brought up to date by means of surcharging. The full list of recent provisionals is now as follows:—

Issue of 1902 surcharged with new values.

- "5" in black on 15st. lake and black.
- "10" in blue on 15st. lake and black.
- "25" in red on 30st. bistre-brown and black.
- "25" in blue on 30st. bistre-brown and black.

Issue of 1889-90 surcharged "1909."

- 1st. dull purple.
- "10" on 15st. orange.

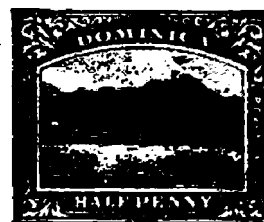
Canal Zone.—(Vol. IV. p. 151).—A curious variety of the 1c., black and green, of 1906-7 is chronicled in *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*, with the letters "C" and "L" of "CANAL" omitted.

China.—(Vol. IV. p. 272).—The official circular which has been issued to the postmasters of the various Chinese post offices, relating to the forthcoming commemorative stamps, contains a paragraph so engaging in its frankness that we cannot do better than reproduce it in full:—"These stamps are particularly intended for sale to stamp collectors, and any quantities applied for are to be served to them, the sale from this source being pure gain to the postal revenue. In this connection, postal employees at the stamp-selling windows are instructed to carry out the requests of the applicants in the event of the latter wishing to have the stamps obliterated by the date-chop before taking them away." The Celestial is certainly becoming very civilised! From the same circular we learn that when the 3c. and 7c. commemorative stamps are all sold, these values, which are new denominations for both international and domestic use, "will be re-edited in simpler design and form of the ordinary square size, and remain in the Imperial Post Office series."

China (Russian).—(Vol. IV. p. 235).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a block of four of the 25 kopecs stamps, taken from the right-hand bottom corner of the sheet. On one stamp both lots of numerals in the upper

corners are slightly malformed—those on the left being joined at the base and those on the right being joined by an oval flaw at the top. There are minor flaws on some of the other stamps, from which it seems probable that these Russian stamps might offer fair scope for philatelic study.

Dominica.—(Vol. IV. p. 201).—The new 2d., 3d., and 6d stamps, with colours conforming to the Crown Agents' scheme, have just been issued, according to the *Philatelic Adviser*. The complete list of stamps on the paper with multiple Crown CA watermark is now as follows:—



Wmk. Multiple Cr. CA. Perf. 14.

- 4d. green.
- 1d. carmine and grey.
- 1d. carmine.
- 2d. brown and green.
- 2d. grey.
- 2½d. bright blue and grey.
- 2½d. blue.
- 3d. black and dull purple.
- 3d. purple on yellow.
- 6d. chestnut and black.
- 6d. purple.
- 1s. grey-green and magenta.
- 2s. purple and black.
- 2s. 6d. maize and grey-green.

King's Head Design.

- 5s. brown and black.

Maldives.—(Vol. IV. p. 141).—It is rumoured that the current set will shortly be enriched by the addition of 15c., 25c., 50c., and 1 rupee stamps. Apparently these will be in the same design as that for the stamps now in use.

Tasmania.—(Vol. IV. p. 273).—Another value of the series on Crown A paper has been found with compound perforation, according to the following paragraph, which we extract from *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*:—"In our stock we have found a copy of the 9d. of the 1905-8 issue with

a very curious compound perforation. The specimen in question is the top right-hand corner stamp on the left-hand pane, and has a piece of the margin on its right-hand side; the right-hand side of the stamp is perf. 12½, and on all other sides and on the right-hand side of the margin the perforation gauges 11." The list of similar "compounds" now stands as follows:—

Wmk. Crown A. Perf. compound of 12½ and 11.

1d. rose red.
2d. dull purple.
4d. buff.
9d. pale blue.
1s. rose and green.

Trinidad.—(Vol. IV. p. 189).—The 1s., printed in colours conforming with the Crown Agents' new scheme, to which we referred on page 189, has now been issued. The complete list of varieties on the paper with multiple watermark is therefore as follows:—

Wmk. Multiple Cr. CA. Perf. 14.

4d. green.
1d. black on red.
1d. rose red.
2½d. purple and blue on blue.
2½d. blue.
6d. dull purple and black.
1s. black and blue on yellow.
1s. brown and blue on yellow.
1s. black on green.
5s. purple and mauve.
£1 green and carmine.

Venezuela.—(Vol. IV. p. 286).—*Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* records the 25c. orange, surcharged with Arms in black, of 1893, with the overprint inverted. Only the 10c. red-brown and 1 bol. vermilion with the black surcharge were previously known with inverted overprint.

Western Australia.—(Vol. IV. p. 236).—The current 5d stamp is now appearing in a pale shade of buff, according to *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*.

Philatelic Dictionary

BY B. W. H. POOLE

(Continued from page 226).

Papua.—The name by which the British Territory in the island of New Guinea, or Papua, has been known since 1906. At first the old stock of British New Guinea stamps, surcharged "PAPUA," was used after the change of name, but since 1908 the new name has been inscribed on the stamps. (See also "BRITISH NEW GUINEA.")

Para (plural "PARAS")—The value in which many of the stamps of Cyprus, Egypt, Roumania, Turkey, etc. are expressed. There are 40 paras in a piastre which equals 2½d. in English currency. In Servia 100 paras are equal to a dinar (10d.) so that ten of these are the equivalent of an English penny.

Parades.—The value in which the stamps issued by the British authorities in Crete in 1898-99, during the provisional administration of France, Great Britain, Italy and Russia, are expressed. Parades is the Greek form of paras.

Paraguay.—A republic of South America having an area of 98,000 square miles and a population of about 700,000. The majority of the inhabitants are Indians, Indian half-breeds, and mulattoes, the white race accounting for only about one-third of the total. The Chaco is peopled by uncivilised Indian tribes numbering about 80,000. In 1893 and 1894 colonies from Australia, based on communistic lines, were settled in the republic. The history of Paraguay dates from about 1536 when Juan de Ayolas established a port at Asuncion. In 1609 the Jesuits started an active crusade and their missionaries established missions in all parts of the country. At the declaration of independence the Jesuits were the chief landowners and, their lands being confiscated, it became the property of the nation. The autonomy of Paraguay was recognised in 1811. The most prominent of the dictators who ruled the country until 1870 were José Gaspar Francia (1812-40), and Francisco Solano Lopez (1862-70). The latter plunged the country into a war with Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay, which lasted from 1865 to 1870 and cost the Paraguayans 180,000 men. The government is a republic, with the executive power vested in a president and vice-president elected for four years by an electoral college. The senate is elected in the ratio of one member for each 12,000 inhabitants while the deputies, who are elected for four years, are elected in the proportion of one for every 6,000 inhabitants. Postage stamps were first issued in 1870.

Parales.—The value in which some of the early stamps of Roumania were expressed. A parale is the fortieth part of a piastre and is roughly equal to about one-tenth of a penny in English money.

Parcel Post Stamps.—These are special stamps, issued for the prepayment of postage on parcels only, by some countries such as Belgium, Tunis, etc.

Parisot Issue.—The name given to certain stamps of the 1879 and 1880 issues of the Dominican Republic which were surcharged "U. P. U." and new values in 1891. Possibly some of the stamps franked letters to France but they are generally considered a speculative and unofficial issue. They received their name from Mr. H. K. Parisot, of Paris, who placed many of them on the market.

Paris prints.—The distinctive name by which the first printings of all the values of the first type of Grecian stamps are known. These printings were made in Paris by M. E. Meyer, the manufacturer of the plates, and they may be distinguished from the later Athens printings by the fineness and perfection of the impressions.

Parma.—An Italian duchy which was formed in 1545 by Pope Paul III for his nephew, Pier Luigi Farnese, and it remained the property of his family until its extinction in 1731. By the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748, the duchy became a Bourbon possession in the hands of Philip, son of Philip V of Spain and Elizabeth Farnese, and he made Parma a centre of culture. Napoleon annexed the duchy to the kingdom of Italy. After his fall it was assigned to his Austrian wife, Marie Louise, and on her death restored to a Bourbon, Charles Ludovic (1847). Both were under the influence of Austria, and when they were successfully driven from the duchy by the popular risings of 1831 and 1848, they were restored by Austrian forces. The next duke, Charles III., a tyrant, was assassinated in 1854, and the last, Robert, a child, had to fly before the revolution of 1859.

In 1860, Parma was united to the kingdom of Italy and it now forms a province of that kingdom. About the present time its area is 1,250 square miles and its inhabitants number about 300,000. Postage stamps were first issued on June 1st, 1859. The separate issues were superseded by the stamps of Sardinia in 1859, and afterwards (1862) by those for the kingdom of Italy.

To be continued.

Stop Press News.

JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

THE RE-CONSTITUTION SCHEME ADOPTED.

On Saturday (Sept. 11) the tenth Annual General Meeting of the Junior Philatelic Society was held in Prince Henry's Council Chamber, 17, Fleet Street, London, at 7 p.m.

The Reports of the Curator of the Permanent Collection, the Auctioneer, the Librarian and the Exchange Superintendent, which were presented in printed form, were taken as read.

The report on the Beginners' Exchange, which is a medium for the exchange of stamps by quite young collectors without the use of the cash medium, shewed that six packets had been circulated and the exchanges effected amounted to 25% of the stamps sent in. This section is only open to collectors under 19 years of age. Mr. W. Darwen, in submitting the report, tendered his resignation, and nominated his late assistant, Mr. C. W. Care, as his successor in the charge of the Beginners' Exchange.

The report of the Hon. Treasurer was particularly gratifying. The previous year's balance of just over £55 had been increased to over £90 in the current year. The President, in recommending the adoption of the report, said that it was surprising that on the very small subscription this excellent balance had been achieved. It was remarkable too, inasmuch, as the Society's year just concluded had been one of the busiest years of the Society's work, and one from which it members had received more numerous and more costly benefits than in any previous season. The expenditure included a heavy item of nearly £12, being the cost to the Society of the Paper Making Exhibition, which had been admittedly a great educational success, though there had been no means of making it show any financial return. He thought, however, that money spent in such a manner was used to the best interests of the Society.

The adoption of the report was unanimously agreed to.

The meeting devoted nearly two hours to the consideration of the proposed new Constitution which was submitted by Mr. H. F. Johnson on behalf of a Sub-Committee which had drafted a scheme, the details of which had been submitted to every member. A number of amendments were made and finally a motion to adopt the proposed Constitution as amended, proposed by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Wedmore was carried unanimously.

An extraordinary general meeting will be called in due course to confirm the adoption of the new Constitution.

In the meanwhile a motion was put that the election of the Officers and Council should be proceeded with on the basis of the new scheme of administration. This provided for a reduction in the total membership of the governing body to fifteen, including the nine officers and six members.

The new Constitution provides for the election of the President triennially, and all other Officers and Members of the Council annually.

The result of the elections was as follows:—

President: Fred J. Melville.
Vice-President: Douglas Ellis.
General Sec.: Ralph Wedmore.
Treasurer: H. F. Johnson.
Librarian: B. B. Kirby.
Auctioneer: E. M. Gilbert-Lodge.
Exchange Supt.: D. S. Darkin.
Beginners' Exch. Supt.: C. W. Care.
Curator: H. Lee.

The Newly elected Council will consist of the above named officers and the following six members:—

Frank Grundy, B.Sc.
A. J. Watkin.
E. A. Leigh.
A. Grallier.
R. W. H. Row, B.Sc., F.L.S.
D. B. Armstrong.

Votes of thanks for services rendered were unanimously accorded to the resigning officers, Mr. Darwen (Vice-President), Mr. Selinger (Hon. Secretary) and Mr. Halliday (Curator).

Mr. Watkin proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Committee which was seconded and carried.

Mr. Leaak proposed and Mr. Mummery seconded a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

The Meeting concluded about 10.30.

The address of the new Hon. Secretary is R. Wedmore, 54, Park Road, West Dulwich, London, S.E.

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S. Leone, 1, 1, 2, 3, 6,	... 8d. "
Gold Coast, 1, 1, 2, 3, 6, & 3d. new mult.	... 1/- "
Hong Kong, 6, 10, 12, 20, 30, 50c. ½	1/6 "
Gibraltar or M. Agencies, 1, 2, 2½ (or 8d. the 2)	... 4½d. "
Assorted Malta, Cyprus, Ceylon, Bermuda, St. Lucia, Leeward, &c., current	... 1/9 100

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James Malings,
78, Faulkner Street, Manchester.

SECURITIES.

MALTA, 6s., Queen (usual price 6s.) ... 4/-
NATAL, 6s., Queen ... 4/-
UGANDA, 1 rupee, Queen ... 2/6

WARD, BOOTH ST., PICCADILLY, MANCHESTER.

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

Prepaid Advertisements are inserted in THE POSTAGE STAMP at the following rates:—18 words, 1s.; and 1d. for every additional word.

Advertisements can be received up to 5 o'clock THURSDAY for insertion in the following week's issue.

NEW HEBRIDES on Fiji now in stock. singles, blocks, panes and sheets. For prices see Ewen's Weekly Stamp News, Norwood, S.E.

BARGAINS! For real bargains, all kinds of stamps, send for specimen, "Appleton's Weekly."—T. C. Appleton, Ben-Rhyddeg, England.

THE RELIABLE EXCHANGE CLUB for satisfaction. Members of Philatelic Societies and others wishing to acquire or dispose of good class stamps should join now. Particulars J. Goddard, Stretton Road, Leicester.

APPROVAL SHEETS. Foreign and Colonial. References required.—K. Foster, 25, Grenville Place, Brighton.

50 DIFFERENT STAMPS including Sudan, Hayti, 8 Persia, 1908, including 1 and 2 kranis; Colombia; Ceylon 15c.; Mexico 15c., 20c.; Portugal 65r., 75r., 80r., 100r., 130r.; Malaya, Paraguay, Straits. Also following unused 1d. values:—St. Helena, Rhodesia, Cape, Orange Colony, Transvaal, Canada, 2/7.—Craig, Netherfield, Walpole Road, Boscombe.

KING'S HEADS, mostly mint, send list of "wants."—Chissold, Fenwick Street, Liverpool.

A RARE CHANCE. Am selling my collection of stamps and have made it up into packets of 10. Some packets contain three-cornered Capes, very rare Transvaals, and other rare stamps. Packets are numbered from 1 to 120, choose your number and send 1/- P.O. for each packet to H. F. Teenga, Box 6, Klerksdorp, Transvaal, S.A.

UNUSED Mauritius to applicants for Approvals.—Wright & Co., 9, Market Street, Southport.

500 COLONIALS (Vandiemens, Papua, Brunei), 1/-—141 Second, Manor Park.

BRITANNIC STAMP EXCHANGE CLUB. Good buying and selling members wanted.—Rules: Secretary, 28, Lansdowne, Hackney.

The POSTAGE STAMP

An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors

Founded by
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.
Edited by
FRED. J. MELVILLE.

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25 SEPTEMBER, 1909.

Price 1d.

Gossip of the Week

BY CORNELIUS WRINKLE



243 New Members.

THE Convention of the American Philatelic Society at Atlantic City was remarkable for a record attendance, over one hundred members being present. In addition the delegates held proxies totalling to practically 50% of the vast membership which numbered 1757 on August 28, 1909. This is a net gain in membership of 243 over last year. Foreign membership has

increased by 46 over last year and now stands at 162. Two new branches were chartered during the year and the number of branches at present existing is seventeen.

The Specialised Catalogue.

One of the most important proposals before the Convention was the suggested specialised catalogue of United States stamps. As will be seen from the report of the Legislative Committee in this issue the promoters have been confronted by a dead wall of officialdom in their endeavours to remove the present objectionable restrictions on illustrating United States stamps for philatelic purposes. The catalogue proposition is, however, not likely to be seriously injured by the absence of illustrations for the proposition has been referred to a special committee comprising most of the very highest authorities on United States stamps. The names of the members on this committee, Messrs. Mudge, Luff, Putney, Toppan, Carpenter, Bartels, Nevin, Deats and Worthington, will secure the widest possible acceptance for any catalogue published as a result of the deliberations of these specialist collectors and dealers.

Official Organ Controversy.

As was to be expected the keen controversy over the question of the official organ did not result in any change. *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* which has held the official organship for eight years and is a journal of nearly twelve years standing was not likely to be easily discarded for the newer and very ably conducted *Redfield's Stamp*

Weekly. 675 votes were cast for Mekeel's against 243 for the rival publication. As evidence of the good feeling existing behind all the hustling energy of the rival candidates for official organ it is reported that the publisher of Redfield's despatched a congratulatory telegram to Mekeel's on the result of the election being announced.

The Next Convention.

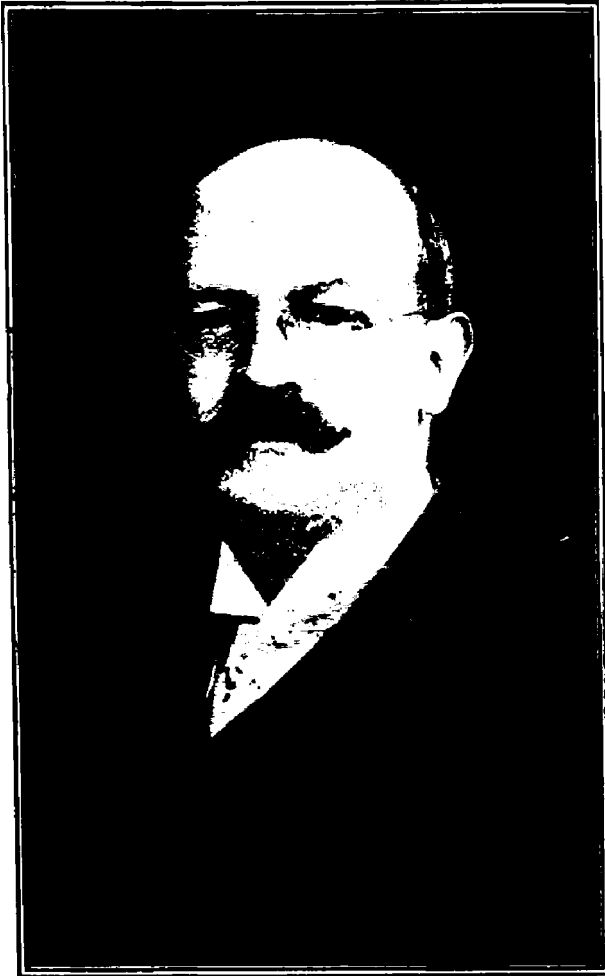
The next Convention seat is to be Detroit, Michigan. This should be a fine centre, and as it was the city which brought into being the most successful of modern boys' journals *The American Boy*, it might be possible for the organisers of the next convention to enter into some arrangement with the managers of that paper to conduct an educational exhibit of stamps, which would draw a crowded attendance of the readers of that widely circulated journal.



HENRY S. ADAIR,
Secretary of the American Philatelic Society.

The American Philatelic Society Convention at Atlantic City

President Luff's Address—Full Report



PRESIDENT JOHN N. LUFF.

Whose address from the chair of the Convention is a studied review of the philatelic year.

In a Flourishing Condition.

IN making the opening address at a convention it is always a pleasure to the presiding officer to report that all is well with the association whose members he is addressing. You will, therefore, understand my satisfaction when I say to you that the American Philatelic Society continues to flourish and prosper. At our convention last year our Secretary reported a membership of 1514. To-day he will tell you of a very substantial gain over that number. We have reason to anticipate an equally satisfactory report from our Treasurer. Our Recruiting and Publicity Committees, our Secretary and many other members have worked hard to swell our ranks and their efforts have met with

gratifying success. From week to week our official organ has published a roll of honour of those who have been most active in this work, but we should not overlook the fact that there are many whose names do not appear on this roll because they have only secured one or two new members, yet we should accord them due thanks for doing what they could.

Philatelic Exhibitions.

Within the past few months there have been two important philatelic exhibitions and several smaller ones. The first was held in Manchester, England, in February, under the auspices of the Manchester Junior Philatelic Society and was an unqualified success. The exhibits were of a high grade, the attendance was very large and the Philatelic Congress (a new feature, so far as English exhibitions are concerned) brought out many interesting and instructive addresses and discussions. The subjects considered by the Congress were the formation of a National Philatelic Society in Great Britain, the publication of a Collector's Catalogue and Guide, and unnecessary issues and what should be done to discourage or suppress them.

A small but successful exhibition was held at Newcastle-on-Tyne, on March 26th and 27th. In June, Amsterdam had its first philatelic exhibition at which many fine collections were shown, the majority of them, however, coming from other countries than Holland. The Junior Philatelic Society of London have installed an extensive display of the stamps of the United States and Confederate States at the Golden West Exhibition at Earls Court, London, which is to be maintained during the summer months.

The output of new stamps has not been as great as in recent years, at least the smaller space occupied by the chronicles of new issues in the philatelic journals leads us to this conclusion. Yet the past year has been far from unproductive in this respect.

Recent U.S. Postal Issues.

Our own country has given us a new issue from one cent to one dollar and two stamps commemorating the Lincoln Centenary and the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. Personally I fail to see that the new series is any improvement over the one it supersedes. There is monotony in the use of one design for all denominations except the one cent, and the head of Washington appears to be disproportionately large for its surroundings. There is also, in several instances, an unfortunate similarity in the colours of two denominations which is liable to cause confusion and make trouble for the clerks who handle the letters. The Lincoln stamp is more pleasing but presents an unfamiliar likeness of our great President. As for the exposition label, aside from our regret that the Post Office Department should be used to advertise any form of show, we find the design uninteresting and overcrowded with details. We have also had a new special delivery stamp of fanciful design which was soon withdrawn because its size and colour were not sufficiently distinctive.

Several of the lower denominations of the 1902 and the current series, as well as the Lincoln and the Exposition stamps, have been issued imperforate. These

were intended for use in stamp-vending machines, but most of them were also obtainable by anyone who cared to purchase them in sheets. Before being placed in the vending machines various forms of private perforation were applied to these stamps. Quite extensive lists of these perforations have been published and the gathering of copies offers an entertaining side line for collectors.

British Colonial New Issues.

British Colonial Stamps are gradually appearing in accordance with the new color scheme. They are on plain and coloured papers, with and without the chalk surfacing, and having various watermarks.

The British South Africa Company, having decided that the official name of their territory should appear on their stamps, have caused the current issue to be overprinted with the word "Rhodesia" in fancy type, at the same time surcharging new values on four stamps of the series. We understand that the overprinted issue is to be replaced by a permanent one in which the name Rhodesia will form part of the engraved design.

New Zealand has been experimenting with various perforating machines and has adapted her one penny stamp to surface printing in place of the "steel plate" process.

About a year ago Canada issued a handsome series of eight stamps in commemoration of her tercentenary.

The large, crudely lithographed stamps of the British Solomon Islands have been superseded by finely engraved stamps of smaller size.

The overprinted stamps of the Maldive Islands have been replaced by a permanent issue.

New names for our albums are New Hebrides and Nyassaland Protectorate. For the present the former is supplied with two overprinted series, one in English on the stamps of Fiji, and one in French on the stamps of New Caledonia. The two sets appear to be equally acceptable on letters and to be used without regard to the nationality of the ships by which the letters are forwarded.

Quite a sensation was created by the discovery of a few copies of the one penny stamp of the Transvaal on paper with the anchor watermark of the Cape of Good Hope. As every sheet of paper on which stamps are printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. is most carefully handled and accounted for, it is surprising that such an error should have happened.

Novelties from other Countries.

The title of the Congo Free State has been altered to Belgian Congo. The change was first marked by overprinting the stamps in Brussels with the words "Congo Belge." At first handstamps were used, of which there were at least four, differing slightly one from another. Afterwards the overprint was applied by means of a printing press. Some of the handstamps were subsequently sent to Africa and locally applied. In the latter instance the ink seems to strike through the stamps and, viewed from the back, had a violet tint. The provisional stamps are now being supplanted by a set with the new title of the Country engraved in the design.

Siam has issued a series of stamps to commemorate the forty years reign of King Chulalongkorn. The stamps with values in atts are made by overprinting the 1906-08 issue. The higher values, one to forty ticals, are of large size and show an equestrian statue of the King. It is reported that a new series is about to be issued with the lower values expressed in satangs instead of atts.

Russia has issued a series commemorative of the fiftieth anniversary of the Russian Steam Navigation and Commerce Co. The designs are those of the regular Russian stamps, but the Imperial arms have been replaced by a steam ship with the dates "1857" and "1907" above and below. The issue should properly have been made

two years ago but the time was not considered opportune for celebrations.

Equador has also marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of the Guayaquil-Quito Railway, with an issue of stamps printed in two colors and most of them triangular in shape.

More Work for the Surcharge Printer.

Of surcharges we have had an abundance. Crete, Guatemala, Salvador and other countries have provided work for the printer. For the Italian Offices in the Levant there have been some five or six new series some of which are seriously tainted with speculation. The last set is overprinted by no less than eight Cities. But the worst offenders have been Nicaragua and Paraguay. These countries have let loose such a flood of surcharged stamps, that it has been a novelty for a week to pass without a chronicle of something new from both of them. We cannot help feeling that much of their output is of a speculative nature, or there is amazing incompetence somewhere. There is one comfort, none of us are compelled to collect this trash and probably few of us will care to do so.

Liberia has just issued a series in new designs and brilliant colors. As if this were not sufficient, the same designs have been printed in other colors and surcharged for official use.

We have had new issues for French, German, Spanish and Dutch Colonies, for Abyssinia, Peru, Switzerland and many other parts of the world. Truly, of the making of stamps, as St. Paul said of books, there is no end.

Philatelic Publications Prolific.

The year has been prolific of new things in the line of philatelic literature. The *Philatelic Record* has again changed hands, and is now appearing in new and handsome dress. Under the able editorship of Mr. L. W. Fulcher it promises to maintain the high standard for which it has always been noted. Among a number of new journals the *Philatelic World* holds a prominent place. The leading feature of this journal is a translation into English of Captain Ohrt's exhaustive work on reprints.

Of books we have had an unusually large and choice output. The list is headed by the *Postage Stamps of the Fiji Islands* by Mr. C. J. Phillips. The book contains much that is new and interesting to collectors. It is handsomely gotten up, elaborately illustrated and is uniform in size and style with the publications of the Royal Philatelic Society.

Next we have Mr. H. J. Crocker's Monograph on the type-set numeral stamps of the Hawaiian Islands. This is also a handsomely printed and lavishly illustrated book. We can only regret that the employment of half-tone work, instead of some of the more delicate and accurate processes, together with an ill-advised attempt to reproduce the plates in the colors of the stamps, has rendered some of the more important of them practically useless for purposes of study and comparison.

A book that stands in a class by itself is Mr. W. C. Bellows' sumptuous work on the provisional stamps of Campeche. Probably this is the first time that a whole book has been devoted to a single issue of stamps. The subject may not appeal to many for, unfortunately, Mexico is not a popular country with the majority of stamp collectors, but I am convinced that anyone who sees a copy of this unique book cannot help being interested in the unusual style in which it is gotten up and the many photographic reproductions with which it is adorned, and will desire to know what is their connection with the subject. Once he begins to read he is almost certain to go through to the end.

The Philatelic Society of India have published the *Postage Stamps of Afghanistan*, by Sir David Masson and

Mr. B. Gordon Jones. This is another handsome book devoted to an unpopular subject, but it is well worth the careful attention of every collector and especially of the studious.

We have had six volumes of a charming series of small handbooks written by Mr. F. J. Melville. The subjects are: *Line Engraved Stamps of Great Britain; British East Africa and Nyassaland Protectorate; United States, 1847-1869; Gambia; Nevis; and Holland.* The subjects are well handled, and as examples of typography and illustration the books are delightful.

I am happy to say that our own Society has done its part in getting out a handbook on "The Three Cent United States Stamp of the Issue of 1851." This is a careful study of the plates, the method of manufacture and guide dots and lines, the recutting, the extra frame lines and other aids to plating the stamps. This is a work of value to United States specialists and will be welcomed by all collectors who take a serious interest in stamps. The typography and illustrations in the book are excellent.

Many other works have appeared during the year, both in English and other languages, but I will not occupy your time with any further remarks on this subject.

Philatelic Losses.

An unusual number of philatelists of prominence have died during the past year. In our own country we have lost Mr. J. W. Paul of Philadelphia, well known as the possessor of a large general collection which included many rarities and was rich in United States stamps, especially the Postmasters' stamps, the provisional issues of the Confederacy and many scarce local stamps.

Mr. C. S. F. Crofton, best known to us through his contributions to the *Philatelic Journal of India*; Mr. Rudolph Krasemann, the eminent Swedish Philatelist and writer; Sir W. B. Avery, at one time an active member of the Royal Philatelic Society, and the possessor of many treasures including the two "Post Office" Mauritius stamps; and Mr. W. B. Thornhill, author of the handbook on Shanghai, have all joined the great majority.

On March 29th, another of our countrymen, Mr. Wm. Moser, formerly of Rowayton, Conn., died in Dresden, Germany. He was a man respected and admired by all who came in contact with him, and held in the warmest friendship by those whose privilege it was to know him intimately. He was a philatelist of the first rank, and a student who went deeply into any subject he undertook. His collection of Japanese stamps was probably the finest in the world. It was arranged with much taste and lavishly adorned with enlarged drawings of distinctive features of the stamps, so that it never failed to command the attention of everyone who saw it, whether he was interested in Japanese stamps or not.

Of all those who have been taken from us, Mr. E. J. Nankivell was probably the best known and will be most widely missed. He was for many years a regular contributor to the philatelic press. At various times he occupied the editorial chair of such prominent journals as the *Philatelic Record*, the *London Philatelist*, *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*, and *The Postage Stamp*. Probably he was best known to American collectors through his "London Letter" which was published for many years in the *American Journal of Philately*. Though widely known as a collector of Transvaal stamps, he had other specialities and had made himself thoroughly familiar with stamps generally. This enabled him to write interestingly on all stamp topics. His style was bright, chatty and full of his own individuality. He never hesitated to speak his mind or to attack sham and fraud whenever his keen insight detected them.

I regret to add to the list the name of John F. Seybold, of Syracuse, well known for his choice collection of stamps

on original covers. Mr. Seybold suffered from a nervous breakdown and took his own life on the 13th of this month.

Postal Progress.

In my address to the Convention last year, I mentioned the agreement between the Post Office Departments of Great Britain and the United States by which letter postage between the two countries was to be reduced to two cents per ounce, beginning October 1st, 1908. Since that date a similar agreement has been made with Germany and a like rate is now in force between that country and ourselves. A proposition to institute a corresponding reduction in the postal rates to France has been declined by the latter country, on the ground of the probable large loss of revenue.

Notable Auctions.

There has been the usual activity in the auction field. The sales have been numerous and prices well sustained. The most important sale in this country was that of the W. E. Hawkins' collection. Paris, which has usually been considered a poor auction market for postage stamps has recently been the scene of two very large sales. These were dispersal of the Koch and Miraband collections at both of which many sensational prices were attained. It has been stated that a million francs was asked for the Miraband collection. Failing a purchaser in its entirety, certain portions of it were sold privately, including the Mauritius and the wonderful aggregation of Swiss stamps and the balance was then dispersed under the hammer.

In conclusion, I welcome you to our twenty-fourth annual convention and to Atlantic City. I hope our gathering here will be of benefit to the Society and enjoyable on its social side. May the years to come bring us success in even greater measure than in the past.



GENERAL COOLIDGE,

In charge of the invitation to the Convention to visit Detroit next year.

International Secretary's Report



L. HARALD KJELLSTEDT,

International Secretary of the American Philatelic Society.

I AM pleased to be able to state that the year, now drawing to a close, has brought marked improvements in our relations with the leading philatelic societies abroad. The important Austrian Society, "Vindabona" of Vienna, as well as the "British Guiana Philatelic Society," have elected the American Philatelic Society a corresponding member, and I earnestly ask of the present Convention not to fail to return these courtesies by the election of the Societies mentioned to corresponding membership of our Society.

The Royal Philatelic Society, London, has agreed to exchange publications with our Society, and we are now receiving the *London Philatelist* regularly and hold the promise of having our Library supplied with missing volumes of this excellent publication.

The Philatelic Society of Sweden, the Internationaler Philatelisten Verein, Dresden, the Hert's Philatelic Society, London, and the British Guiana Philatelic Society send us regularly the periodicals published by

them. Mr. Philip Kosack of Berlin has also favoured us with his journal the *Berliner Briefmarken Zeitung*. Year Books have been received from the "Oberelsassischer Philatelisten-Club" of Miilhausen, Germany, and the Dutch union of philatelic societies, "Hollandia" of Amsterdam. The Swedish Society sent us their Year Book as well as a dedicated copy of the lux edition of Krasemann's Bibliography of which only 100 copies were printed. Results of a proposition to exchange publications with the Junior Philatelic Society, London, are still pending.

My reports to the *Vertrauliches Korrespondenz-Blatt* have been mailed about the 20th of each month, and have as regularly been reproduced in that journal, and I earnestly recommend the continuance of our subscription to its valuable services.

Advertisements by the Recruiting Committee in the publication just referred to, as well as in the *Stamp Lover* have resulted in quite a number of inquiries which have all been answered by personal letters with literature enclosed. The applications received from this source have been comparatively few and mostly from foreign dealers who desire to avail themselves of the services of our Sales Department. This, notwithstanding, I believe that such advertising on a small scale and judiciously placed will prove of benefit to our Society.

It is a well known fact that, compared with the leading European Societies, the building up of our Library has been sadly neglected and this fact was recently and regretfully commented upon in the columns of the Philatelic Literature Society's journal. I believe that the office of the International Secretary can be made very useful towards changing this condition. With a quarterly publication, and possibly some handbooks, we have an excellent exchange medium, and I recommend that a number of copies of each be placed in the hands of the International Secretary for use in literature exchanges with other societies. I also beg to repeat my recommendation to the Columbus convention, that our society become a member of the Philatelic Literature Society and appoint a representative to that society who is willing and has the ability to promote our interests in that quarter. Before closing I may state that I have sent the greetings and well wishes of our Society to the Swiss general convention at Locle and the German "Philatelisten-Tag" at Carlsbad.

Very respectfully,

L. HARALD KJELLSTEDT,

International Secretary.

Scranton, Pa., July 21st, 1909.

Report of the Legislative Committee

[This Committee was inaugurated for the purpose of introducing legislation to allow for the inclusion of illustrations of United States Stamps in philatelic works published in the United States.—Ed.]

YOUR Legislative Committee, appointed at the Columbus Convention, submits the following report:—

Soon after the adjournment of the 1908 convention, the Chairman of the Legislative Committee began correspondence with members of the Society and of both Houses of Congress with regard to methods of procedure; to the amount of pressure which might be

brought to bear on the National Legislators; to the attitude of individual members of both Houses, and to the opposition from official sources which would have to be overcome. While this was being done Mr. Morris drafted a bill, to which the chairman appended a clause, and the measure was introduced in the House of Representatives (H.R. 25163) by Mr. Taylor of Ohio, and referred to the Committee on Post Office and Post Roads. This was during the regular session of the last Congress. Letters were received from Mr. Dawson of Iowa, Mr. Ashbrook of Ohio, Mr. Stafford of Wisconsin, Mr. Murdock of Kansas, Mr. Burke of Pennsylvania, Mr. Bennet of New York; Senators Long and Burton of Kansas,



PAUL MASON,

Chairman of the Legislative Committee.

Foraker and Dick of Ohio, Beveridge of Indiana, and Penrose of Pennsylvania, promising support if the measure reached their respective Houses, and others gave more or less qualified approval to the object sought (the illustration of United States postage stamps in catalogues and other approved publications), but the bill died in the Committee during the short session.

While it was pending, Mr. Morris saw many officials and inspectors of the Post Office department in the effort to overcome its opposition. He called on Mr. Wilkie, chief of the secret service, and tried to have him consent to the proposition, if we could get the approval of the department. He met with the most bitter opposition, Mr. Wilkie not only withholding his approval, but declaring that if the bill ever came up for a hearing in the Committee he would oppose it there in person. Notwithstanding this opposition, Mr. Morris secured a hearing by Mr. Lawshe, the third assistant Postmaster-General, and, armed with foreign catalogues and other publications, he pleaded the cause for more than an hour. Mr. Lawshe had with him the chief Post Office Inspector and together they combatted every proposition and stood pat on the ground that to keep track of legitimate illustrations of stamps and to guard against illegitimate illustrations would add too much of a burden to the "already over-worked inspectors," and the Postmaster-General, accepting this view, was insistent in his opposition. In this connection there is attached hereto a copy of a letter from the Postmaster-General to Mr. Overstreet of Indiana, then Chairman of the House Committee, the same to be considered a part of this report, which gives a clearer view of the attitude of the department than your committee could convey by a multiplication of words.

When the special session of the new Congress was convened to frame a tariff bill, the chairman of your committee wrote to Mr. Taylor of Ohio to secure a re-introduction of H.R. 25163, but the member said there would be no chance of doing anything during the special session. The chairman then wrote to Mr. Murdock of Kansas, a member of the House Committee on Post Office and Post Roads, to secure, if possible, the introduction and adoption of a joint resolution, or such other legislative action as would serve the purpose, to permit

the illustration of the proposed specialized United States catalogue, the cuts, at the completion of the work, to be delivered into the custody of the Post Office department, to be held in trust for the Society. Mr. Murdock replied that as a former philatelist he should be glad to forward such a measure, or to vote in Committee for H.R. 25163, but preferred that some other person introduce it. The chairman again appealed to Mr. Taylor to introduce legislation that would provide at least for the specialized catalogue, but he again replied that nothing could be done during the special session. There the matter rests.

The committee could not consistently close this report without expressing its thanks for earnest efforts in its behalf put forth by many members of the Society, particularly the members of the New England Stamp Company; Mr. Mekel of St. Louis; C. F. Richards of New York; E. E. Hecker of Clinton, Ia.; R. L. Doak of the Southern Society, and Mr. Saxton of Canton, O. Their efforts, if fruitless for the time, may have scattered the seed that shall bring forth harvest in the future.

The Committee recommends a continuance of the effort, especially in behalf of the specialized catalogue, even though it cannot say truthfully that the present outlook is hopeful. The committee should be enlarged to five. Much to his regret, the chairman is informed that Mr. Morris will not, under any circumstances, accept a re-appointment. If he cannot be induced to reconsider his determination, a member at Washington who is well acquainted with Congressmen and Senators should be appointed in his stead. There should be an influential member from Chicago or St. Louis, and New England or New York should have a member who is well-known to the national lawmakers from that part of the country. The chairman is not anxious to continue in office, especially in view of the fact, which now seems certain, that he can no longer have the co-operation of Mr. Morris at Washington, but if it is the will of the convention that he should, he will do the best he can, but in that case recommends that the national secretary be relieved of duties on the committee for which he has no time, and that another Columbus member, preferably George K. Smith, jr., be appointed, so that the chairman can have the advantage of immediate consultation, in case an emergency arises.

The convention should make a small financial provision for the expenses of the Washington member, as Mr. Morris not only was obliged to give eight entire days of his time to the work of the committee, which time is taken out of his annual leave, but also to incur considerable expense for car fare and postage. The convention also should authorize the chairman to provide himself and the secretary of the committee with appropriate stationery. It will create a more favorable impression than plain stationery, that of the Columbus Collectors' Club or that of any other local organization, or that of any commercial or industrial enterprise with which these officials are connected.

Respectfully submitted,

PAUL MASON, Chairman.
HAROLD ADAIR, Secretary.
CHAS. R. MORRIS

Held Over.

The interesting and valuable Report of the Committee on Philatelic Literature is unavoidably held over. We have to tender our best thanks to Mr. Henry S. Adair for assistance rendered in making the present issue of *The Postage Stamp* an illustrated record of the American Convention.

New Issues and Old

The Editor will be grateful to dealers and readers at home and abroad for prompt information concerning New Issues. All communications must be sent direct to the Editor, 14, Sudbourne Road, Brixton, London, S.W.
After the name of each country we give the page of THE POSTAGE STAMP on which appeared the last reference to that country.

Cook Islands.—Mr. W. H. Peckitt shows us the current 1d. stamp, watermarked single-lined N.Z. and Star, in carmine instead of rose pink.

Ecuador.—(Vol. IV. p. 272).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. now send us the set of new Commemorative stamps, issued in celebration of the Centenary of Independence and of the Exhibition held in Quito, to which we referred on page 272. There is a different portrait on each value viz.:—1c., Jose Mejia Vallejo; 2c., Francisco Javier Eugenio Espejo; 3c., Ascasubi; 5c., Juan Salinas; 10c., El Marques de Selva Alegre; 20c., Carlos Montufar; 50c., Juan de Dios Morales; and 1 sucre, Manuel Rodriguez de Quiroga. The frame is the same in each case, and shows "REPUBLICA DEL ECUADOR" curved at the top, and "EXPOSICION NACIONAL DE 1909" at the base of the central oval containing the portrait. At the top is "CORREOS," while in the lower corners are the numerals of value, and between these is "CENTAVOS" or "SUCRE." All these inscriptions are in uncoloured letters and numerals. The name under each portrait is in coloured letters. These stamps were engraved and printed by the American Bank Note Co. according to our correspondents, though, contrary to their usual custom, this firm have not engraved their imprint at the foot of each stamp. They are printed on a rather thin tough paper, unwatermarked, and are perf. 12.

1909 Commemorative Issue.

No wmk. Perf. 12.

- 1c. green
- 2c. deep blue
- 3c. orange
- 5c. rosy lake
- 10c. brown
- 20c. grey
- 50c. vermilion
- 1s. olive

Levant (Russian).—(Vol. IV. p. 211).—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write us as follows:—"We are told that the Russian Levant stamps in all denominations up to 70 piastres are to be overprinted with the names of the ten different towns in the Levant where they are issued. This is truly a staggering prospect, and we do not think we shall give them a space in our catalogue, more particularly as the overprints will probably be in Russian characters. They are on the same footing as the old Mexican stamps with the names of various towns or with numbers, which are only collected by specialists, and which even Messrs Gibbons do not list in their catalogue. As a proof that these separate surcharges are quite unnecessary we may say that in exchange for a remittance which we recently sent to Durazzo, the Postmaster supplied a mixture of Durazzo, Jerusalem and Albania stamps, and the letter which conveyed them was prepaid with Jerusalem stamps only! The moral is obvious, and the discerning collector will refuse to waste his money on this waste paper.

New Zealand.—(Vol. IV. p. 261).—The vagaries of modern New Zealand stamps are unending, and they are a veritable paradise for the perforation enthusiast. The *Australian Philatelist* tells us of some new varieties, viz.:—"Mr. Bate informs us that he has acquired a block of eight of the ½d. pictorial comb perforation

14 × 15, the top row of four stamps being imperf. vertically, the block being imperf. between the two horizontal rows. He has also secured the 2d. pictorial, perf. 14 horizontally, and imperf vertically.

"We have received the following:—3d. reduced size, perf. 14 × 15, plate number 7, with dot in colour, with dots at the sides of stamps, and dots on some stamps only, below the shield containing the value. 6d., perf. 14 × 15, plate 5, with dot in colour, also dots at sides of stamps.

"There seems to be some uncertainty about the 2½d. and 5d. stamps being perf. 14 × 14½. We have not yet seen them. Mr. Paris has sent us for inspection a pair of 3s. duty stamps (which are available for postage). These gauge 14½, 14½ × 14. They are quite clean cut and totally different to the previous perforation; the horizontal line of perforation is a little irregular. It is noted that the 2½d., 5d., 9d., 2s. and 5s. stamps are all the same size as the duty stamps, and the question has been raised, notwithstanding what Mr. Bate said last month, that is it not likely a comb perforating machine has been provided for these larger stamps? The pair of 3s. stamps before us look like as if the three sides were perforated at one operation. We hope later on to be able to enlighten our readers still further."

Niue.—The *Australian Philatelist* gives some interesting information regarding the errors in the current ½d. and 1d. stamps, viz.:—"Mr. F. Barton has brought under our notice several errors on the current 1d. stamp. His observations have shown that on a sheet of 240 stamps there are 16 spaced v and x, 20 without stop after PENI, and four with both errors on the same stamp. He speaks also of a broken x which appears to be a letter F, and a mangled T in TAHA which looks like an inverted L. On the ½d. value the same gentleman has observed that the spaced v and x also occurs 16 times on the sheet, proving that the same setting of overprint NIUE has been used for both the ½d. and 1d. values."

Southern Nigeria.—(Vol. IV. p. 272).—The 3d. stamp in colours conforming to the Crown Agents' new scheme has now appeared, making the list of varieties on the paper with multiple watermark as follows:—

Wmk. Multiple Cr. C.A. Perf. 14.

- ½d. green and black
- ½d. green
- 1d. carmine and black
- 1d. carmine
- 2d. orange brown and black
- 2d. grey
- 3d. lilac and orange brown
- 3d. purple on yellow
- 4d. olive green and black
- 4d. red and black on yellow
- 6d. mauve and black
- 6d. purple
- 1s. black and green
- 1s. black on green paper
- 2s. 6d. brown and black
- 5s. yellow and black
- 10s. purple on yellow
- £1 violet and green

Tasmania.—(Vol. IV. p. 298).—The *Australian Philatelist* records another value—the ½d.—with the compound perforation of 12½ and 11, making our list as follows:—

Wmk. Crown A. Perf. compound of 12½ and 11.

1d. green
1d. rose red
2d. dull purple
4d. buff
9d. pale blue
1s. rose and green

United States.—(Vol. IV. p. 249).—As already announced in *The Postage Stamp*, another commemorative stamp is to be issued shortly. It is to commemorate the discovery of the Hudson River by Henry Hudson in 1609, and the introduction of steam navigation on its waters by Robert Fulton in 1807. Its face value is to be 2c., and it will be placed on sale on Sept. 25th. We take the following from *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*:—

"The stamps will be of special design, oblong in shape, seven-eighths by one and three-eighths inches in dimension. Across the top will appear "Hudson-Fulton Celebration," with Roman numeral "2" in each lower corner. In the centre will appear a picture of the Palisades of the Hudson with the Half Moon sailing in one

direction and the Clermont steaming along in the other, and a canoe, containing four Indians, representing the first means of navigation on the river in the foreground.

"Heavy demands for these commemorative stamps are now anticipated by the post office department, and postmasters throughout the country have been notified that the department may find it impossible to expedite requisitions for these stamps.

"This special stamp will be issued in sheets of sixty, and all requisitions must be for sixty or a multiple of that number. The department has arranged to fill requisitions three days after they are received, but if the orders are heavy it will be impossible to fill them so promptly. The department will reduce requisitions if it is deemed necessary, and the remaining stamps will be supplied only in response to a new requisition, which may be drawn before the postmaster's stock is exhausted."

Victoria.—(Vol. IV. p. 117).—The *Australian Philatelist* mentions the current 1d. stamp, on Crown A paper, perf. 11, in a very deep shade of green.

Stop Press News.

BERNE TO HAVE INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION.

The London *Globe* reports that Berne, the picturesque city, the capital of the canton of the same name, is to have an international Philatelic Exhibition in 1911. Philatelists who visit the city will find plenty to interest them in the cathedral, the ancient buildings, the beautiful gateways, and the bears. Besides being the seat of the Federal Government, Berne is the home of the Postal Union, where all stamps used by the countries composing the Union are sent for registration and preservation. This fact, no doubt, will make the medieval city attractive to the collector of stamps. The exhibition will be held in one of the chambers of the new Casino. It is said that the success of the exhibition is already assured.

"What's On."

Wednesday, Sept. 22 (To-day). London Auction. Harmer, Rooke & Co. (At 69, Fleet Street, starting 4.15 p.m.)
Thursday, Sept. 23. London Auction, Ventom, Bull & Cooper. (Londoun Hotel, 4.30 p.m.)
Friday, Sept. 24. London Auction. Ventom, continued. (Same place and time.)
Monday, Sept. 27. Liverpool Philatelic Society. Displays, Wurtemberg and Antigua. (St. George's Restaurant, 7.30 p.m.)
Tuesday, Sept. 28. London Auction. Puttick and Simpson. (Auction Rooms, Leicester Square. ? time.)
Wednesday, Sept. 29. London Auction. Puttick, continued.
Manchester Auction. D. Ostara. (Albion Hotel, Piccadilly, Manchester, 6 p.m.)
Saturday, Oct. 2. Junior Philatelic Society. Opening Meeting, Presidential Address, &c. (Prince Henry's Council Chamber, 17, Fleet Street. Informal, 6 p.m.; Formal, 8 p.m.)

Editor's Letter Box

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The present issue of *The Postage Stamp* completes our fourth volume. No doubt most of our readers preserve and bind their files of this journal, as such files form a useful reference library for the philatelist. But, as many new friends have joined our happy band of readers, there are some who will be glad of a special opportunity of completing their sets of this journal. The prices for bound volumes are as follows:—

Volume I. ...	7s. 6d., post free.
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" IV. ...	6s. 0d., "

Single numbers of Volume IV. can still be supplied at 1d. each, post free; most of the earlier numbers (Volumes I., II., and III.) can be supplied at 2d. per number, post free.

All applications for volumes and back numbers should be sent to the Publishers, Sir Isaac Pitman & Son, Amen Corner, London, E.C., accompanied by the necessary remittance.

Answers to Correspondents.

C. E. H. (Dublin).—The best way to secure a buyer for small specialised collections of Bermuda, India, Sudan, and N. Nigeria would be to advertise them in the wants and offers column of *The Postage Stamp*.

C. J. R. (Durban).—Thanks for letter and note re Natal. Have forwarded your request to the correspondent referred to.

E. H. (Halifax).—Thanks, but we already possess the journals you kindly offer.

O. C. A. (Manchester).—We see no evidence of the plate being redrawn in either of your specimens, but one is either from a worn plate or a badly inked plate. Have forwarded your request to the Cardiff correspondent. Many thanks for congratulations and good wishes.

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Liberia, 1906, 1 or 2c. 1d.
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HISTORY of the Early Postmarks of the British Isles, from their introduction to 1840. An invaluable guide for collectors, by J. G. Hendy, late Curator of the Record Room, G.P.O. Thoroughly illustrated. In cloth gilt, price 3/6 nett, by post 3/9. L. Upcott Gill, Bazaar Buildings, London, W.C.

The POSTAGE STAMP

FOUNDED BY
*An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
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 EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 1. Vol. 4.
 (Whole Number 79)

3 APRIL, 1909.

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"	2 1/2a. " " " 124) ...	35 0
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The POSTAGE STAMP

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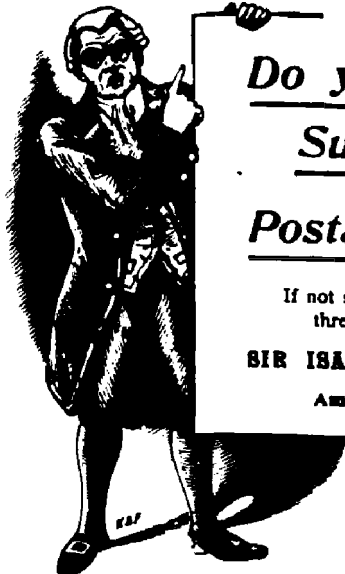
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2d	...	0 3	0 1	5s	...	6 0	2 6	4d	...	0 5	0 2
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Advertisements can be received up to 5 o'clock THURSDAY for insertion in the following week's issue.

NEW HEBRIDES on Fiji now in stock. singles, blocks, panes and sheets. For prices see Ewen's Weekly Stamp News, Norwood, S.E.

APPROVAL SHEETS, Foreign and Colonial, References required.—K. Foster, 25, Grenville Place, Brighton.

Collectors' Wants and Exchanges



At the request of several Collectors we have decided to open a column for Collectors' Wants and Exchanges. The charge will be one half-penny per word, minimum 6d., and all Advertisements must be prepaid and must be addressed to THE ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER, "THE POSTAGE STAMP," Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd., Amen Corner, London.

WANTED to purchase, collection of about 5,000 varieties. Lowest terms for cash to Herrn Gray, Ducaeidorf, Binterimstr 27.

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The POSTAGE STAMP

An Illustrated Weekly Journal for all Classes of Stamp Collectors

EDITED BY FRED. J. MELVILLE.

No. 4. Vol. 4.
(Whole Number 82)

24 APRIL, 1909.

Price 1d.

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"	2 l. (ordinary) on unpaid 20 l. (small figure "2")	1 0
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1908.	10 l. Prince George overprinted	1 0
"	1-25 l. overprinted, set of 6	1 0

*Belgium, 1909, unpaid 30c. blue...	0 4
*Great Britain I.R. Officials, 1d. lilac, ½d. vermilion, ½d. blue green, ½d. and 1d. King, mint set of 5 (cat. 16/3) fully guaranteed, a bargain!	5 0
A mint block of 4 of each (cat. 65/-)	20 0
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" " 12a. "Postage," the latest	1 6
Roumania, 1908-9, new type, 5-50b. (6)	0 6
*India, King, 10 and 15 rupees, superb, mint, pair	40 0

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277	*Official 1876-95. 5, 20 and 50 aur. small perf.	3 2 3
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279	*Official 1898-1900. 3, 4 and 10 aur. large perf. (cat. 1/7)	3 0 9

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285	" 3, 5, 10, 20 and 50 aur. small perf. (cat. 11/6)	5 5 0
286	*3, 4, 5 yellow green, 5 deep green, 6, 10 carmine, and 10 aur. pale carmine, unused...	7 1 3
287	3, 4, 5, 6 and 10 aur. used	5 0 6
288	*16, 20, 25 and 40 aur. unused	4 2 0
289	*50 aur. and 1 kr. unused	2 2 11
290	*2 and 5 krona unused	2 13 6
291	*Official, 3, 4, 5 and 10 aur. unused	4 0 7½
292	" do. set used	4 0 8
293	* " 16, 20 and 50 aur. unused...	3 1 8
294	" do. set used	3 1 3

IV. Double Portrait Type, (1907-08).

295	†1-15 aur.	7 0 9
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The POSTAGE STAMP

*An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors*

EDITED BY FRED. J. MELVILLE.

No. 6. Vol. 4. 1 MAY, 1909. Price 1d.
(Whole Number 83)

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| " 1a. plum | 0 | 11 |
| " 1a. sepia | 1 | 3 |
| " 2a. green | 1 | 9 |
| " 3a. brown orange on India ... | 1 | 9 |
| " 4a. olive green | 1 | 9 |
| " 8a. magenta | 3 | 0 |
| *1896. 2a. on 1a. plum (S.G. 123) ... | 17 | 6 |
| " 2a. " " " (124) ... | 35 | 0 |
| " 2a. " " " (125) ... | 17 | 6 |
| " 2a. on 2a. blue .. (126) ... | 3 | 0 |
| " 2a. " " " (127) ... | 7 | 6 |
| " 2a. " " " (133) ... | 30 | 0 |
| " 2a. on 1a. sepia .. (135) ... | 12 | 6 |
| " 2a. " " " (136) ... | 15 | 0 |

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| Roumania, 1907, pictorial issue complete (cat. 1/4) | 0 | 4 |
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The POSTAGE STAMP

*An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors*

EDITED BY FRED. J. MELVILLE.

No. 6. Vol. 4.
(Whole Number 84)

8 MAY, 1909.

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The POSTAGE STAMP

An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
all Classes of Stamp Collectors

EDITED BY FRED. J. MELVILLE.

No. 7. Vol. 4.
(Whole Number 85)

15 MAY, 1909.

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EDITED BY FRED. J. MELVILLE.

No. 8. Vol 4.
(Whole Number 88)

22 MAY, 1909.

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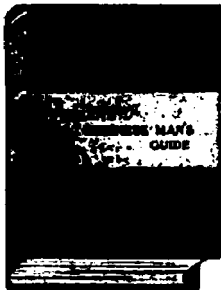
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BARGAINS! For real bargains, all kinds of stamps, send for specimen. "Appleton's Weekly."—T. C. Appleton, Ben-Rhydding, England.

FOREIGN and Colonial, 66 to 80% under catalogue; Mulreadies; approval.—Rev. G. Bell, Lisburn, Ireland.

EIGHT PERSIAN, 1908. 1 to 10 shahi, and 1 and 2 krans (postally used) 1/1.—Craig, Clenstone, Blandford.

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SHORT FOR THE POCKET,
PURSE, or HANDBAG.**

hence the name

"Longshort"



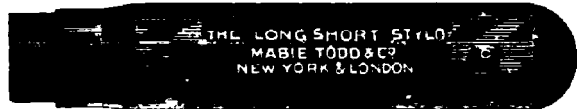
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Open for Use.

Length 4½ ins.

Size A. 3/6

Black, Tan, or Mottled.



Closed for pocket. Length 2½ ins.

Size B. 5/=

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And at Balu, New York,
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The POSTAGE STAMP

An Illustrated Weekly Journal for all Classes of Stamp Collectors

EDITED BY FRED. J. MELVILLE.

No. 9. Vol. 4.
(Whole Number 87)

29 MAY, 1909.

Price 1d.

THIS WEEK'S BARGAINS.

	s.	d.
BULGARIA, 1884, 5 on 80 stot., black surcharge, USED	86	0
CONGO BELGE, hand stamped surcharge, 8, 10, 15, 25, 40, 50c.	5	0
GAMBIA, 1888, QUEEN'S HEAD, EMBOSSED, ½d. to 1/-, set of 8	5	0
INDORE, 1906, ½ on ½ anna	2	0
INDORE, Service, ½ anna, imperforate	10	0
NORTH BORNEO, 1888, ½c. surcharged "and Revenue"	9	0

All are in mint condition, except the Bulgaria, and can also be supplied in pairs and blocks.

WHITFIELD KING & Co.
IPSWICH.

NOTED FOR BARGAINS.

SPECIAL BARGAIN.

GREECE

1901, 5 lepta, green, with shaded border (S.G. No. 361a), mint.

Catalogued at 4/- used, and probably worth pounds unused, but my price is only

Post 1/6 Free.

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An interesting and important discovery of two dies in a well-known British Colonial Stamp will be described in the June number of the "West End Philatelist" (ready June 15). Specimen free on application.

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OR

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By WILLIAM GAMBLE.

Some Press Opinions.

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These articles cover the general history of each country and its various postal issues. They also include catalogue fluctuation of prices over a period of ten years, thus enabling the collector to see at a glance the relative rarity, and the investment value, of every stamp.

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The articles are designed to be useful alike to the specialist and the general collector.

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" " 6d. orange	3 0	1 3
" " 2/- brown	6 0	3 0
" 1898, 2d. mauve & or.	3 6	2 4
" 1901, 1d. on 6d.	1 6	0 8
Hong Kong Jubilee, 2 cts.	2 0	0 9
India, 1895, 2 rupees	4 0	3 4
" " 3	6 0	4 6
" " 5	10 0	7 6
Leeward Is., Jubilee, 1d.	3 0	1 3
" " 2d.	2 0	1 0
Nevis, 1883, 6d. chestnut	10 0	4 6
New Brunswick, 1860, 10 cts.	1 0	0 6
" " 17 cts.	2 0	1 0
N.F. Land, 1860, 3d. green	8 0	3 6
" " 1861, 2d. lake	20 0	9 6
" " 4d. lake	4 0	2 0
" " 5d. red brown	10 0	5 0
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St. Lucia, 1881, 1d. green	7 6	3 6
" " 2d. red	7 5	3 9
" " 1883, 6d. violet	7 6	3 6
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" " 1/-	—	1 4
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" " 2 dollars, CC.	12 0	6 6
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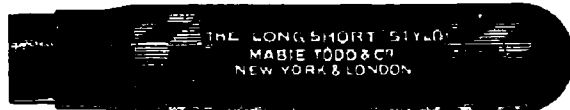


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*An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
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EDITED BY FRED. J. MELVILLE.

No. 10. Vol. 4.
(Whole Number 88)

5 JUNE, 1909.

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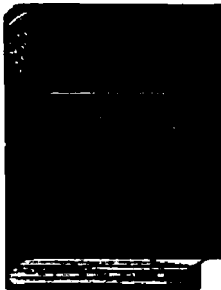
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An Illustrated Weekly Journal for all Classes of Stamp Collectors

EDITED BY FRED. J. MELVILLE.

No. 11. Vol. 4.
(Whole Number 89)

12 JUNE, 1909.

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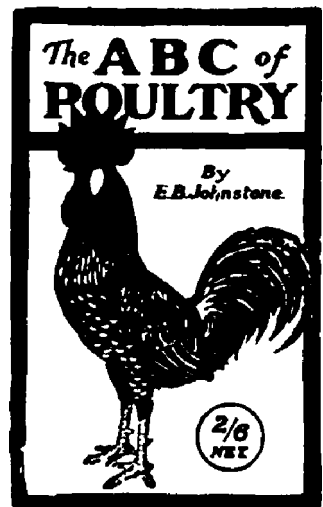
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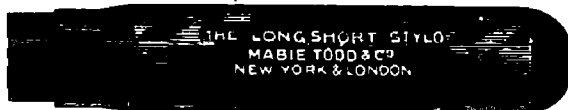


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POSTAGE STAMP
*An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
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EDITED BY FRED. J. MELVILLE.

No. 12. Vol. 4.
(Whole Number 90)

19 JUNE, 1909.

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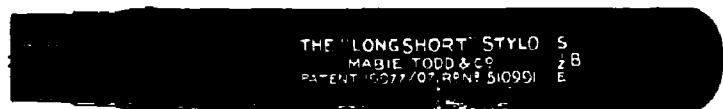
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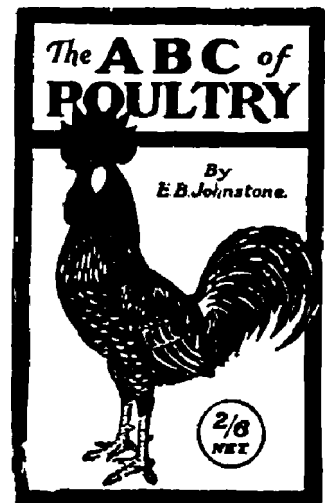
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EDITED BY FRED. J. MELVILLE.

No. 14. Vol. 4.
(Whole Number 92)

3 JULY, 1909.

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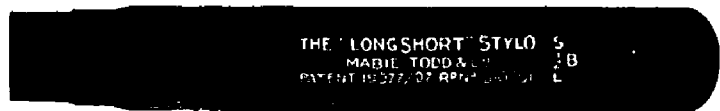
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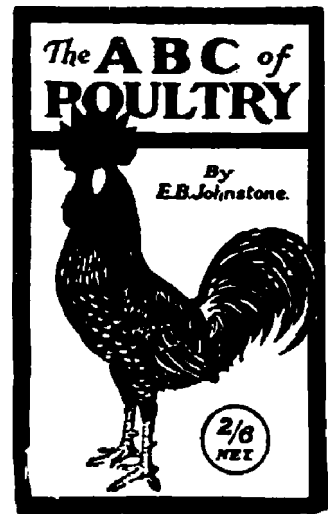
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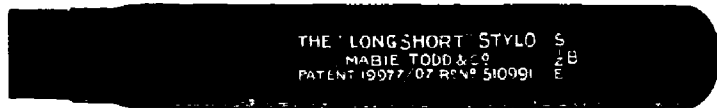
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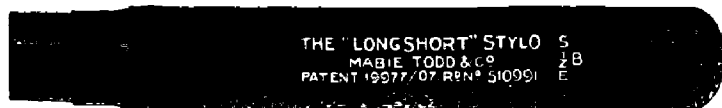
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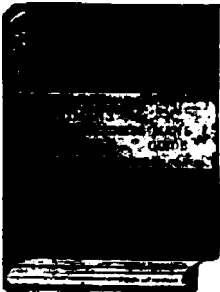
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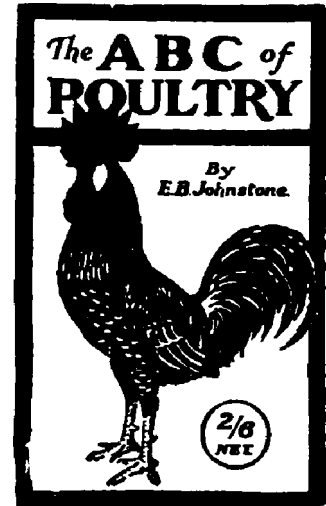
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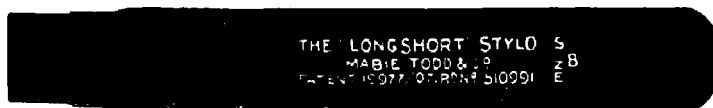
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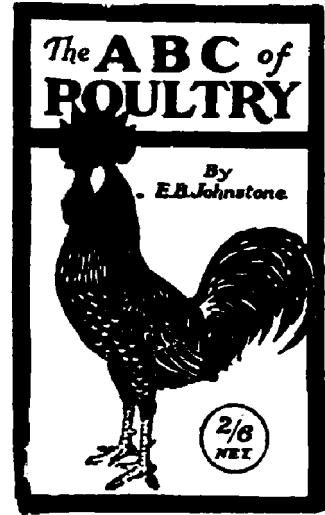
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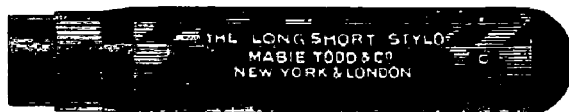


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The POSTAGE STAMP

*An Illustrated Weekly Journal for
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EDITED BY FRED. J. MELVILLE.

No. 23. Vol. 4.
(Whole Number 101)

4 SEPTEMBER, 1909.

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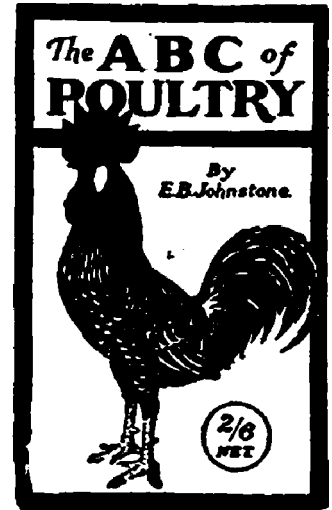
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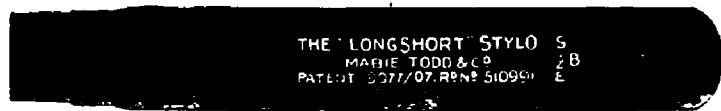
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EDITED BY FRED. J. MELVILLE.

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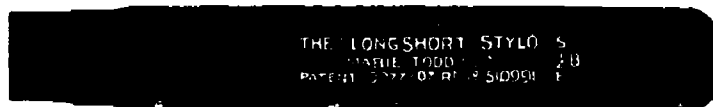
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Open for Use.

Length 4 1/2 ins.

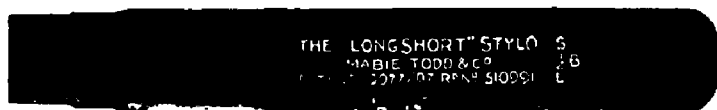
Size A. 3/6



Closed for pocket. Length 2 1/2 ins.

Size B. 5/-

(5 1/2 in. open. 3 1/2 in. closed.)



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Fitted with smooth point and spring needle. May be carried in any position without fear of leakage.

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