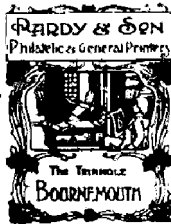


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TO
THE PHILATELIC JOURNAL OF GREAT BRITAIN.
1908.



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AND
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JANUOL

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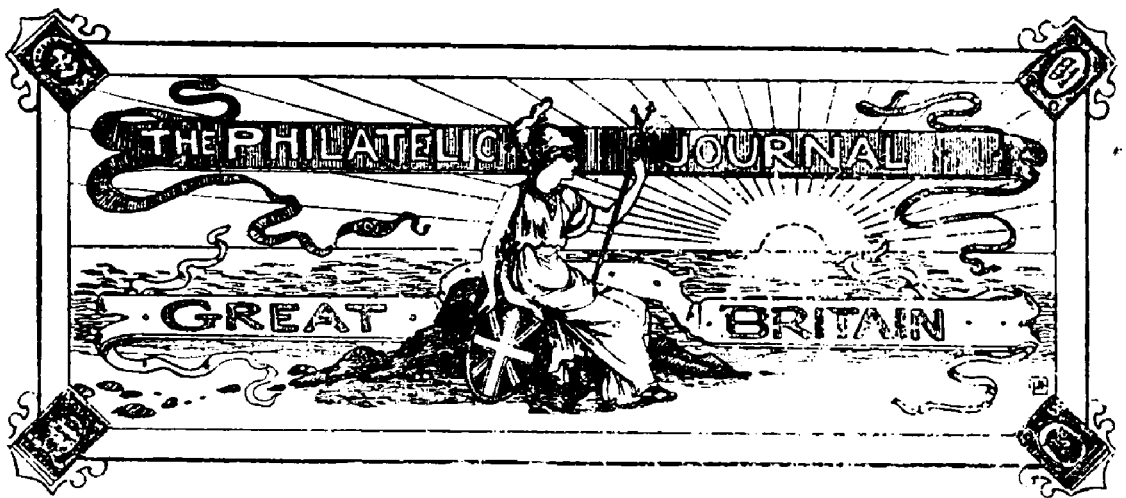
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EDITORIAL.

EVERY month we find the growing need for either specialism or simplification in our stamp collections. To some people specialism may seem the antithesis of simplification, but really both have much in common. The multiplication of new

Simplification.

issues and varieties has caused the once general collector to seriously consider whether the better plan is to specialise one or more countries, or to jettison all varieties of perforation, paper and surcharge, and continue a general collection on these modified lines. The collector in search of simplification has many guides, the latest of which is one published by Mr. D. Field for the benefit of general collectors of British Colonial stamps. Following somewhat the lines of Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.'s well known publication, Mr. Field has published a neat little catalogue, or price list, of stamps, omitting all varieties of perforation, paper and die distinctions, while the majority of surcharges and shades have gone by the board. As no two minds think alike, it is with no surprise that we find the two Queensland stamps of 1866, wmk. script, included, while the truncated star issue of 1868/74 is omitted. Although surcharges are largely tabooed, we find the 1d. and 2d. British Bechuanaland stamps of 1891/93 listed with surcharge reading upwards, also downwards, while a stamp like the re-engraved eight annas

India of 1868 is ignored. We notice also that the Crown and V and Crown and A watermarks of the Australian States are separated into separate lists, yet surely there is more difference between a broad star and a truncated star!

Many collectors, like sheep, blindly follow when they find a leader, and to this section of the stamp collecting world we feel sure Mr. Field's little catalogue will be gladly welcomed.

One curious effect the multiplication of simplified catalogues will have, will be to drive a number of collectors to specialism. The collectors so influenced are in reality the backbone of philately, as they are strong-willed enough to collect along independent lines and so follow, in our opinion, a much more interesting line of study.

The specialist is already fairly well catered for; most countries have been more or less well written up, from the monumental works of Maury, Hausburg, Bacon, Beckton, Napier, to select a few names at random, to the short articles that so frequently appear in the philatelic press. Between the general collector and the specialist is what, for lack of a better term, we may style the group collector; this class of collector already includes a great many adherents, most of whom are either King's Head, Queen's Head, Single Watermark, or, last but not least New Specialism enthusiasts. Excluding the "collector" who collects purely for profit and a few collectors who would always sell their

stamps at a certain percentage over cost price, we find that 80 per cent. of the remaining collectors collect for pleasure. Doubtless most of these get great enjoyment from our hobby, but, from a business knowledge of the number of collections broken up every year, we think collectors would derive more genuine pleasure were they to collect on a broader basis, whether it be a group, watermark, new specialism, or postmark type of collection, and collect irrespective of catalogue or price list restrictions.

Current Chatter.

BY MCTAVISH.

I AM afraid that when I promised the Editor of the *P.J.G.B.* to contribute a page of philatelic happenings, I bit off rather more than I could chew. By that Americanism, I do not mean to infer that I underrate my own capabilities—modesty forbid—but stamp collectors nowadays, with their multitude of 1d., 2d., 4d. and 6d. philatelic papers, are usually so well informed, that it is almost a hopeless task to try and teach them anything. A journalist, however, if a humble philatelic scribe may so describe himself, has to intelligently anticipate coming events, and I rely, by that method, to partly fill my allotted page.

Writing about philatelic papers reminds me that a new stamp paper, published by a well-known Strand firm (very near Somerset House), will shortly make its *debut*. Rumour hath it that it will be edited by a well-known philatelic writer—late editor of an old established stamp journal. If that is the case we may expect a really first-class publication. Needless to say, there is plenty of room.

Philatelic publications, with three notable exceptions, rely to a great extent on advertisements for the wherewithal to exist, and it has been a notable feature of the present season that all, or nearly all, of the stamp papers have had their advertisement columns well filled. Perhaps the paper least patronized by philatelic advertisers is *The Postage Stamp*.

Catalogue quotations, excellent as they are, are apt at times to be somewhat misleading; perhaps a good illustration of this is afforded by the story that is going round of how a well known dealer recently purchased a large number of mint O.H.H.S. Egyptians at considerably less than half catalogue, but at considerably more than double the price Stanley Gibbons was advertising them at in their "weekly."

Collectors (and dealers) should fight shy of current unused officials at more than 15% to 20% over face; the odds are too heavy in the favour of some knowing clerk or minor official, who wishes to add to his probably meagre income.

Perhaps of all recent "Official" issues, the current New Zealands are most of all suffering from inflated prices. According to Ewen, the 5/- stamp used is worth 40/-! while the 1/- value, mint, has been selling freely at 7/6. No wonder when certain collectors wish to sell their collections, they learn a number of unpleasant truths.

Don't buy De La Rue Cape of Good Hope triangulars in an unused condition, unless you are *quite* sure you are getting a bargain. It is rumoured that Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., have just purchased, for more than £500, some sheets of the 1d., 4d. and 6d. values, all of which have not been on the market before. It will be rather interesting to see whether, in the 1908 catalogue, the prices go up or down.

I am told that "Tancred" is chartering a cargo boat to convey to India his recent purchases of Spanish stamps. At the recent I.P.U. meeting (where, of course, McTavish had a "chield taking notes,") "Tancred" was in great form; surrounded by panes, sheets and blocks galore, all containing innumerable flaws, he spent a most enjoyable evening, so did his audience.

East Africa and Uganda, singles and mults. of the first currency should prove a fairly good investment. As King's Head investments go, they are a more staple security than unnecessary Cayman surcharges or cornered Cyprus singles.

Philatelic auctioneers are doing well this season; a good sale will be held on January 23rd and 24th, by Plumridge & Co. This sale includes a number of lots of mixed Colonials, also rarities, most of which are in picked condition; collectors and dealers in search of condition should take note. I am glad to see that Mr. Plumridge is back in England, looking well after his long sojourn in Switzerland; if he takes the advice of one, McTavish, who has travelled the wide world from Margate to Bexhill and Montreal to Brisbane he will settle down in the old country and make the best of its climate, which after all is not so bad.

The juniors are making great headway with their plans for the forthcoming Show of British Colonial stamps to be held in Caxton Hall, Westminster, on March 12th, 13th, and 14th. Messrs. Melville, Johnson, Selinger & Co., are working with might and main to ensure success—a foregone conclusion, when those energetic gentlemen put their shoulders to the wheel. The Exhibition Committee has published an excellent little paper, entitled "Notes and News," which will, I am sure, be sent free to anyone who makes application to the Hon. Sec., Mr. H. F. Johnson, Offices of the Stamp Exhibition, 44, Fleet Street, London, E.C.

The latest date for leaving Sydney and Melbourne by aeroplane has been fixed for March 2nd. This ship will land her passengers on the Caxton Hall, in time for the opening ceremony. The latest date for leaving by 'phone or wire is 2.30 p.m., March 12th.

New Issues and Varieties.

(We shall be glad to receive any new issues or new varieties from our readers for description in this column. Letters should be addressed to THE EDITOR OF THE PHILATELIC JOURNAL OF GREAT BRITAIN, c/o MESSRS. P. L. PEMBERTON & Co., 84, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.)

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Bermuda. The *Postage Stamp* chronicles the 2d. stamp, Arms type, as having been issued; we listed this stamp, from a specimen copy, 15 months ago.



Adhesive. Arms type. Multiple ordinary.
2d. orange and grey.

Cayman Islands. In April last we chronicled "specimen" copies of the new 6d. and 1/- stamps. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* now lists them as being actually in use.

Messrs. Bright & Son have shown us a new Cayman Provisional, namely 1d. on 5/-. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* also chronicles the same stamp surcharged 4d.

Adhesives. King's Head, multiple CA., chalky paper.
6d. olive and rose.
1/- violet and green.

Provisionals.

4d. on 5/-. vermilion and green.
1d. on 5/-. " " "

We now know why the 5/- value was printed.

Federated Malay States. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the 2 green and carmine on multiple chalky paper.

Adhesive. Multiple CA., chalk surfaced paper.
82 green and carmine.

India. Chamba. The *Philatelic Journal of India* for December contains a splendid list of all the King's Head stamps overprinted for use in this State, also for the States of Gwalior, Jhind, Nabha and Patiala. We have at various times chronicled nearly all of these stamps, but Mr. Stewart Wilson's list is so tempting that we take the liberty of reproducing it for our New Issue column.

Adhesives. King's Head, 1902-6.
3 pies grey.
½ anna green.
1 .. carmine.
2 .. purple.
3 .. orange brown.
4 .. olive green.
6 .. bistre.
8 .. magenta.
12 .. purple on red.
1 rupee green and carmine.

1907. *Postage and Revenue.*

½ anna green.
1 .. carmine.

Service Stamps.

3 pies grey.
½ anna green.
1 .. carmine.
2 .. purple.
4 .. olive green.
8 .. magenta.
1 rupee, green and carmine.

1907. ½ anna green.
1 .. carmine.

Gwalior. The *Monthly Journal* chronicles a used copy of the ¼a. King's Head, first type with the official overprint misplaced similar to the 1a. chronicled in the *P.J.G.B.* last September.

1902-06. *Adhesives, King's Head.*

3 pies grey.
½ anna green.
1 .. carmine.
2 .. purple.
3 .. orange brown.
4 .. olive green.
6 .. bistre.
8 .. magenta.
12 .. purple on brown.
1 rupee, green and carmine.
2 .. carmine and yellow brown.
3 .. brown and green.
5 .. blue and violet.

1907. *Postage and Revenue.*

½ anna green.
1 .. carmine.



Service Stamps.

3 pies grey.
½ anna green.
1 .. carmine.
2 .. purple.
4 .. orange brown.
8 .. magenta.
1 rupee, green and carmine.

1907. ½ anna green.
1 .. carmine.

Jhind. The same as Chamba.

Nabha. The same as Jhind.

Patiala.

Adhesives. King's Head, 1902-6.

3 pies grey.
½ anna green.
1 .. carmine.
2 .. purple.
3 .. orange brown.
4 .. olive green.
6 .. bistre.
8 .. magenta.
12 .. purple on red.
1 rupee green and carmine.

Service Stamps.

$\frac{1}{2}$	anna green.
1	" carmine.
2	" purple.
3	" orange brown.
4	" olive green.
8	" magenta.
1	rupee green and carmine.
1907.	$\frac{1}{2}$ a. green.
1	" carmine.

Jamaica. The *London Philatelist* chronicles the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp on multiple chalky paper.

Adhesive. Arms Type. Multiple chalky paper.
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. ultramarine and black.

Labuan. The *Philatelic Record* for Dec. states that the 4c. on 18c. of 1899 has been found with a very distinct double surcharge.

New South Wales. The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles the 1/- on Victorian paper, perf. 11, and the 6d. on N.S.W. paper in a new shade. The 1d. stamp has also apparently met trouble; it is described as lacking the scroll ornament on the right side of the stamp in the top right-hand corner of the upper half sheet. The same paper chronicles the 2d. blue of 1871, S.G. No. 221a with the O.S. overprint.

Adhesives.

6d. orange red, new shade, perf. 12 by 11 $\frac{1}{2}$.

1/- purple brown, perf. 11.

Official, 1871-81. Wmk. 1st type of Crown and N.S.W.

2d. blue, perf. 11 x 12.

New Zealand. The *Australian Philatelist* for November, chronicles the current 4d. pictorial stamp imperf. vertically. This stamp was chronicled by the same paper eighteen months ago in a block of eight. Nearly all the English papers quoted the *A.P.* then and will doubtless do so again, and so the ball of new discoveries is kept rolling.

Orange River Colony. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the current 4d. on multiple paper.

Adhesive. King's Head, multiple ordinary.
4d. olive green and red.

Papua. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp in the new permanent design and describes it as follows. Same design as British New Guinea stamps but "Papua" instead of "British New Guinea," the centre part is printed from the old plate, probably, whilst the frame with new title and value is lithographed.

Adhesive. New design. Wmk. Crown and double lined A.
Perf. 11.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. light green and black.

St. Helena. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles (4/1/08) a stupendous discovery, viz.: an imperf. pair of the 1d. lake of the 1864-83 issue (with thick bar); describing it they say: "We have never heard of any other copies of this stamp and we are strongly inclined to believe that they are unique." We are surprised to hear that this is the case. We should recommend the publishers of *G.S.W.* to beg, borrow, or — a copy of a book known as "Stanley Gibbons, Part I.," therein

on page 219 they will find a note referring to imperf. St. Helena's.



St. Lucia. The *Monthly Journal*, on the authority of a Continental exchange, chronicles the 1d. and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp in single colours.

Adhesives. King's Heads. Multiple, unsurfaced paper.
1d. carmine.
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. blue.

Southern Nigeria. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* lists the following novelties:

Adhesives. King's Head. Wmk. Crown and CA., multiple ordinary.

2d. red, brown and pale grey (instead of black).

Wmk. Crown and CA., multiple chalky.

4d. pale green and black (paler green than before).

6d. bright mauve and black (brighter mauve than before).

5/- yellow and black.

20/- pale violet and green (paler violet than before).

Victoria. The *Australian Philatelist* for November chronicles the 1/-, perf. 11.

Adhesive. Perf. 11.
1/- orange.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Austria. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, on the authority of *Der Deutsche Philatelist*, chronicles the 72h. stamp without shiny bars, the figures of value being in white on ground of the same colour as the stamp. This value is said to complete the set without shiny bars. The same paper also chronicles the 6h. without bars, perforated 9 x 12.

Adhesives. Perf. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.
72h. lilac-rose.
Perf. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$. 13 x 9. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$.
6h. orange.

Chili. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles a double surcharge of the 10c. on 30c. of 1903, and says the two surcharges are quite distinct. They are also informed that only one sheet of 100 stamps was so surcharged. Possibly so, but should there be a demand for another sheet of 100, we think some enterprising official in the Chilean P.O. would rise to the occasion.

Denmark. The *Monthly Journal*, on the authority of a Continental exchange, chronicles the 1 and 15 öre stamps of 1902, imperf. a single sheet of each in that condition having been found amongst supplies sent to a small town, where the postmaster conscientiously cut them up with the office scissors

and issued them for use. When a collector discovered the fact, there was not a single copy left of either.

Our opinion of that conscientious postmaster was a very high one until we had thoroughly digested the last few words, "not a single copy left of either." It is a sceptical world, so we want to know (1) whether that conscientious postmaster cut the sheets into blocks of four, six, or ten?; (2) whether he used them all himself or let a few friends stand in; (3) were they office scissors that were used? The last, of course, is *philatelically* immaterial.

France. We have received the 35c. of the current type with the numerals slightly thicker than heretofore. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles the 20c. similarly re-engraved. The *Monthly Journal* lists the 10c. in a new shade.

Adhesives. Sower type. Numerals thicker.
20c. brown lake.
35c. violet.

New Shade.
10c. bright crimson.

Guatemala. *McKeel's Weekly* chronicles the current 50c. stamp, printed in new shades.

Adhesive.
50c. dark red, brown and blue.

Hayti. The *Monthly Journal* chronicles two more surcharges, similar to the ones we listed last month.

Adhesives. Regular issue (1901) overprinted in red.
1c. on 5c. deep blue.
2c. on 10c. orange brown.

Nicaragua. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles a lot of make-us-swear varieties namely inverted B-Dto-Zelaya's varieties with thick and thin O's and another official stamp, surcharged.

A correspondent to *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* says he has the following novelty: "VALE 15c." on 3c. green, with "Telegrafso" surcharged at top instead of "Telegrafos," used postally 19.10.07.

Surinam. The four stamps listed by us in our October number, as being on the way, have, according to *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*, been actually issued.

Adhesives. Small oblong design.
1c. olive.
2c. red-brown.
2½c. green.
3c. orange-yellow.

Switzerland. The *Monthly Circular* chronicles the 3 centimes stamp in the same design as the 5c. listed last month. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the 2c. yellow. Various papers chronicle the higher values of the old type on granite paper watermarked Cross as before.

Adhesives.
2 centimes, yellow brown.
3c. lilac.

On Granite Paper.
20c. orange.
25c. blue.
30c. deep brown.
40c. grey.
50c. green.
1f. carmine.

Uruguay. Mr. A. H. Davis, of Montevideo, kindly informs us that "the Post-office put on sale to the public to-day, 27/11/07, 2c. and 5c. stamps exactly similar to the 1900-1 set as the same plates were used. This step has been necessary on account of the forgeries of the current issue discovered some months ago."

Gibbons Stamp Weekly chronicles the recently issued 50c. overprinted "Official."

Official.
50c. rose.

New Leaves to Cut.

Catalogue Officiel de la Société Française de Timbrologie: Timbres-poste et telegraphs. Third edition. 2 vols. 1908. 1st part 1840-1900, pp. 1312, price 4fr. 75. 2nd part 1901-8, pp. 359, price 3fr. 50. The two parts together, 5fr. Paris, Librairie, Plon.

The functions of an ideal philatelic catalogue are diverse. It must be complete, though new stamps be issued every day; it must suit the specialist from the extent of its research and must not be too intricate for the neophyte; its prices must be accurate to self-contradiction, according at once with the needs of both buyer and seller; its arrangement must conform to many divergent tastes; it must be well printed and illustrated with innumerable types of design and surcharge, so as to facilitate identification of the most abstruse; it must also be portable and cheap. Its production is a difficult problem, for the nearer catalogues arrive at perfection, the greater becomes the demand for that ultimate, and the heavier the burden for the producer.

There are now before collectors five catalogues which may be called standard, those of Gibbons, Scott, Senf, Kohl, and Yvert & Tellier, all published by dealers, and to these must be added a sixth which has to be reckoned with. We do not know what connection the two volumes before us have with the Société Française de Timbrologie, nor can this information, or, indeed, any other concerning the manner in which the catalogue has been compiled, be derived from the work itself, for it contains no preface, and the only references to its publication that we have seen were those in *Le Postillon*, the journal of M. Alfred Montader, who appears as general editor.

We are, therefore, driven to the volumes themselves to determine the special features which the work presents, and we find several novel ones. It is divided into two volumes, as shown above, and, as far as we know the

division is original, for it claims to fix the form of the first part practically definitive, leaving the second part to grow according to circumstances. In *Le Postillon* for 21st July, 1907, M. Montader discussed the objections which he anticipated would be raised to this procedure. That it is purely arbitrary goes without saying; there is no better reason for dividing at 1900 than at 1890, than that of the end of the century, though many collectors will be satisfied that the present century has seen a flood of undesirable issues which may justify its exclusion. Nevertheless, we are of opinion that collectors regard or disregard countries as a whole, and no catalogue of the type of that under notice could appeal to the general collector who stops at 1900.

The inclusion of telegraph stamps is, in our opinion unnecessary. These are considered generally with fiscals, and in England are rarely collected except as such.

The order of the catalogue is strictly alphabetical, except in cases like Antioquia, etc., which appear under Columbia. We prefer the grouped arrangement in Gibbons' catalogue, as more scientific and useful. The only part of an advanced catalogue which need be alphabetical is the index, and we may mention here that the want of such an index as Kohl gives, in English, French and German (together with headings of countries in the three languages), greatly vitiates against the use of the catalogue by non-Frenchmen.

Before treating of the body of the work, we may follow our criticisms relating to its design, with some remarks in the style of its reproduction. It is printed in single column, and the type used, though clear, is not very artistic, and the general effect is inferior; the illustrations are reduced in size and generally mediocre, though very freely given. A good idea is carried out of giving the prominent variety of each stamp in bolder type, with the varieties in ordinary type following. There are frequent notes distributed through the volume, but nothing has been done to indicate references to authorities on each country.

It is in the actual compilation of the catalogue that its position among other standard catalogues is decided, and there can be no doubt that a reference to individual countries will shew its value, for we find among the collaborators the most distinguished names in philately, the contributions in many cases being signed. The names of Mr. Castle on New Zealand and New South Wales; Baron A. de Worms on Ceylon; Dr. Diena on Italy and the Italian States; Mr. Luff on the United States; Herr Breitfuss on Finland; MM. Bernichon and Delacourcelle on France; M. Mahé on Mauritius and Hawaii; Mr. Hausburg on India, Victoria, Hong Kong, etc.; Mr. C. Stewart Wilson on the Native States of India; M. Maury on the Philippines; Mr. Duerst on Roumania and Russia, all these typify the authority of the work, and the above short list could be greatly expanded

from the list of contributors which appears at the commencement.

It is, however, with regard to the pricing that the catalogue is most open to criticism, for the valuation of the stamps has been undertaken on a scale hitherto unattempted by any previous catalogue, and the lack of an introduction setting out the basis and method which have been adopted is greatly felt. We cannot understand the publication of a catalogue of this importance without the slightest note as to the settlement of a question which has exercised collectors almost from the earliest days of collecting. In *Le Postillon* for 20th October, 1907, M. Montader remarks that 187,000 prices appear; that a considerable increase in the values of the older issues had been made, and he indicates that throughout the work attention had been paid to pricing strictly from the point of view of fine condition. There is no doubt that the Leroy d'Etiolles sale at Paris showed a wonderful firm or upward tendency in the values of stamps in fine condition, and as far as a general reference to this work can determine there seems to be a consistent increase throughout. Many of the countries are indicated as priced by the Valuation Committee. We do not propose to discuss the value of such pricing, or to refer other than on general lines to the whole subject. Every collector and every dealer is quite capable of detecting flaws in any list of prices ever made. However useful this or any other catalogue may be in giving within limits an approximate estimate of individual stamps, everything depends so much on special circumstances with stamps over a certain value that no reliance can be placed in any pricing except that of dealers actually offering stamps for sale. Any idea of a catalogue the pricing of which shall be generally acceptable throughout is chimerical.

In concluding, we revert to our opening remarks. The *Catalogue Officiel* stands on different ground to that of any other catalogue published. In fact, it may reasonably be held to make a claim to be considered as the ideal catalogue. It is presumably free from direct trade influence and has been supported by collectors of the highest rank. It is very complete in enumeration of varieties, while giving also the minimum of such in each issue. It is, in our opinion, capable of considerable improvement in style, though we do not lose sight of the fact that it has to be self-supporting, and has no advertisement value. That it will displace the other standard catalogues we doubt, but its possession will be a distinct accession to the library of every collector. It is perhaps utopian to hope for a universal catalogue, which might afford philatelists of every country a common source of information and a common basis for sale or exchange. We see no reason why the *Catalogue Officiel* should not ultimately take this place.

**SCOTT'S STANDARD CATALOGUE
FOR 1908.**

THE new edition of the Standard American Catalogue presents no new features, but bears evidence of careful revision in many places. For collectors of British Colonials, the most interesting point is the inclusion of the "chalky" paper varieties of the recent issues. In their preface, the publishers offer an apology for taking this step and reserve the right to omit the classification in future editions, if they should ever think it advisable. Prices are only quoted for both varieties (ordinary and "chalky") unused, and on account of the great difficulty of discriminating between the two varieties when used, and especially after they have been in water, the used are supplied indiscriminately at the price of the cheaper variety. The prices for King's Head stamps seem "way up" as most of Scott's readers would say, and in fact they seem to be so fixed as to yet leave the publishers a selling profit in the event of there being a 50% advance in market values during the current year.

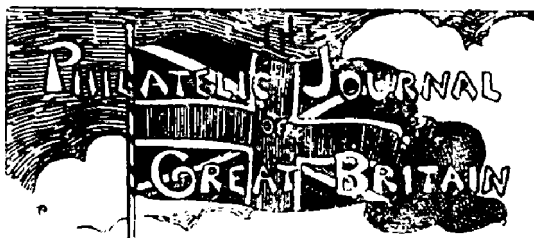
The prices of the stamps of United States and Colonies appear to have been advanced in many cases. This is only in accordance with expectations, as there has certainly been a lot of attention paid to this group during the past twelve months.

As we have frequently remarked before in these columns, Scott's catalogue is the best we know for general collectors, as minor varieties are given in very small type, and the collector wishing to confine himself to main varieties need pay no attention to anything that is not printed in the ordinary type.

*Bridger & Kay's Catalogue of Adhesive British Colonial Revenue, Telegraph and Railway Stamps.**

WE have received a copy of the above work from the publishers, Messrs. Bridger & Kay, of 71, Fleet Street, E.C. Unfortunately, our knowledge of this class of stamp is a very limited one—far too limited for us to venture to review Messrs. Bridger & Kay's Catalogue. We can however testify to the knowledge that the author, Mr. A. B. Kay, has of these stamps, so that collectors of Revenues, etc., may, we are quite sure, rely on the work as a standard one. That it will fill a long felt want we are also confident, for we frequently have enquiries concerning these stamps. The catalogue consists of nearly a hundred closely printed pages, well printed and bound, and should appeal to all collectors of Revenue stamps. Unfortunately the book is not illustrated.

* Published by Bridger & Kay, 71, Fleet Street, E.C. Price 2/6. Post free, 2/9.



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Publishers' Note.

WITH this number of the *P.J.G.B* we commence our eighteenth volume—a volume which will, we trust, be better than any of its predecessors.

We hope our subscribers will appreciate the one or two slight alterations we have made in this number. In accepting other dealers' advertisements, we have done what we think most of our subscribers wished us to do. To all of them we can safely recommend the perusal of our advertisement columns, as only dealers with a long established record for straight dealing will be found represented there.

In conclusion, we may say that the journal will be published and edited as heretofore, and will, we trust, still be a power in the land for the advancement of collectors' interests.

Papers for Moderate Specialists.

By P. L. PEMBERTON.

VIII.—GIBRALTAR.

This, if confined to single specimens of catalogue varieties is one of the simplest countries to collect, and one might suppose, after a cursory glance at the six trim little sets which comprise its postal issues, that even the moderate specialist would pass it by as being unlikely to afford any scope for extension in the manner beloved by him. But this is true only in part, for there are varieties to be found, even well-marked uncatalogued varieties, and the marginal pairs or blocks showing the plate numbers will prove sufficiently difficult to obtain. With the addition of the Morocco Agencies overprints the collector will find himself beset with a plethora of minor varieties such as would delight the heart of the most confirmed "bloater."

BRITISH STAMPS USED IN GIBRALTAR.

Before the first definitive issue for Gibraltar the stamps of Great Britain were used without any surcharge. From August, 1857, until 1886 most of the contemporary British stamps were used there. They may be recognised by the postmark "A 26."

THE FIRST ISSUE.

This was put on sale on January 1st, 1886. It consisted of stamps printed from the Bermuda dies and overprinted with the name Gibraltar in capitals, in black. With the



exception of the ½d., all the stamps were printed in colours, or shades, differing from those then in use in Bermuda. All were watermarked *Crown CA*, whereas Bermuda was still using 2d., 4d., 6d. and 1/- stamps with the *CC* watermark. The 1d. and 2½d. had already been issued in Bermuda on *CA* paper, but the colours were paler and more delicate than those printed for Gibraltar. It seems likely that Messrs. De la Rue & Co. printed far more of these stamps than were actually wanted in Gibraltar, and that they were kept to be supplied to Bermuda as required, for it is significant that in the latter

Colony all values but one have since appeared, one after another, in shades almost identical with those of the first issue of Gibraltar. The last to so appear was the 4d. orange-brown, *Crown CA*, which was first issued in 1904. This suggests the possibility that, on the exhaustion of the present supply of Bermuda 6d. on *CC* paper, it will be replaced by a deep lilac stamp, wmk. *Crown CA*, similar to that overprinted for Gibraltar.

There are no varieties of the surcharge on this issue and all the stamps were printed from plates numbered 1. Naturally blocks, pairs, or even singles, especially of the 6d. and 1/- values, showing the marginal plate number, are the principal desiderata in this issue.

SECOND ISSUE, DECEMBER, 1886.

Towards the end of 1886 and in the first month or so of 1887, the various values of a new issue made their appearance. The set, as before, consisted of seven values in practically the same colours, but printed from new dies in designs specially drawn for the colony. The ½d., 1d. and 2½d. each had a design to



itself, but the 2d., 4d., 6d. and 1/- being in the same design, were all printed from the same head plate, and the values printed at a second operation. There are practically no shades of the stamps of this issue and there was probably only one printing of each value. If exposed to a strong light for some time, the 1/- bistre changes to a kind of olive-bistre. I have seen such varieties described as rare and desirable shades, whereas they are in reality, merely discoloured specimens. It is important to obtain dated postmarked copies of the ½d., 1d. and 2½d., as the stamps were re-issued in 1898 in almost exactly the same shades. Dated copies are therefore worth three or four times the prices of ordinary specimens.

ISSUE OF JULY, 1889.

Pending the preparation of a new set of dies with values expressed in Spanish currency, which had been decided upon, the stamps of

the second issue were surcharged with their approximate equivalents in centimos, the values thus created being 5 centimos (on ½d.), 10c. (on 1d.), 25c. (on 2½d.), 40c. (on 4d.), 50c. (on 6d.), and 75c. (on 1/-). As there was very little demand for 2d., or 20 centimos, stamps,



this value was done away with and the stock of the 2d. stamps was used to supplement the supply of 25c. by surcharging it with that value. There are several minor varieties of this issue as follows:—

1. Short "1" in "CENTIMOS" 25c. on 2d. and 25c. on 2½d.
2. Broken "N" in "CENTIMOS" 25c. on 2d. and 25c. on 2½d.
3. 5 with the lobe slightly more rounded and the lower end of the curve shortened. 5c. on ½d., 25c. on 2d., 25c. on 2½d., 50c. on 6d., and 75c. on 1/-.

The last-mentioned variety is found in all the stamps in the second *vertical* row in all values containing the figure "5." The difference is small but quite obvious.

Variety No. 1 is the 2nd stamp in the 6th horizontal line, and from its position it is obvious that it is also an example of variety No. 3.

Variety No. 2 is the 5th stamp in the 10th horizontal line. The varieties are found on all panes, which consist of 60 stamps, and this proves that each pane was surcharged separately.

THE NOV. 1889 TO 1895 ISSUE.

The set replaced the provisional issue just described and is in the same design as the 2d., 4d., 6d. and 1/- of the second issue, the only alteration being that the values are expressed in "centimos" instead of in "pence."

It is, indeed, quite likely that the original head plate, which printed the whole of the design, with the exception of the value at foot,



was used. But be this as it may, it is certain that in this issue all values were printed from one head plate, which printed the body of the stamps, with name at top, and left the label at foot bare for the reception of the values, which were printed in afterwards. Evidence of this may be found on examining different stamps of the same denomination, when it will be seen that the value is not always exactly in the centre of the space provided for it. The sheets consisted of 120 stamps, in two panes of 60; the original head plate was numbered 1, and all the values issued in 1889, which include the new values, 1 peseta and 5 pesetas, are found with the marginal plate No. 1. In 1895, two new values were issued, namely, 20c. olive-green and 2 pesetas black and carmine, and at the same time the 1 peseta was changed by having the value printed in a different colour, viz., blue. These three stamps were printed from a new head plate, numbered 2. After this, fresh printings of the 5c., 10c. and 25c. were also made from plate 2.

The dual printing accounts for the interesting error of the 10 centimos, which is known without the value printed in the label at foot. Mr. J. C. North, a prominent Manchester philatelist, tells me that when he was in Gibraltar, in 1895, the then head clerk of the post office showed him some vertical strips of these errors, for which he asked a high price. He was informed that they were the second, third, fifth and sixth vertical rows in each pane of one sheet, but of course a printing freak of that description would be a physical impossibility and the more probable story is that one pane of 60 stamps missed the printing of the value. I mention the theory which was offered to Mr. North in spite of its manifest absurdity as it came from the head clerk who, presumably, found the sheet in his stock. Some of the errors were disposed of locally and the remainder was sold to a London dealer. The variety now ranks as *the great rarity* of the Colony. It may be urged that it was never issued to the public, and, if the facts as related to me are correct it never was, but I think it is entitled to its catalogue rank as the error was not discovered until it was about to be issued and it is only by chance that the chief clerk found the sheet and bought it himself. There is a wide difference between such a variety and one that is thrown aside by the printer and which afterwards finds its way on to the stamp market by devious methods. This error occurred on a sheet from Plate I., that is to say without the jubilee line.

Some values of this issue are known cut in halves and each half used, presumably having paid postage to the amount of half the original value; enquiry in Gibraltar, however, has brought forth a denial that any such practice was ever permitted by the authorities there and the varieties in question must have been postmarked as a favour.

There are distinct shades of the 5, 10, 20, and 25c. The other values present very trifling variations but the 1 peseta is liable to the same change in appearance when exposed to the light as I have already remarked in the 1/- of the second issue.

The 75c. and the 5 pesetas were apparently withdrawn from use in 1895 together with the 1 peseta all bistre, which had been superseded by the bi-coloured stamp, for a notice appeared in the *Gibraltar Chronicle* dated October 6th, 1896, in which the following obsolete stamps:

194 specimens	75 centimos stamps.
61 "	1 peseta "
18 "	5 pesetas "

were offered for sale either as a lot or in part. Offers for the purchase of this paltry remainder were invited by the Colonial Treasury and it was stated that no offer under face value would be considered. Previous to this, however, namely on February 22nd, 1896, remainders of the 5 pesetas, amounting to 6,000 stamps, had been sold by the Colonial Treasury. This accounts for that value being so plentiful unused.

ISSUE OF 1898.

In a decree issued by the post office on September 14th, 1898, a new issue of stamps was announced. This included the following paragraph:—"All postage fees will be payable in British money and stamps having the duties expressed in Spanish currency will cease to be valid in prepayment of postage in Gibraltar, but those overprinted Morocco Agencies will continue to be used in Morocco." The order was to take effect from October 1st, 1898.

For this issue no new plates were found necessary, all the values of the second issue (Dec. 1886) being re-issued. The ½d., 1d. and 2½d. were in the same colours as before and though the 1d. and 2½d. are somewhat brighter in shade than those of the earlier issue it is very difficult to discriminate between them. The 2d., 4d., 6d. and 1/- differed from those issued in 1886, in having the values printed in a second colour, the head plate being the one that was made in 1895 for the previous issue which was numbered "2." These values were printed in sheets of 120 in two panes of 60, but the other three values were in sheets of 240 in four panes of 60. The plate numbers which may be sought for are as follows:—

½d.	plates 1 and 2.
1d.	plates 1 and 2.
2d.	plate 2.
2½d.	plates 1 and 2.
4d.	plate 2.
6d.	plate 2.
1/-	plate 2.

Marginal stamps of the ½d., 1d. and 2½d., with the Jubilee line, must belong to this issue, as the second plates were not brought into use until this period. It must not be thought, however, that the reverse is the case, as the first plate was used for some time for printing the 1898 issue.

KING'S HEAD ISSUE, 1903.

The stamps of this issue include the four new values, 2/-, 4/-, 8/- and 20/-, but the 4d.



was omitted from the set. The normal sized stamps are printed in sheets of 120, in two panes of 60, but of the four highest values, being of abnormal size, there are only 60 stamps to an entire sheet. First printed on single *Crown CA* paper, most of the values have since appeared on paper with the multiple wmk., and many of the latter have, in turn, been superseded by "chalky" paper varieties. There is a variety of the 2½d., in which the "2" in the fraction of "2½" is larger than all the others. This variety occurs on the first stamp of the last row of each pane, and is found in printings including single *CA*, multiple ordinary and "chalky."

The 1d., which was originally printed in lilac on red paper, was issued last year in carmine on white, unsurfaced paper, and with wmk. multiple *Crown CA*. This stamp is printed in sheets of 240 in four panes of sixty.

MOROCCO AGENCIES.

In 1898, the complete set of the then current issue of Gibraltar (that of Nov. 1889 to 1895) was overprinted with the words "Morocco Agencies" in two lines, in black. These were for use in the British Post Offices in Morocco. The overprinting was done in Gibraltar and the type was set up in ten horizontal rows of twelve with a space between the sixth and seventh horizontal rows equivalent to the space between two panes of stamps. Entire sheets of two panes were thus printed at one time. The overprint was first applied in black on all values but later printings of the 40c., 50c. and 1 p. were made in a very deep bluish black. There were two settings of the overprint. The first was used for all values and contains numerous minor varieties, caused by defective type, and one very noticeable one, in which the "A" of "Agencies" has no cross bar and is, in reality, an inverted "V." This occurred on the sixth stamp of the sixth row in the right-hand pane.

The second setting is the one in which the blue-black overprint occurs. The inverted "V" variety is not found in this setting.

The overprints are only found on stamps of plate 2.

THE LONDON OVERPRINT.

Presumably the local overprints were not considered satisfactory, or else the Colonial Treasury had come to the end of their stock of the stamps of this issue which had by this time been superseded by the new pence issue, for Messrs. De La Rue now printed the overprints. Though similar type was used it is easy to discriminate between the Local and the London printing for the latter is much clearer and the capital "M" is much narrower in the latter than in the former. The surcharges were set up in the same form as in the local printing, that is to say, so as to print a whole sheet, consisting of two panes, at one time. There are two well-marked minor varieties. One of these occurs on the third stamp of the seventh row in the left-hand pane, in this the left-hand upper serif of the letter "M" is longer than in the others. The second variety has a small dot between the letters "N C" and is generally known as the hyphen variety; this is the fifth stamp of the third row of the right-hand pane. Like the local overprints those made in London are only found on stamps of plate 2.

THE KING'S HEAD ISSUES.

Special printings of the Gibraltar stamps, but with the values expressed in centimos instead of pence, were made to receive the overprint and the new set was issued in Morocco in 1903. At first the stamps were on single crown CA paper, and later the 5c., 10c. and 20c. appeared on multiple ordinary paper. Before the issue was withdrawn to make way for the surcharged British stamps at the end of 1906, all values from 5c. to 2 pesetas, except the 20c., appeared on the "chalky" paper, and as these had a very short life they should become scarce.

The stamps were overprinted from the same plate as the previous issue and all values single CA, multiple, ordinary and chalky are found in the two varieties already described. There were however two printings of the 25c. single CA. as sheets are known in which the "N-C" variety is corrected.

I am greatly indebted to Mr. J. H. Roskilly who has supplied me with notes compiled from his magnificent collection of Gibraltar and Morocco Agencies. These have greatly assisted me in writing this paper.

The Scottish Philatelic Society

JUNIOR BRANCH.

THIS Society gave an "At Home" in the Edinburgh Cafe, Princes Street, Edinburgh, on the evening of Saturday, 7th December.

On arrival the guests were received by Mr. Norman M. Berrie, the President. While they were assembling those present had an opportunity of inspecting a choice selection from the valuable and extensive collection of Mr. John Walker, President of the Senior Branch.

After the guests had assembled the President addressed to them a few suitable words of welcome, at the same time commenting on the progress of the Society and its claims on the attention of Junior Collectors in and outside of Edinburgh.

Tea and coffee were served and opportunity was given to the Members to become better acquainted with one another. Thereafter a most enjoyable musical programme, provided by the Members, was proceeded with.

Miss Mackenzie and Mr. James very kindly contributed violin solos, which were cordially received. Amusing recitations were given by Mr. John Walker, Mr. Arnott Hamilton and Mr. McGill. The President and the Honorary Secretary gave vocal selections, and an original topical song by the President met with a very enthusiastic reception. The Assistant Secretary officiated at the piano throughout the evening and tastefully played the accompaniments, as well as several piano solos, which were much enjoyed.

During an interval, light refreshments were served in the Cafe's most approved style, and in the course of the evening nine new ordinary Members were unanimously admitted on the motion of the Honorary Secretary, seconded by the President.

Mr. Bonnar proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to all those who had so successfully carried through the arrangements and to the performers whose efforts had so largely contributed to the success of the evening. The vote was passed with acclamation. The Honorary Secretary suitably replied and expressed the hope that the "At Home" would become an annual if not a biennial event in the history of the Society. He also mentioned that it had been more than once suggested that the Society should have an Auction Sale during the Session and it was remitted to Mr. Small, the Assistant Secretary, and Mr. R. M. Stewart to consider the necessary arrangements and report to the Committee on an early date.

The Meeting terminated shortly before 11 p.m. and the generally expressed opinion was that it had been a great success which should soon be repeated.

FRANK CHALMERS, Hon. Sec.,

24, Bruntsfield Gardens,
Edinburgh.

Well-known Philatelists.

NO. 96.—BARON PERCY DE WORMS.

WE have been fortunate enough this month to secure Baron Percy de Worms as our well-known philatelist, and readers of our short sketch will, we feel sure, agree with us that Baron Percy is a keen philatelist in every sense of the word.

Born in London, November 3rd, 1873, he is the younger son of the 2nd Baron de Worms, a title which it may interest our readers to know was conferred on his grandfather by the Austrian Government in recognition of his services.

Perhaps Baron Anthony de Worms name is better known in the active philatelic world than that of his brother Percy, but the latter is, to some extent, responsible for the former's fame, for he has assisted by much patient research to place the de Worms Collection of Ceylon Stamps in the position it now holds.

Readers of the *P.J.G.B.* will remember that we have made copious extracts from the articles written by Baron Percy de Worms that have appeared in the *London Philatelist*, expressing at the time our regret that the extracts were not even longer, for original research, such as Baron Percy has given to the philatelic world, is of great value.

Curiously enough, the subject of this sketch does not collect stamps himself, although his thorough knowledge of many countries enables him to occasionally pick up a bargain, which goes to enrich his brother's superb collection.



Some months ago we tried to induce him to take up the collection of the stamps of one or more countries on his own behalf, but to a philatelist with a strong *penchant* for old and historical stamps, the field of research now open is a very small one—country after country was dismissed as having been already done—but we still hope that in the near future he will be tempted to form a specialized collection.

Like most true philatelists he has other loves, one of which takes the form of a fine collection of rare engravings, while another hobby is the collecting of old medals, of which he has a nice lot, including many of the curious socialistic medals of the French Revolution of 1848.

A life member of the Royal Philatelic Society, which he joined in 1892, a life member of the Royal Society of Literature, a member of the Herts Philatelic Society, Baron Percy is a busy man, a fact emphasized by the assistance he rendered at the three London Exhibitions and also at the Manchester Exhibition of 1899.

Baron Percy is a member of the Middle Temple, where he was admitted in 1898, and is a well known figure in the

Society world.

Possibly some of our readers may remember his marriage with Miss Samuel, the only daughter of Sir Harry S. Samuel, which took place during 1900.

Two or three years ago he unsuccessfully contested N. Kensington for the L.C.C. He may contest a seat at the next General Election, on which occasion we feel sure his political opponents will have a very keen fight.

New Australian Postage Stamps.

THE Postmaster-General contemplates taking early action with regard to the designing of the uniform series of Australian postage stamps which will be put into circulation in 1910. There is reason to believe that one of the States' Governments is very anxious to try to block the issue of a series of uniform stamps, because it dreads the concentration of stamp printing in Melbourne, which must inevitably take place pending the transfer of the seat of government to a Federal capital. Mr. Mauger, however, takes the view that the matter is one in which the State Government

has no *locus standi* at all. The Minister contemplates issuing advertisements inviting Australian artists and designers to submit designs by about the middle of next year. The Uniform Stamp Board in its recent report recommended that the competition should be thrown open to the world. The Postmaster-General is not, however, likely to adopt this recommendation. He thinks that Australia has produced men and women of sufficient originality and artistic instinct and craftsmanship to produce stamp designs which should satisfy the most exacting tastes. He will, therefore, probably limit the stamps designs competition to Australians and persons now living in the Commonwealth and New Zealand.—*British Australasian*.



January, 1908, Report.

List of Officers and Committee, 1908.

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Hon. Vice-Presidents:

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MEMBERSHIP.

Candidates for admission must be over 18 years of age, and supply at least two satisfactory references. They will then be proposed for election, and if no objection be lodged within fourteen days, be duly elected. The Entrance Fee, 2/6, and Subscription, 5/-, should accompany the application, and will be refunded in the event of the non-election of the applicant. (The Committee are empowered to elect Life Members, not exceeding ten in number, at a fee of Two Guineas.)

NOTICES.

The fourth meeting of the season was held at Essex Hall, on Thursday, January 9th, when there were present W. Schwartze (in the chair), L. W. Fulcher, A. B. Kay, P. P. Brown, E. W. Wetherell, J. C. Sidebotham, J. E. Joselin, W. S. King, F. F. Lamb, P. L. Pemberton, H. Atharley, R. H. W. Lapham (visitor) and the Hon. Sec.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. E. W. Wetherell gave a display with notes of the stamps of Spain 1870 and Victoria 1885. A very careful study of those stamps had been made and many interesting points were explained. In addition to a fine display of the 1870 issues of Spain, including unused sheets of some of the values, and forgeries made to deceive the government, some fine blocks of other issues were shown, also two sheets of Cuba of this date, illustrating how the dies of Spain of this issue had been

adopted for the Cuban stamps. In addition to Mr. Wetherell's Victorian stamps of 1885, showing how the dies of former issues had been utilized for this series, some nice unused blocks of the various values, kindly lent by Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg, were displayed.

Messrs. J. C. Sidebotham and J. E. Joselin in moving and seconding a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Wetherell and Mr. Hausburg which was carried unanimously, complimented Mr. Wetherell on the careful and painstaking philatelic research shown by him and the very interesting evening he had afforded those present. A hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded a successful meeting.

The next meeting will take place at Essex Hall, on Thursday, February 13th, at 8 p.m. (Committee 7.30), when Mr. O. Marsh will give a display of The Envelope Stamps of Great Britain with notes. Members are invited to bring their specimens of these stamps (either entire or cut square) for comparison, also any visitor who will be cordially welcome.

Applications for membership, subscriptions for 1908 now due, or donations for forgery collection, will be gladly received and promptly acknowledged by—

THOS. H. HINTON,

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Int. Phil. Union,
26, Cromford Road, East Putney, S.W.

Jan. 13th, 1908.

Notes on the First Eleven Plates Used for the Black Penny Stamp of St. Britain.

BY H. S. HODSON.

THE recent boom in black penny stamps, and particularly in "double-letter" varieties and "secret marks," is undoubtedly due to the large quantities of these stamps which are being purchased by the ever increasing number of philatelists, who are endeavouring to reconstruct each one of the eleven plates which were at press during this issue.

Since to complete this work no less than 2,640 varieties will be required, and the total number of stamps which it will be necessary to go through will, of course, be far in excess of this number, it is not surprising that the supply is hardly sufficient to meet the demand, and many dealers have already put up their prices.

Certainly this method of reconstructing the plates is far more scientific than the ordinary practice of making up a sheet of varieties from all the plates indiscriminately mixed up, and one which may perhaps furnish us with much interesting information on matters upon which

we are at present profoundly ignorant; but the task which these enthusiasts have set themselves, is, as may well be imagined, an extremely difficult one, and as the smallest piece of information may at times be all that is wanted to complete a chain of evidence by means of which a large number of varieties may be correctly allocated to their respective plates, it is to be hoped that these notes, though deplorably incomplete, may be of slight assistance to at least a few; and though comparatively few philatelists will have the time, even if they have the inclination, to attempt to reconstruct the different plates, yet there are few specialists in British stamps who would not consider at least one specimen showing a characteristic variety from each individual plate, worthy of a place in their collection.

PLATE I.

- Stamp lettered.
- KA. Horizontal hair-line cutting through top of A.
 - KB. Horizontal hair-line to the right of B, level with the top of the letter.
 - KC. Horizontal hair-line through top of C, from end to end of the letter-block. K nearer to the left of block.
 - KD. Very faint horizontal hair-line running from left margin through top of K. D appears broken at the bottom, thus:



Fig. I.

- KL. The bottom line of the stamp extends about 1/4 mm. into the right-hand margin.

NOTE.—All the L's have the bottom of the foot nearly parallel with the bottom of the stamp.

- MF. Traces of a second "M" are to be seen just beneath the letter M.
- MH. Secret mark N.E. corner, thus:



Fig. II.

- MK. Secret mark N.E. corner, thus:



Fig. III.

- NA. NE of the word "ONE" joined.
- NF. Lower point of N very long.
- NH. Left side of stamp prolonged *very* slightly into bottom margin. H slightly to the left of block.
- NL. Clear horizontal line in N.E. corner, thus:



Fig. IV.

- Stamp lettered.
- OB. NE of "ONE" joined.
 - OF. NE of "ONE" nearly joined. Short white line under P of "PENNY."
 - OI. Right side of stamp prolonged *very* slightly into bottom margin. N.W. corner, thus:



Fig. V.

- OL. The L in this stamp is the only one from KL to TL in which the bottom stroke of the letter is not quite parallel with the bottom of the stamp.
- PD. NE of "ONE" joined.
- PJ. P badly drawn, thus: P (oval loop).
- QD. NE of "ONE" joined, short white line under P of PENNY.
- RG. Stamps RG and SG joined by a line running from the left side of the stamp.
- SG. Joined to stamp RG by a line on the left side of the stamp (vide supra).

PLATE 2.

- ND. The lower point of the N is much shorter than the left-hand stroke.
- SA. Small secret mark in each top corner, thus:

N.W.

N.E.



Fig. VI.



Fig. VII.

- SC. The right-hand side line of the stamp is prolonged downwards so as to join N.E. side of stamp TC.
- TA. N.E. corner square, thus:



Fig. VIII.

- TL. T double; original T to the left of the corrected one.

PLATE 5.

- SI. I very much to the left of the letter block.

PLATE 7.

- DA. Hair-line runs over the top of letter A into the margin. There is a small white flaw under the O of "ONE," causing it to touch the bottom line of the stamp (hereafter described as "O touches").
- FK. F very near bottom of corner block; K about centre of block. O nearly touches.
- GK. Very faint vertical hair-line joins stamps GK and HK on the right hand side.
- HK. Joined to stamp GK by faint vertical hair-line from NE corner.

Stamp
lettered.

KK. Secret mark in S.E. letter block, thus :



Fig. IX.

There are numerous minute black dots in the bottom margin.

- MB. Bottom line of stamp prolonged very slightly into the right-hand margin. M slightly to the right of the letter block.
- MD. Right-hand foot of M touches the right-hand side of the letter block. The margin between stamps MD and ME is *very* narrow.
- MI. M a trifle high up in letter block, I low down.
- NG. N very low down in letter block and to the left. G in the centre.
- OG. Vertical hair-line to right of N.E. letter block.

NOTE.—The foot of every L. from BL to PL is parallel to the bottom of the stamp.

PLATE 10.

NOTE.—All the O's of "ONE" touch the bottom line of the stamp, except where mentioned specially as not having this characteristic. Every J has a square foot and every R a long tail.

- AA. Right-hand A lower than left-hand A.
- AC. -C very near bottom of block.
- AF. A has a *blunt* top.
- BE, BF. O of "ONE" does not touch bottom line.
- BH. O does not touch, H near bottom of block.
- BJ. J rather low down and to the left. Minute stop at bottom of J, thus :



Fig. X.

O does not touch.

- BK. B rather high up, K in the centre. O does not touch.
- CI. C to the left, O does not touch.
- DB. Bottom line runs into left-hand margin.
- DD. O does not touch.
- BE. Left-hand side of N.W. corner continued into top margin.
- EJ. Small stop to right of J thus :



Fig. XI.

- FC. F very near bottom and to left. O does not touch.
- FH. Right hand side-line of N.E. corner almost missing. H slightly to the left.
- HA. Horizontal hair-line under H.
- HE. Right side of N.E. corner-block almost missing.
- HL. H higher up than L.

Stamp
lettered.

- ID. I very near bottom, D higher up. Right side of N.E. block very faint.
- IE. Right side of N.E. corner-block almost missing.
- IH. Ditto.
- JB. B near bottom, J rather higher up.
- JD. Right of N.E. corner-block almost missing.
- JG. Both letters slightly below the centre.
- JH. J high up, H low down and leaning slightly to the left.
- JK. J a trifle high up, K a trifle low down in their letter-blocks.
- KB. K near bottom, B in middle of square. O does not touch.
- KL. L thus : (double ?).



Fig. XII.

- LI. L near top. I slightly to the right.
- LJ. J very near bottom and slightly to left. Right side of N.E. block almost missing.
- MA. Right-hand stroke of M broken, thus :



Fig. XIII.

- MH. M in middle of square, H low down.
- NA. Right-hand foot of A long and nearly touches right side of the letter-block. N a trifle lower than A.
- NG, NH, NI, NJ. All the lower points of the N's are very long.
- OF. O and F rather low down in letter-blocks.
- PB. P lower down than B.
- PG. Secret mark N.E. corner, thus :



Fig. XIV.

- PK. P lower than K.
- QB. Q lower than B.
- QE. Q high up, E low down in letter-blocks.
- RC. C *slightly* to the left and top of C blurred.
- RI. Secret mark N.E. corner, thus :



Fig. XV.

- KK. Bottom line double printed. (If heavily inked appears very thick).
- RL. Bottom line double printed as above.
- SE. S crooked and leaning to the left.
- SI. S low down in square, I *very* high up.
- TC. T low down, C in centre of square.
- TF. T near bottom, F. near top of letter-block.
- TL. T has very short foot.

PLATE XI.

NOTE.—All the J's I have seen from this plate have a square foot and presumably the R's have long tails. I have never seen a stamp from this plate showing the white flaw under the O of one, so this should be of assistance in distinguishing from Plate XI., at any rate in the case of stamps bearing the lettering J or R.

Stamp
lettered.

- AE. Foot of A long and touches left of letter-block.
- AH. A very close to bottom; H about centre of block.
- BC. The B is obviously printed upon the top of a wrongly inserted K.
- BG. B near bottom, G in centre of square.
- BJ. B slightly to the left.
- CG. Horizontal hair-line in N.W. corner. N.E. corner joined to stamp CH by a horizontal hair-line.
- CH. N.W. corner joined to stamp CG by a horizontal hair-line. N.E. corner joined to stamp CI similarly.
- CI. Horizontal hair-line extends from the stamp on the left through the N.E. corner as far as the T of "POST-AGE."
- CJ. C very low down in square, J a trifle high.
- KA. K near bottom, A about centre of square.
- KC. K near bottom and slightly to the left, C about the centre.
- MI, MJ, NI, NJ. The bottom line of the stamp is so thick that it has the appearance of cutting into the words "ONE PENNY"; particularly is this the case in MI, where the P of "PENNY" has the foot completely cut off. The M is slightly lower than the I.

Concerning the other plates, I have, in the absence of blocks, etc., showing the marginal plate numbers, been unable to obtain any information, and if any reader would kindly furnish me with information which may tend to make these notes more complete, I should be very grateful.

It is popularly supposed that the first two plates, since they were in the first instance "put to press" without being hardened, are responsible for the majority of worn impressions that are met with; but I think that it is advisable not to place too great reliance upon this belief, for among the large number of stamps from plate 1 which I have examined, none of them showed signs of any very considerable wear; and the same remark applies to the more limited number of impressions from plate 2 which I have examined, though it is true that the majority of these latter stamps were slightly worn impressions.

It is certainly true that the majority of worn impressions one meets with on entires are those dated June and July—some of them quite early in June—and it is partly for this reason that I have come to the conclusion that plate 3 gave rise to the largest number of

defective impressions; a theory that is partially confirmed by the fact that plate 3 was destroyed before any of the other plates, viz., in October, 1840 (which in itself would seem to point to the fact that the plate was worn out); and this would of course account for the comparative scarcity of really worn impressions, for plate 3 only had the short life of a bare six months. Only quite a few people seem to have grasped the fact that some of the first 11 plates were still at press after the printing in black ink had been superseded by red ink, and consequently the same varieties (double letters, etc.) may be found both in the black and red stamps.

Creeke, in the "Adhesive Stamps of the British Isles," states that all the first eleven plates (with the exception, of course, of plate 3) were subsequently put to press in red ink; but I think that this statement requires more definite proof before we can accept it, for plates 4, 6 and 7 were destroyed (as Creeke himself says) on 4th January, 1841, and it is consequently very unlikely that any printing in red ink took place in the case of these particular plates.

I myself possess copies of the 1d. red which are undoubtedly from the first two plates (Nos. 1 and 2), and even at this late stage the stamps showed scarcely any indications of any considerable wear of the plate. This occasioned me some surprise at first, as in my collection I have copies of the 1d. black on entires dated May, 1840, which even at that early date were greyish-black in colour—a colour which one usually associates with 'worn plates'; but a careful examination showed that the lines of shading upon the eye-ball (which are usually the first to disappear as the plate begins to wear) and upon other parts of the head, were quite distinct, and the greyish colour was doubtless merely due to the ink being of somewhat thinner consistency than usual.

Of the other plates we know that plate 5 was printed from in red, for the Earl of Crawford showed one in the recent London Philatelic Exhibition; and of plates 10 and 11 I have undoubted copies in both colours; but with regard to the remaining plates I can give no information, though the presumption is that plates 8 and 9 also exist in both colours.

Of the stamps which I have been able to identify, those from plates 10 and 11 seem to be the rarest, and according to the "Adhesive Stamps of the British Isles" 10,000 sheets were printed from each plate; however, in my experience, plate 11 is by far the rarer of the two, and of the dozens of stamps I have seen showing the J with square foot, only one was from plate 11, the rest of course all being impressions from plate 10.

Conversely, impressions in red from plate 10 are very much scarcer than those in this colour from plate 11.

Correspondence.

Pine Creek Hills,
via Brisbane River,
Queensland.

The Editor *P.J.G.B.*

DEAR SIR,

BUSH MAILS.

It may interest your readers to know how the mailmen in this part of the world deliver their letters. I am living at a big mixed station (cattle and sheep) some thirty miles from the nearest township. We have a weekly delivery of letters, the mailman leaving the Railway Station, which is also the Post Office, every Tuesday, returning there on the following Saturday. During the time he is on the road he covers a distance of nearly 150 miles, driving one horse in a light four-wheel buckboard. Not only does he deliver letters, but he collects them also, while he acts as a regular carrier for the district, taking from a pound of wire nails to a bag of sugar or a case of kerosine, for the cartage of which he is usually paid in kind; generally either by sleeping accommodation and food, or by being allowed to run a horse or horses in a good grass paddock for a while.

Settlers living some distance off the main tracks usually have a box nailed on to a blazed tree alongside the track, so that the mailman, in driving past, can drop their letters in, should, of course, there be any to deliver.

I am afraid I cannot give your readers any actual stamp news, the only stamps one comes across are the current, $\frac{1}{4}$ d., 1d. and 2d. Queensland stamps, mostly the latter, because 2d. is the local rate of postage.

Wishing the *P.J.G.B.* and staff the Compliments of the Season,

Believe me, yours sincerely,

A. C. FINLATER.

Forged Foreign Stamps.

THE prosecution of the young man, Harold Treherne, who was now said to be aged 24, and not 19, as previously stated, for obtaining money by false pretences from various dealers by means of forged foreign stamps, was concluded at the Brighton Quarter Sessions, yesterday, when the Recorder passed sentence of four months' hard labour.

Accused had pleaded guilty at the previous Sessions, and sentence had been deferred in the expectation that some information would be forthcoming with reference to the parties, who were supposed to be associated with accused in the frauds,

In the meantime, the Inland Revenue Authorities had taken proceedings against him for penalties under the Post Office Acts,

and it was then stated that the discovery of the prisoner's transactions had resulted in the seizure of a large forged stamp factory. For that offence he was fined £15 and costs; in default, one month's imprisonment.

A statement was now put in on behalf of the prisoner. After perusing it, the Recorder said he was driven to the conclusion that whoever might have been behind the accused, he was the leading conspirator, and, in fact, a very ingenious and accomplished accomplice. As the fine already imposed had not been paid, the present sentence is additional to the month in default.—*Daily Telegraph.*

Competition.

LAST month's puzzle was, we are afraid, far too easy, no fewer than eighteen competitors sending in the correct answers. The first two letters opened on January 9th both contained the correct solutions, namely:

Sierra Leone.

Panama.

Travancore.

Rajndgaon.

and the 1st prize of 10/6 has been duly forwarded to Mr. G. Roseway, of Leytonstone, while Mr. E. Ford, of Hampstead, is entitled to select stamps to the value of ten shillings from our approval books. The competition for next month is also an easy one.

The first two letters opened by us on February 10th containing a correct list of all the stamp issuing British Colonies that have issued postage stamps on which is depicted a ship or ships, will ensure for their senders a cheque for half a guinea, or ten shillings worth of stamps at our marked prices from our approval books.

For the purpose of this competition every class of boat has been designated a ship, from the row boats on the Dominica stamps to the full-rigged ships of British Guiana.

Each competitor must address his envelope The Editor *P.J.G.B.*, 84, High Holborn, W.C. and mark it "Competition," while he must enclose the names and addresses of two friends who are active stamp collectors.

Coming Caymans.

CAYMAN ISLANDS stamps will, in future, bear the words "Postage and Revenue," instead of only "Postage." $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and 1d. stamps of this kind have recently been supplied, but there has been no change of colour or paper. Two new values, *i.e.*, 3d. and 10s., will be issued shortly, and a change of the colours of the other stamps of the series is under consideration. No change, of course, will be made in the 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. value.—*Colonial Office Journal.*



JAN. 20, 1908.

Philately at Home.

The *Monthly Journal* for December is a capital paper, containing much of interest and instruction. In the Editorial, a very reasonable one, we find that Major Evans considers the year 1907 as having "perhaps been a comparatively uneventful one." If 1907 has been comparatively uneventful, may the gods save us from an eventful twelve months. Surely Major Evans must have overlooked one or more of the following great events that have so recently eventuated: (1) Issue of Solomon Island Stamps, (2) Emigration of Cornelius Wrinkle to Foreign Waters, (3) Birth of the "*Stostage Pamph*," (4) Discovery of an Inverted Stop on the Earthquake Stamp of Barbados, (5) Sale of *two* Tolima Stamps by a well-known Holborn Firm, (6) The Great I.P.U. Corroborree at Anderton's Hotel. Any one of these great events would make an eventful year. We wonder what would constitute an eventful year for Major Evans. Surely the sale of two famous, and a great number of smaller collections, the death of at least half-a-dozen eminent philatelists, the publication of two very important philatelic handbooks (India and France), the birth of three new stamp papers (including the *Herts Monthly Report*), the formation of several new Philatelic Societies, the holding of two Stamp Exhibitions, are some of the features, in our opinion, of an extremely eventful year.

Mons. L. Hanciau continues his elaborate research on "The Postal Issues of Italy and the Italian Colonies," being mainly composed of official reports between the years 1856 and 1861, all being of great interest to collectors of Italian stamps.

Mr. J. Bornefeld continues his exhaustive and interesting article on the "Electrotyped Stamps of Queensland"—1879-1906—in the current instalment he deals with the 1882 issue. We make a lengthy extract,

although, to thoroughly appreciate Mr. Bornefeld's article, it is very necessary to see the excellent plates with which his paper is illustrated.

The primitive design of Mr. Bell had not been found satisfactory; and as early as January, 1881, an order was sent home to Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. for a new die, which, through some misunderstanding, did not arrive in the desired form till April, 1882.

The execution of the die must have given entire satisfaction, as the design has formed a foundation for almost all of those that have been in use down to the present day. The process of making the moulds for the various values was the same as that described in the previous issue.

The original die having the value "TWO PENCE" engraved upon it, a first group of four was made therefrom, and this was then used for the production of a quantity of electrotypes, thirty of which probably formed the first plate of the Two Pence value, making up the 120 stamps in the sheet.

One of these blocks of four, with the words "two" filled in and the words "six" engraved in their places, formed the original block of the Six Pence value, from which were produced all the electrotypes of the plate from which the 6d. stamps were printed. Similar blocks with both the words "two" and "PENCE" filled in had "ONE PENNY," "FOUR PENCE," and "ONE SHILLING" engraved upon them, and were used in like manner for the production of what I term Mould A of the 1d. and the only moulds of the 4d. and 1s. We thus have certain "moulds" or groups of four, of the 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d., and 1/-, which have running through them certain characteristics (some of which I consider to be intentional secret marks) which prove them to have all been produced from one original block of four impressions of the original engraved die.

Of the two lower values further moulds were constructed; those mentioned above I term Mould A of the 1d. and 2d., and we find in addition Mould B of the 1d., and Moulds B and C of the 2d.

Whether any of the plates of either of those values consisted in the first instance of electrotypes from one of those moulds alone, I have been unable to ascertain, but I do know that there was a plate of the 1d. in which both A and B were represented, and one of the 2d. which included A, B and C.

It would almost seem as if the authorities (or the electrotyper and engraver) thought that the multiplication of varieties was a safeguard against forgery, as they might have saved themselves a great deal of trouble if they had made the alterations in the value, etc., on one electrotypes only in each case, instead of upon a whole group of four. In addition to altering the value in the 1d., 4d. and 1s., alterations were made in the upper and lower portions of the ornaments at the sides of the oval band, and this again was done, as if for some special reason, separately upon each of the four types of each of these three values. It is true that the value in the 4d. and 1s. occupies more space than in the 2d., and this may have rendered it necessary to shorten the lower curls

of the ornaments in those two values; but there is not the same reason for the alterations in the 1d., and in any case they might well have been made upon one reproduction only of the original die. I am therefore of opinion that there was an intention, in some cases at any rate, to produce secret marks (perhaps to distinguish certain plates, as in some of the stamps of Great Britain). Prominent among these is a little loop, or "hook" as I propose to term it, at the right-hand side of the upper branch of the foliate ornament in the right lower spandrel, which is always to be found in Type III. of each group of four of Moulds A of the 1d. and 2d., and of the Moulds of the 4d., 6d. and 1s. This is marked "2" in the enlarged illustrations of the various types, and in the drawing to be given later. It may be an accidental flaw in Type III. of the original block of four struck from the original die, but it could easily have been removed in the course of the construction of the electro-types, when so many other alterations were made, and it does not appear in Mould B of the 1d. or in B or C of the 2d.

If we examine the last printing of the 2d. and 6d. of the 1879 type, we find that the plates must have been in very bad condition, much more so than those of the other values; this would account for the fact that the construction of new plates for those values was hastened, and that no alterations were made in the side ornaments. These devices, in their original state, as seen in the 2d. and 6d., are symmetrical and artistic; as altered in each of the four types of the other three values they are unsightly deformities. If we regard these and the little "hook" in Type III. of each group as secret marks, we may also look upon the little variations to be found in Mould B of the 1d. and in Moulds B and C of the 2d. as something of the same nature.

We are afraid this line of research will only appeal to the very advanced collectors of Queensland stamps, many of whom are only interested in the line engraved series.

Mr. Frank Phillips concludes his translation of Mons. D. Svenson's article on the "Stamps of Wenden," dealing with the 1880, and later issues. We learn that of the variety with the mailed Arm, printed twice, only eleven copies are known, all of which appear now to be in Continental collections. The last issue (Castle of Wenden type) is exhaustively dealt with; there were it appears three printings of this stamp, each one of which shows various varieties. The article should be of great interest to the very limited number of philatelists who collect these stamps.

An interesting paper, explaining how the Worcester (U.S.A.) stamp myth came into existence; A further instalment of Mr. Leavy's now monotonous catalogue of recent Salvador issues; A long account of the Brighton stamp case and the usual excellent list of new issues completes a notable number of our esteemed contemporary.

The *London Philatelist* for December contains an exhaustive paper, contributed

by Mr. Franz Reichenheim, on the 'Sower' types of French stamps and their different retouches. This article embodies the notes read before the Royal Philatelic Society, on Dec. 5th, by Mr. Reichenheim, and is of great interest to collectors who are interested in the small details of recent French issues.

Accompanying the article are two excellent plates illustrating twelve varieties of the recently issued type of "Sower" stamps. Although we should like to make a much longer extract, we must content ourselves with extracting the following synopsis:

DESIGN No. I.

"Sower" with lined background, with line marking horizon and with rising sun.

2 April, 1903 .. 15c. slate-green (shades).
Varieties: a. On thin paper.
b. On thick paper.
c. Imperforate.

28 April, 1903 .. 25c. blue (many shades).
6 May, 1903 .. 10c. rose-carmine (shades).
Variety: Imperforate.

29 June, 1903 .. 20c. purple (many shades).
30c. lilac (several shades).
Variety: Imperforate.

(Suppressed by Decree, dated 4 April, 1906).

DESIGN No. II.

"Sower" walking on an incline. Background quite plain.

13 April, 1906 .. Type I. (shaded face and shaded arms, etc., stamps printed in blocks of fifty without millésimes).
10c. vermilion.

17 May, 1906 .. Type II. (shading on the face, arms, etc., taken off, stamps printed in the usual sheets with millésimes).
10c. vermilion.

DESIGN No. III.

"Sower" walking on flat ground.

28 July, 1906 .. Type I. (thin figure of "Sower").
10c. vermilion.

15 October, 1906 .. Type II. (figure improved by a thin white line, added by Monsieur Mouchon).
10c. vermilion.

Varieties: a. Imperforate (?).
b. 10c. brick red.

15 October, 1906 .. Type III. (white line made thicker at the Government Printing Office).
10c. vermilion.

Varieties: a. Imperforate (?).
b. 10c. brick red.

Date ? .. Type IV. (as Types II. and III., but shading of garments in loops).
10c. vermilion.

DESIGN No. III.

Types II. and III.

9 November, 1906 35c. (thin figures of value), lilac (shades).

Variety: Imperforate.

DESIGN No. IV.

Similar to Design III., Type III., but some shading round the lower part of the right arm and some shading between the original contour of the figure and the added white line taken off.

5 March, 1907, in booklets	} 5c. dark green (four shades).
19 " " " in sheets	
	Variety: Imperforate (?).
25 May, 1907 ..	30c. orange (three shades).
	Variety: Imperforate (?).
19 June, 1907 ..	25c. blue (five shades).
	Variety: Imperforate.
End of November, 1907	35c. (thick figures of value), reddish-lilac.

FRANCHISE MILITAIRE STAMPS.

DESIGN No. I.

"Sower" with lined background, with line marking the horizon and with rising sun.

July, 1904	15c. olive, surcharged "F.M." in dead black.
	15c. olive, ditto in shiny black.
	Variety: No stop after "M."
July, 1906	10c. rose, surcharged "F.M." in black.
	Variety: No stop after "M."

DESIGN No. III.

"Sower" walking on flat ground.

Type II. (figure improved by a thin white line added by Monsieur Mouchon).

August, 1907	10c. vermilion, surcharged "F.M." in black.
	Type III. (white line made thicker at the Government Printing Office)
	10c. vermilion, surcharged "F.M." in black.

To the above excellent list must be added the 20c. just issued, with thick figures of value.

A good deal of other interesting matter is to be found in the columns of our contemporary.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly, our most welcome weekly exchange, is always to be relied upon for one or more good things, if there is a fault to be found with the "green 'un" it is that there is sometimes rather too much "Gibbons" and not enough "Stamp."

It is hard to pick out any one individual article for review, each number containing several of interest. In the copy dated December 14th Mr. A. H. Davis, of Montevideo, contributes a very interesting account of South American stamp doings; in the course of his letter he says that:—

According to a return just published there are in this country (Uruguay), in addition to the G.P.O., 18 sub post offices, 77 branch offices, 787 agencies, and 50 telegraph offices; and considering that this is a very sparsely populated country with only one or two towns of any importance, I think we are remarkably well served.

In the copy dated December 21st, we find an interesting little article on the "Stamps of Papua." At first, one would hardly think that there could be much to interest one in these stamps, but the writer, who hides his identity under the initials D.C.G., has really made the stamps of Papua seem quite respectable. The following short extract is typical and interesting:

It may be thought that specialism in the case of the stamps of a country like Papua is impossible. However, a good deal can be done with the used stamps, even though the stamps in an unused condition present few, if any, variations of importance, excepting that sets can be made on thick and on much thinner paper. The stamps in used condition are by no means common and in the case of some varieties of postmark are only to be obtained after considerable search. For some time the stamps of Queensland were used in the territory. These can be identified by the postmarks, which are B.N.G. surrounded by bars "Port Morseby" or "Samaria."

G.S.W. for December 28th, is a Xmas number and contains a variety of lighter reading. Mr. W. Ward contributes a humorous little paper, entitled, "Commemorative Sticky-Backs," in the course of which he tells us that there is to be a new issue of Spanish stamps, the illustrations to be as follows:

2c., Queen of Spain.
5c., King of Spain.
10c., King and Queen.
15c., Baby Prince.
25c., Queen and Prince.
50c., King and Prince.
1p., King, Queen and Prince.
5p., Ace, King, Queen, and Jack.

In all the numbers of *G.S.W.* before us, Messrs. Bernstein and Nissen peg along with their admirable article on "British Stamps Used Abroad," while Mr. Barnsdall contributes his weekly two pages of Finland, Fiji or Federated Malay States, just as the case may be. Nothing apparently comes amiss to Mr. Barnsdall, he would just as cheerfully contribute two pages about the stamps of Brighton, as he would about the first issue of Saxony.

G.S.W. for January 4th, 1908, arrived minus its nice green coat, rather hard on the little chap this cold weather, but *G.S.W.* is a growing and healthy youngster so perhaps no harm will accrue. An interesting article is contributed by Mr. R. E. R. Dalwick, being a few "Notes on the Provisional Stamps of Grenada," while Messrs. Bernstein and Nissen with their instalment of British Stamps Used Abroad, and other contributors, maintain the very high standard set during the past few months, by the white—late—green-un!

The *Philatelic Record* for December contains a somewhat belated, but very good, description of the recent French Official Exhibition; a short sketch and photo of the late Mons. A. Maury; a short account of the British exhibits in the Dublin National Collection of Stamps, over which Mr. W. R. Lane Joynt is the presiding genius; and the usual monthly features, namely, a New Issue List, some Notes

and News, and a short Editorial note, dealing with Mr. Warren Colson's recently published book.

The *Monthly Report* of the Herts Philatelic Society for December contains an interesting and valuable paper on the Perkins, Bacon stamps of New Zealand. Mr. Hausburg displayed his collection of these stamps before the H.P.S., on Nov. 19th, and the notes embodied in the article referred to above, are of exceptional interest. Referring to the perforated stamps, Mr. Hausburg says :

Various experiments were tried at first, and though they were not officially sanctioned, several different methods for facilitating the separation of stamps were employed at various Post Offices by the Officials. This is the origin of the roulettes, pin, and serrated perforations. The earliest dates for these are :—

Serrated perforations .. Aug. 11th, 1862
Roulettes Dec. 10th, 1862

These were soon followed by the appearance of stamps perforated 13, with round holes, but—and this is a most important point, and one that I believe has not been published before—this perforation was also not official, and though authorised by the Postmaster at one of the head offices, namely, Dunedin, the perforating was not done at the Post Office nor by Government Officials. The earliest date at present known on a stamp with this perforation is January 16th, 1863.

You will see in Catalogues two perforations assigned to New Zealand stamps of the first type—12½ and 13. The 2d. without watermark on the thick white paper is usually said to be perforated 13, while the stamps on the pelure, star, and N.Z. papers are sometimes said to be perforated, either 12½ or 13, or both. As a matter of fact this 2d. without watermark, all the pelure paper series, all the stamps in the early shades on the Star paper, and some of the stamps on the N.Z. paper, are perforated 13; and this perforation was done at Dunedin, some two years before the introduction of a machine at the Government printing office, which at that time was at Auckland.

Fortunately I had been working at these perforations for some years before going to New Zealand early in 1905, and consequently on arriving at Dunedin I started on a voyage of discovery among the various printers and stationers. I soon noticed a name that seemed familiar, namely, "Fergusson," of the firm of "Fergusson and Mitchell," and found that I was on the right track, being fortunate enough to meet there an old employé of the firm, Alexander Stewart, who had actually assisted at perforating the stamps himself. He had been in Melbourne up till the year 1862 with Messrs. Campbell and Fergusson, and had helped to print some of the early Victoria stamps.

The Dunedin perforating machine was a single-line one worked by hand, and Stewart and another workman used to take it in turn to move forward the sheets of stamps, as each line was perforated, and to work the lever. The amount paid for perforating the stamps was 2d. per sheet, of which the two workmen received 1d. between them. The sheets were brought by Stewart from the Post Office, as required, and at night-time placed under his pillow for safety. He soon found out that it was just as easy to perforate four or five sheets at a time as one, but this was never done as long as any of the heads of the firm were present, as it was feared that the rate of pay would be reduced if this artifice were discovered, and Stewart told me that his employers could never understand how it was possible to get the sheets perforated so quickly.

The gauge of this machine was about 13, and the important point to bear in mind when gauging a

stamp is that it is always 13 or over; that is to say, between 13 and 13½. If a stamp gauges between 12½ and 13 it belongs to the 12½ series. This 13 machine was used for about two years, and its use was discontinued, no doubt as soon as the 12½ machine was introduced at Auckland, and also partly because for some considerable time a large quantity of sheets of stamps were lost at Dunedin, and were only found quite by chance behind a drawer in Messrs. Fergusson and Mitchell's office. I give you this information just as I got it, but of course cannot guarantee the accuracy of all the details. There is not, at any rate as far as I know, anything to be discovered from the study of the stamps themselves that disproves any of these statements.

The earliest dates at present known for the stamps on the various papers, perforated 13, are :—

Star watermark Jan. 16, 1863.
Pelure paper, no watermark .. Feb. 27, 1863.
Thick paper July 18, 1863.
N.Z. paper Aug. 1, 1864.

The earliest known copy of the pelure paper imperforate is dated October 3rd, 1862, while the earliest Colonial print on Star watermark paper is dated May 9th, 1862, which goes to prove that the pelure paper was used during a temporary shortage in the supply of Star paper.

A similar remark applies to the 2d. on the thick paper, perforated 13. This was doubtless printed at a much later date than the regular issue on the thick unwatermarked paper. The plate is in a worn state, considerably later than when the early Colonial printings on the star paper were made.

The 2d. on thick paper in the worn state is also to be found imperforate as well as perforated 13, showing that only a portion of the printing was sent to Dunedin and perforated there. It is a very scarce stamp unused, either imperforate or perforated.

The N.Z. paper was also used during a temporary shortage of the star paper, and some of the 2d. and most of the 1s. that are found perforated gauge 13. Most of the 2d. and all the 6d. that were perforated were done by the Auckland machine.

The latter was a "comb-machine" or triple cutter and, as before stated, gauges about 12½. It does not appear to have been very satisfactory, or was perhaps carelessly handled. The pins seem to have soon become broken and bent, and it was either superseded by a single-line machine with approximately the same gauge, or more probably the old machine was fitted with a single line of pins. Unfortunately it has disappeared from the Government stores.

Mr. Hausburg gives two lists of stamps, the first perf. 13 and the second 12½. The former comprises the 2d. thick paper, no wmk., the four values on pelure, early shades of the stamps on large star paper and the 2d. and 1/- N.Z. The perf. 12½ list contains the later shades of all values on large star paper and the 2d., 6d. and 1/-, wmk. N.Z., in fact, all the later printings.

The *Monthly Report* is indeed fortunate in being able to publish so valuable a research. We heartily congratulate Mr. Hausburg and Mr. Reichenheim.

The *Postage Stamp* still makes a weekly visit, per Smith's boy, at our Editorial doorstep (the P.S. is the only philatelic paper that apparently won't exchange

with its confreres). Each number contains a great deal of Messrs. Nankivell and Poole, the former contributing interesting short accounts of the postal history of Southern Nigeria, Bahamas and Sweden, while the latter continues his excellent Dictionary of philatelic terms, also his paper on "Marginal Varieties." The *Postage Stamp* is very largely made up with extracts from other papers, in the selection of which Cornelius shews great judgment.

We notice that a paper, sent by the Secretary of the Transvaal P.S. to the *P.J.G.B.*, and published by us in our November number, has been *lifted* in full by the *Postage Stamp*, without acknowledgment of any sort.

The last three numbers of the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* have all contained much to interest collectors. The number dated December 14th, contains a long account of the Brighton Stamp Case, and a readable review of Mr. Colson's new book.

The *S.C.F.* for December 28th, contains a further instalment of Mr. J. Corner-Spokes translation of "The Imitations of the Stamps of Japan," illustrated, as in previous numbers with the original blocks. In the copy dated January 11th, the final closing acts in the Brighton Stamp Case are detailed. We learn that Mr. Harold Treherne will not trouble stamp collectors for a period of four months. During that time he will be a visitor at Lewes, probably employed in making mail bags for the Post Office authorities; if so, they will get a little of their own back.

We notice that the publishers of the *S.C.F.* "have in contemplation a scheme for the presentation of a certain number of special *S.C.F.* medals to philatelists of distinction during the present year."

We await with great eagerness the details of the above scheme, in the meantime we may perhaps mention that ours must be a gold one, but then of course the *S.C.F.* would not present baser metal.

The same number of the *S.C.F.* contains another instalment of "The Imitations of the Stamps of Japan" and the first of what promises to be an interesting article on the "Stamps Used in the Levant" by Mr. W. Ward.

Philately Abroad.

Echo de la Timbrologie. Dec. 15th and 31st.

We find a list of the Roumanian Jubilee and Charity issues which have been offered for sale by the Government, at present without success. The total face value of the Jubilee issue amounts to about £125,000, and the largest bid yet received is £2,000, which has been declined, the Director of Posts having declared publicly that he will not part with the lot under £8,000. Of many of the stamps half the whole issue remain, and of the Hospital series, 1905-6, 40,000 sets; of the 1907 issue, 400,000 sets were sold for £800, and were immediately afterwards on sale locally at less than 1d. a set. To such base uses has philately tended.

The first part of some interesting notes on the provisional issues of Peru appear in the later number, dealing with the stamps issued during the occupation of that country by the victorious Chilean army. The general Saavedra put no obstacles in the way of the conduct of the postal service, and the military post of Chili occupied the post offices at Lima and Callao for nearly two years, the Peruvian administration being surpressed during that period. The stamps used were the current issue of Peru, bearing a surcharge, in various colours, of the arms of Chili. Further military successes gave the Chileans extended administration, and in these places stamps of Chili were used, and can be told by the obliteration employed. Finding that the available stock of Chili stamps was insufficient to serve the demands upon it, resort was made to a second surcharging of Peruvian stamps, with "Union Postal Universal" within a horse-shoe loop above the word "Peru," and of this issue many varieties are known. After the departure of the conquering forces the state of Peru bordered upon bankruptcy, and the postal service suffered greatly. Further surcharging was done upon the same issue of Peru, with the triangular surcharge, with and without the horseshoe type alluded to, and there were many varieties, which we would like to hope were due alone to the condition of the distressed country.

The publishers of the *Echo de la Timbrologie* announce a French translation of the work of Herr Ohrt on reprints, the first volume of which has recently been published by Senf. Full appreciation is given to the value of this work, and we trust that similar enterprise may make it available for English readers.

Journal des Philatélistes. December.

The new international postal tariff is examined by our contemporary with regard to the comparative rates, and to some anomalies which result from the slight differences in the coinage equivalents of the various countries. A letter costs in France 25 centimes for the

first 15 grammes, and 15 centimes for each 15 grammes in addition; in Germany, 20 pfennig (25 centimes) for the first 20 grammes, and 10 pfennig (12½ centimes) for each additional 20 grammes; in England, 2½d (25 centimes) for the first ounce (28 grammes), and 1½d. (15 centimes) for each additional ounce. From the above, it will be seen that a letter weighing 80 grammes despatched from France would cost 100 centimes; from Germany, 62½ centimes; from England, 55 centimes; and with one of 40 grammes (a little over 1½ oz.) weight, the disparity is made even more apparent, the respective cost being France, 4fr. 15; Germany, 2fr. 62½; England, 2fr. 35. We preserve the figures in French coinage, as they go far to excuse the complaint of what the writer calls a "fantastic" tariff arrangement.

According to this journal, a "Polar" stamp is about to be perpetrated. On subscribing 5 francs, a French Arctic expedition will forward, from Tromsø, a letter with a special label attached, as well as the exquisite Norwegian stamp, and as the expedition makes its way north, other varieties will be sent forth in a diversity of colours, always to be accompanied by the real franking stamp, and the higher the latitude, the higher the "subscription." Comment is superfluous on this form of philatelic insanity, but we cannot repress anticipation of complaint that the "issue" should be considered "unnecessary," for though there may be inhabitants of the regions which the expedition goes to discover, we hope that it has not set out to add to other blessings of civilisation a postal service on, say, East Indian lines.

Le Postillon, December.

Another terror has been added to philately in France, already long-suffering, by the result of the recent prosecution of a well-known stamp dealer. The possession of *used* forged stamps of the Republic has been declared unlawful, and the said dealer was mulcted in the fine of fifty francs. The plea that he had purchased them at the Stamp Bourse as forgeries, that he had a reputation of twenty years standing, and that the stamps themselves were sold as curiosities rather than with any attempt to defraud, availed not. It may not be in vain to look forward to the day when, with a consistent energy of governments, the disseminator of forgeries which are a real menace to philatelists may receive equal attention at the hands of Justice.

Collectionneur de Timbres-poste, December.

In an article headed "The End of Collecting," an account is given of an automatic machine invented to frank and postmark letters, and of its application by the New Zealand Government as set forth in the Report of the Postmaster-General for 1906-7, one hundred machines having been placed at the disposition of that government. These automa-

tic machines are loaned by the post office to approved mercantile houses, and each machine will stamp values of ¼d., 1d., 3d., and 1/-, up to such amount as has, for the earlier type of machine, been entered at the slot, or for later types been indicated by a pointer; and proper checking is provided against fraud, which the control exercised by the authorities is said to prevent. The report states that the machines have given satisfaction, and under a restricted system there seems no reason why heavy postal deliveries of particular firms should not be dealt with in this way, especially where such deliveries are not sufficient to lead to the provisions of a special post office for the purpose of transacting unusually important business, as is found occasionally in London.

Philately in the Colonies and Elsewhere.

The *Philatelic Journal of India* for December is a good number, in fact, the best published, since the present Editor has been in power. Sir David Masson and Mr. Gordon Jones contribute a continuation of their exhaustive notes on Afghans, of which interesting but exceedingly intricate stamps, Sir D. P. Masson has a superb collection.

Mr. J. Godinho contributes a second instalment of his paper entitled "The Introduction of Postage Stamps in British India." The following extract from the report of the gentlemen appointed as Commissioners to report on the advisability of introducing stamps into India is interesting.

The kind of stamp, which, so far as we can judge, appears best suited to the circumstances of this country is the common adhesive label stamp in use in England. The weight of one of these labels is about three-quarters of a grain, or not more than a sixtieth part of a quarter tola, the lowest denomination of chargeable weight. To the use of these it has been objected, that the adhesive matter on the back is liable to become deteriorated in the climate of India, and the stamp to fall from the letter during its passage through the Post Office, either before or after obliteration. But we believe that the care with which the gum attached to the stamps is prepared in England will obviate this objection, at least to a great extent, and if not entirely, recourse must be had, as in similar cases in England, to the use of gum or paste, which is now ordinarily used by the natives of India for closing their letters, and which, may, with equal facility, be applied to the purpose of rendering the stamp more secure. The climate of the Southern States of the American Union, where adhesive stamps are in use, is not less unfavourable to them than that of India. The only values which we think would be required are the half-anna (Red), and the one-anna (Blue), and these would best be supplied by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue in England, on indent from this country through the Honourable Court of Directors, in the same way as the penny and two-penny postage stamps

are now supplied for distribution to the public in the United Kingdom.

A list of King's Head stamps supplied overprinted for the States of Chamba, Gwalior, Jhind, Nabha, and Patiala is given and proves reflective and interesting reading.

We learn that no fewer than 3,194,880 of the 3 pies stamp have been overprinted for use in Gwalior (not including the Service stamp) against 961,200 of the $\frac{1}{4}$ anna (both types). The Editor of the *P.J. of I.* remarks that some of the figures savour of the 10% over-face-automatic-machine-dealers methods—in which we heartily agree—but we are grieved to hear so harsh a term applied to the poor English dealers who may chance to own one or more of those lucrative machines. It isn't brotherly, Mr. Jones.

We learn from the list that the 2½as. overprinted for use in Gwalior has not yet been issued; this stamp is, however, listed by S.G., evidently in error.

The Notes and Extracts are voluminous and well written, also the review of the Philatelic Press. Glancing through the latter, we find the *Monthly Journal* quoted as being one of the very best of philatelic papers. How gratifying to Major Evans to be told that; of course the *P.J. of I.* comes first, and then we suppose, the *M.J.* fights for second place with the *East Side Collector* and the *Label Philatelists' Daily*.

Very few copies of *Mekeel's Weekly* have come to hand lately, a fact much regretted because *M. W.* nearly always contains something of interest.

The copy dated December 6th contains, hidden away amongst the editorial notes, the following:—

An editorial writer in a newspaper of standing says that again, St. Croix and St. Thomas seem destined to be absorbed by the United States. The discontent at present in the Danish West Indies is so grave among all classes that they feel keenly the necessity for a governmental change and it is expected that the United States will be petitioned to acquire the islands. Denmark is represented as being unable or unwilling to encourage the material side of its colonies, and while the mother country attends to taxing the islands, it does not furnish any appropriations to promote their welfare. About six years ago, the stamp papers had annexed the islands to the United States so often that the subject became something of a joke to philatelic readers. It is likely that the expected will come to pass and that the Danish West Indies will become a part of the United States and share in the prosperity that Porto Rico is enjoying.

Poor old Denmark—quite played out. The eagle, with apologies to the other eagles (of Europe generally), likes to flap

its wings and screech. Porto Rico and prosperity! Philippines and peace!! Cuba and contentment!!!

The theme of annexation is evidently so pleasing that the following forecast is fondly indulged in by our confrere.

What May Happen—In this connection, it should be added that so dominant a factor has the United States become in the western world during the past comparatively few years that the commercial relations of many of the British West Indies are strongest with this country. The ties of loyalty that bind the islands in question to Great Britain constantly are becoming weakened, according to report. It is not that the sentimental affection for the mother country is curbed so much as commercial necessity and expediency that points to one seemingly inevitable destination for many of the British West Indies. By force of circumstances the inhabitants are becoming Americanized and recently "the largest and most influential newspaper in the British West Indies" printed an editorial that shows the trend of thought, "the commercial stagnation in the British islands is driving them to depend economically upon America, and also to regard it as the future dominant influence in the West Indies." The newspaper says that at home, there are Englishmen who are advocating the cession of the West Indian colonies to the United States on the advanced and unselfish theory that the mother country when no longer in a position to benefit its dependencies should dissolve the union and encourage them to make a more favorable alliance. Under an analysis of existing political conditions it does not seem as if the possibility of the United States absorbing the British West Indies is so remote as to make it profitless to discuss it.

Fortunately, loyalty, whatever it may be in the U.S.A., is not yet a matter of dollars and cents in the British West Indies. Although many of the residents in the Islands resent the way Britain treats some of her smaller possessions, they still prefer the present *regime* to a possible cession to Yankee Government. We should like to see a copy of the West Indian newspaper which quoted Englishmen (in England) as advising the cession of the B.W.I. on such advanced and unselfish lines, surely the "Englishmen" must be a misprint—Mr. K-r H-r-e is touring in New Zealand.

We notice that in the same number of *Mekeel's* they have annexed Mr. Pemberton's article on Gambia, that appeared in our columns some months ago; evidently they appreciate "Papers for Moderate Specialists," as up to the present, they have, we believe, reprinted (with due acknowledgments, of course) all our articles.

BINDING CASES

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The Official Organ of the International Philatelic Union, and the Sheffield Philatelic Society.

No. 206. VOL. XVIII.

FEB. 20, 1908.

[PRICE 2D.]

EDITORIAL.

THE go-ahead Juniors have chosen a grand and impressive title for their forthcoming Exhibition, a title we think that will be justified, for the Junior Philatelic Society is composed mostly of energetic collectors, many of whom will give active

The Imperial Stamp Exhibition.

help towards insuring the success of the 1908 Exhibition. There is no possible doubt that Stamp Exhibitions do an immense amount of good from a philatelic point of view. These advantages are so numerous and so obvious that it is hardly necessary for us to enumerate them here. Perhaps the best feature is the number of new recruits that are attracted to our hobby, many of whom become in time well-known philatelists.

Fortunately, stamp collecting, although one of the most democratic of pursuits, is a hobby that entails a certain amount of study. Books, stamp papers, and catalogues are all of great assistance to the philatelic beginner, but the surest and best information can be obtained from actual study of the stamps themselves, and Exhibitions, which include both large and small collections, are admirable places for picking up philatelic knowledge.

Perhaps it is the ambition of every good collector to become the recognized authority on the stamps of one or more countries and this end can only be

obtained by much patient study; fortunately, for many collectors, the door leading to success is not unlocked with only a golden key. We sincerely hope that hundreds of collectors and would-be collectors who visit the Stamp Exhibition on March 12th, 13th and 14th, will not be discouraged when they are told, as they undoubtedly will be, that so-and so's Gambia's cost him £100, or so-and-so's Indians cost him £500. Philately is *not* a matter of £ s. d.; fortunate indeed is the collector with a big bank balance, but he reaps no keener enjoyment from his study of a £50 stamp than does the collector who has been successful in his search after a fine copy of a stamp priced at 6d.

As this number of the *P.J.G.B.* will be on sale at the Exhibition, and will probably be read by many hundreds of people who are thinking of taking up stamp collecting as a hobby, we would again like to emphasize the fact, that to be a successful philatelist, or to gain full enjoyment out of a stamp collection, it is not at all necessary to be the owner of a big bank balance. The people most likely to enjoy the cult of Philately are those who are prepared to devote a certain amount of time to the study of their stamps. An *interesting* collection can be formed at the expense of only a few pounds, not, of course, a specialised exhibit of the stamps of half-a-dozen countries, but a collection of rare shades and scarce postmarks, the study of which will possibly enable its

owner to pick up, at ridiculous prices, really scarce stamps.

We do not wish our readers to think that the charm of stamp collecting consists in only buying stamps priced either in ignorance or by inadvertance at very low figures. Scarce stamps are worth good prices, and provided a selection is judiciously made, they should shew a small profit, not a loss, if kept for a few years. The true philatelist is not a speculator. Unfortunately, although many of us may have the true instincts, we have not the spare cash to purchase indiscriminately, so we limit our expendi-

ture to stamps, most of which, if sold at a forced sale, would not shew a dead loss.

In this number of the *P. J. G. B.* we publish an excellent article contributed by Mr. Wilfred Plumridge, a well-known figure in the stamp world. We quite agree with Mr. Plumridge's opinions and should like to promote a controversy among our readers.

We anticipate a big batch of recruits to Philately as the result of the Imperial Stamp Exhibition, to all of whom our advice is *nil desperandum*; even a Post Office Mauritius or a ½d. on 5/- Cayman's may come to him who waits.

New Issues and Varieties.

(We shall be glad to receive any new issues or new varieties from our readers for description in this column. Letters should be addressed to THE EDITOR OF THE PHILATELIC JOURNAL OF GREAT BRITAIN, c/o MESSRS. P. L. PEMBERTON & Co., 84, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.)

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Antigua. The *Philatelic Record* chronicles the 2½d. value all one colour.



Adhesive. Arms Type. Multiple ordinary C.A. paper.
2½d. blue.

Barbados. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* has been informed that of the Nelson issue on multiple C.A. paper, were printed:

50,000	½d.
12,000	2d.
27,000	2½d.

British Guiana. The *British Guiana Philatelic Journal* for December chronicles the 48c. single C.A., in two distinct shades, namely, grey-black and brown-lilac and grey and brown-lilac. The same paper also chronicles the discovery of an entire pane of 60 of the "ONE CENT" on two dollars, with double impression.

British Honduras. The *Monthly Journal* on the authority of a foreign journal, chronicles

the 2c. and 5c. stamps in single colours. Doubtless only "specimen" copies have been seen.

Cayman Islands. The new permanent (?) set has commenced to make an appearance, the *London Philatelist* chronicling the ½d. and 1d. values.

Adhesive. "Postage & Revenue," multiple ordinary.
½d. green.
1d. carmine.

Federated Malay States. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the \$1 stamp on surfaced paper.

Adhesive. Multiple C.A., chalky paper.
\$1 green.

Gibraltar. The *London Philatelist* chronicles the 2/- on multiple chalky paper.



King's Head, multiple chalky.
2/- green and ultramarine.

Great Britain. *Levant.* *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the following novelties:

Adhesives. Chalky paper.
Overprinted on current issue of Great Britain.
2 piastres on 5d. purple and blue.
12 " " 2/6 lilac.

Grenada. The 6d. value is chronicled by the *London Philatelist* on multiple chalky.

Adhesive. King's Head, multiple chalky.
6d. lilac and green.

Hong Kong. The *London Philatelist* chronicles the \$10 on chalk surfaced paper.

Adhesive. King's Head, multiple chalky.
\$10 grey-black and orange on blue.

Papua. The *London Philatelist* chronicles another value of the permanent (?) set, inscribed Papua, namely the 4d. brown. They say it is perf. 12½. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* also chronicles the same value perf. 11. If two or more perforating machines are to be used concurrently we are afraid that Papuan stamps will stink in all collectors' nostrils.

Adhesive. Perf. 11. Wmk. Crown and A.
4d. brown and black.
Perf. 12½. 4d. brown and black.

Queensland. The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles some of the current stamps for this Colony on Crown and A. paper. The Crown and A. seems to differ, however, from any other type. In several instances the colours are slightly changed.



Adhesives. Wmk. Crown over A. Perf 12½.
4d. green.
1d. vermilion.
2d. blue.
4d. yellow.
6d. green.
10½. black-brown.
£1 grey-green.

Straits Settlements. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., writing to the *London Philatelist*, state that they have received the \$5 on chalky paper.

Adhesive. King's Head, multiple, chalky.
\$5 green and yellow-brown.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Austria. Yet more varieties to chronicle. In *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* we find the following novelties listed:

No Shiny Bars. Perf. 12½, 13.
5h. light yellow-green (new shade).

As above. Perf. 9, 9½.
60h. yellow-brown.

As above. Perf. compound of 12½, 13, and 9, 9½.
60h. yellow-brown.

The same paper chronicles the 24h. of the Sept. 1890 type with a compound perf. of 10, 10½ and 11, 12; also the current 1 krone stamp in a new shade, and on white paper.

24kr. grey-blue.
1 krone, carmine-rose.

Crete. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles two novelties, namely, two stamps for official letters. They are described as follows: "The two stamps seem to be lithographed, and not particularly well at that, as some of the Greek characters are defective in the rolepta. The paper is wove, unwatermarked, and the perforation gauges 14."

Officials. Perf. 14.
10l. dull claret.
50l. slate blue.

Cuba. The *London Philatelist* on the authority of an American exchange chronicles the 5c. stamp re-engraved. The "secret mark" is said to be on the label bearing the name "Cuba."

Adhesive. Re-engraved.
5c. blue.

A correspondent to *McKeel's Weekly* says he has the current 2c. shewing a marked difference in shade from the early printing. There also appear to be several new lines added to the background of the stamp.

2c. deep carmine.

Ecuador. *McKeel's Weekly* chronicles several of the current stamps overprinted with a control mark, apparently a diamond shaped hand stamp impressed once, to every block of four stamps.

French Colonies. *Senegal.* The *Monthly Circular*, on the authority of the *Timbre Poste*, chronicles the following "error" describing it as follows:—

"A genuine error of printing has occurred at the State printing works of the Boulevard Brune. 'The 2 centimes of the 'Afrique Occidentale' type has been printed with the word 'SENEGAL' in blue instead of red. As soon as the mistake was noticed the error was withdrawn from sale, but not before a few sheets had been sold to the public.' As, however, none were sent out to the colony, this variety seems to be of the same class as the recent 'Rio de Oro' error.

Italy. Mr. Canali has shown us three new Unpaid Letter stamps which, though in the same design as those with which we are so familiar, are in different colours. The numeral in the centre is printed in bright scarlet.

We have also received new 25c., 40c. and 50c. stamps in designs resembling that of the current 15c., but with the head turned to the left. The two higher values have a background of sea, but this is absent in the 25c.

Adhesives. New designs.
25c. blue.
40c. brown.
50c. lilac.

Postage Dues.

- 2c. pale olive-green and scarlet.
3c. brown and scarlet.
6c. blue-green and scarlet.

Luxemburg. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* on the authority of a Continental exchange chronicles the following high values to the current set.

Adhesives.

- 30c. olive.
87½c. blue.
1f. violet.
2½f. red.
5f. lilac.

Persia. We are indebted to Mr. L. E. Hall for the sight of some new stamps of this country. The design and colours are the same as those of the lower values of the 1903-04 issue, but all are printed on blue paper. Mr. Hall's correspondent sent them to him under cover of a letter dated Sultana-bad 4th Jan. '08. The six values given below were the only novelties on sale at this small place at that date, but probably Teheran will be able to do better. It will be seen that there are two new values, the 6 and the 9 chahis. Probably the former replaces the 5 chahis, as it is the same colour.

Adhesives. In type of 1903-04 issue. Perf. 12½.

- 1ch. mauve on blue.
2ch. grey on blue.
3ch. green on blue.
6ch. rose-red on blue.
9ch. orange-yellow on blue.
10ch. pale brown on blue.

Salvador. *Mekeel's Weekly* chronicles the current 6c. stamp (new series) with double surcharge of shield.

Adhesive. Double Surcharge.
6c. orange.

Siam. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles a new surcharge, namely the 24a. purple and blue of the 1887 issue, overprinted "I ATT" in small letters and a thin black bar running right across the lower portion of the stamp.

Adhesive Provisional.

- 1 att on 24a. purple and blue.

Switzerland. Yet another value of the current "William Tell" has to be listed, namely, the 15c. mauve.

Adhesive. 1908.

- 15c. mauve.

We have seen the 40c. on granite paper which we chronicled last month, and note that the perforation is now $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$.

United States. *Alexandria, Mekeel's Weekly* chronicles the discovery of a new variety of the Alexandria Postmaster's stamp on blue instead of buff paper. A correspondent to *Mekeel's Weekly* informs that paper that he possesses copies of the current 1c., 2c., 4c., and 10c. U.S.A. stamps on a very thin almost pelure paper.

The Troubles of the Young Collector.

BY H. WILFRED PLUMRIDGE.

ALTHOUGH it should be distinctly understood that this article does not pretend to be more than merely suggestive, no thinking man can ignore the fact that it deals with a problem that should at once be faced and grappled with; and those who are interested in the subject will be doing yeoman service to Philately if they will send ideas and suggestions to the Editor for discussion in his correspondence columns. Personally I should welcome good destructive as well as good constructive criticism: we must discard bad while trying to improve on good ideas.

Only very few philatelists are in the happy position of being entirely unconcerned as to whether their stamps are likely to increase or decrease in value as time goes on. Where one man is so well off that he can afford to regard large sums expended on a hobby merely as so much money given in return for a definite amount of enjoyment, there are probably at least a hundred men whose means render it of paramount importance that they should be able, if necessary, to sell their collections at prices which at all events would not show much loss. The average man is compelled by circumstances to make his stamps serve two distinct purposes: as a recreation; as the equivalent of a financial reserve. To such a man, and to all dealers, the question whether stamps are likely to increase or decrease in value is a most important one; yet it is a question that can very easily be answered. If the rising generation of philatelists is about as numerous as the present one, and if it possesses similar means and is subject to similar influences generally, then values will on the whole remain stationary; if, other things being equal, our successors are fewer, then values on the whole must fall; if, again, other things being equal, the rising generation is more numerous, then values will generally rise. Of course it is possible that a smaller number of collectors might, by showing more keenness, influence the market more. What I am anxious to emphasize is the fact that the future, even the immediate future to a very great extent, of philately depends on new recruits or on old ones who rejoin the ranks.

Let me hasten to say that I have no desire to put mercenary considerations disproportionately forward. Those of us to whom the joys and pleasures of stamp collecting have been very real will undoubtedly hope, for unselfish as well as selfish reasons, that young blood will be plentiful and vigorous.

What we have to do now is to enquire whether (1) the present crop of beginners is as plentiful as in the past; (2) whether any considerable number of these beginners fall

out of the ranks before they have thoroughly realised the capacity inherent in our hobby for making life brighter and consequently better; (3) whether seasoned philatelists can do anything to recruit and encourage beginners.

That there are more people than ever before who have albums of some sort, in which they plaster all the different stamps they can obtain, must be obvious to anyone that uses his eyes. The facts that stamps are now largely advertised in lay journals, that very many stationery and other shops at home and abroad sell them on commission, and that cigarette and other manufacturers give them away as prizes, conclusively prove the existence of a wide spread demand. What is also obvious is that, unfortunately, only very few of these people ever arrive at the staying stage; their enthusiasm has not been thoroughly aroused before some more or less trivial thing quenches the smouldering spark; a helping hand extended at the critical moment could have fanned that spark into an enduring flame.

To those in a position to have such things brought under their notice the number of immature collections abandoned and thrown aside is simply appalling; and I can speak with some authority on this point. In my opinion one of the chief causes of this is the discovery that the owners could only sell their collections for a mere fraction of what they cost.

How is it that the tyro pays so much more for the merest nucleus of a collection than it is really worth? Is it because the dealer in very common stamps makes such an exorbitant profit? This I do not think. The mere handling and sorting of very cheap stamps raises the price out of all proportion to their intrinsic worth. A dealer who supplied hundreds of shops with cards of cheap stamps once explained the matter to me, and as his statement of the case was detailed and logical I cannot do better than repeat its purport here:—

The working expenses in connection with the cheap stamp business are very heavy. It is true that the girls who do the cleaning, sorting, mounting and packing are not overpaid; yet when their wages have been allowed for, and when rent, rates, postage and other expenses have been reckoned with, I very much doubt if what remains really pays me for my time and trouble. Postage has to be paid whether sales are effected or not, and this means that a larger gross profit must be made when sales do take place. Then, again, the cards are often placed in sunny windows, and the stamps get hopelessly faded and damaged. Add to all this the fact that bad debts are fairly numerous—some of these small tradesmen are always going wrong and letting me in—and you will see why it is that so few dealers care about this kind of business.

From the foregoing it is easy to understand how it is the tyro has to pay such enormous

prices for the stamps he buys in the only way probably known to him. Nobody is to blame; the fault seems to be inherent; yet it is of supreme importance both to dealers and collectors that everything possible should be done to find an adequate remedy for such an unfortunate state of affairs. The only suggestions I can make are that cheap and good packets should be offered as much as possible; that when very common stamps are priced singly there is no reason why decimal fractions of a penny should not be used provided a certain number are purchased at a time; and that dealers who engage in this class of business should take the long view that it pays to sacrifice a sprat when there are very considerable chances of some day catching a good fat herring instead. Philately could not exist without the dealers; a veteran collector always regards with affection the memory of his early purchases; consequently the dealer who treats the tyro generously will be likely to reap a rich reward later on. I only hope that some of our energetic young firms will turn their genius to account in the direction of seeing what can be done to cheapen common stamps.

Forgeries and reprints have very disheartening effects on those who purchase them as genuine stamps. But as this is well known, I will not go over this part of the tyro's troubles. In my opinion, it has in the past been a very great reproach to philately that its votaries have been so singularly unready in finding even small contributions for the suppression of shady persons. This is a type of meanness which reflects very great discredit on those concerned.

Still another evil incidental to philatelic babyhood is the huge catalogue of our leading international dealers. The tyro likes to encourage himself with the hope that some day or other he may have a practically complete general collection, but the first glance through Gibbons probably kills this not unreasonable optimism, and very likely with it his philatelic yearnings as well. Let there be no mistake: Gibbons is an excellent catalogue in its way, and a credit to the firm that produces it; but it is a catalogue for specialists and not for general collectors. What we want is a first-class catalogue for the general collector compiled on logical and consequently on scientific lines. Unfortunately, both Gibbons' catalogue and their excellent Imperial album are not constructed on logical lines: firstly, they are only really suitable for the semi-specialist; and secondly, they are not constructed on logical lines—you will find very minor varieties given in one country while far more important ones are omitted in another. Of course, any dealer has a perfect right to construct his albums with the view to disposing of any special lines he may have in stock; but it is to be much regretted that either Gibbons or some other good firm do not induce a first-class independent philatelist to edit an album and catalogue

for them on philatelic instead of stock-selling lines. I feel certain that a good album, if not a good catalogue, would not only pay but pay well.

The root idea underlying the construction of a logical catalogue (and of course album) should be the distinction between issues and varieties. The general collector is only concerned with issues; it is the specialist alone who is concerned with varieties. This is obvious. The difficulty lies in the definition of "issue" and "variety." A couple of our lawyer philatelists could argue about this until they died of old age without settling the question.

To me it seems that an "issue" must have the definite approval of the postal official or officials responsible for the ordering of stamps. Suppose an imperf. stamp is first unwatermarked and then appears on Star watermarked paper, is the latter a separate issue or only a variety? This, I should say, depends on circumstances. If the printers made the alteration of their own accord I should say it was a variety; if the postal authority gave definite instructions for watermarked paper to be used, this, perhaps, should be held to constitute it an "issue." *One thing certainly should make a stamp or stamps an issue: when the home and foreign postmasters have been notified, by specimen copies or otherwise, of the change. Perhaps we have here the only vital distinction between an issue and a variety.* But this question of the difference between an issue and a variety cannot possibly be settled either in a short article or by one person, although the sooner we can arrive at a conclusion acceptable to leading philatelists the better it will unquestionably be for philately.

Can seasoned collectors do anything to recruit and encourage beginners? Personally, I believe there is here a very wide field for energetic and well-considered action. I am well aware that much has been lately done for young collectors, and very great credit is due to those who initiated the movement. But the field to be covered is so large that it is not fair to leave everything to be done by the few; every Philatelic Society worthy the name should help.

In nearly every town where a philatelic society exists the members are usually only a mere fraction of the sum total of collectors in that district. There are many reasons for this. Partly because adequate steps are not taken to bring the local society before the notice of the general public; partly because it is not made known that everyone interested in stamps will be warmly welcomed; partly because the meetings being generally held at one or other of the member's residences, outsiders are sometimes inclined to feel that their presence might possibly be regarded as an intrusion. The true collector should be a thorough democrat where his hobby is concerned, and although snobbishness is far

too common in Philatelic London, it is happily rarer in the provinces.

One very bad point in connection with some Philatelic Societies should be noticed: too many of their members join with the intention of making money out of their fellows, and the beginner is sometimes looked upon as fair spoil. This sort of thing is not to be remedied by excluding dealers; some of our best philatelists—I here use the word in its best sense—have been and are dealers; it is that crafty and insidious animal, the professional collector-dealer, who is mostly to blame. Possibly better rules would remedy this grievance where it does exist.

I trust I shall be forgiven if, in order to emphasize the important part Societies can play in encouraging recruits, I now mention a personal experience.

When I went to school I found that nearly every boy collected stamps, spending the greater part of his pocket money in so doing. Most of our treasures came to us in three ways: We bought them from shops which exhibited cards of stamps in their windows; we wrote for approval sheets in reply to advertisements in the "Boys' Own" and similar papers; and we worried any grown-up who was likely to get letters from abroad. Then one day one of the boys decided to sell his collection in order to buy a bat with the money, and he accordingly forwarded it to some dealer in London. Our disgust was so great when the dealer returned it as being of no value to him that almost all the boys gave up collecting. Fortunately, I was at this moment taken by a friend to one of the Oxford Philatelic Society's meetings, held at Dr. Murray's residence, that accomplished and kindly gentleman in the chair. The scientific side of philately came as a complete surprise and revelation to me, and I then for the first time realised what stamp collecting really meant.

New Leaves to Cut.

STANLEY GIBBONS' CATALOGUE PART I.

SELDOM before, if ever, has the publication of Stanley Gibbons Part I. been so eagerly awaited as it has this year. The recent boom in single and multiple King's Heads has interested such a large number of small speculative collectors, that, until the interesting event of the catalogue world took place, they were unable to say whether or not they had burnt their fingers.

Needless to say we have nothing but praise for the new Part I., it grows better and better every year, remaining as of old the philatelic handbook and guide.

The lists of several countries have been considerably altered, notably Great Britain, where we find the plate numbers, instead of being listed all together at the end, are now listed after each value. We muchly appreciate this innovation. India has been revised and enlarged; not only are some of the various retouches of the half and one anna of 1854 included, but the latter issues have been brought up to date. Queensland has been considerably revised and two well-known varieties have at last found a home, namely the 1d. and 4d. compound perfs. of the 1868-79 Q and Crown issue; these two stamps are not priced, but the 4d. occasionally turns up and is worth about £10 in a used condition; the 1d. is considerably scarcer.

The electrotyped issues of 1879 to date have been considerably augmented with new varieties and copious notes. Two varieties of watermark are illustrated, and there is a welcome new illustration, showing clearly the difference between the old and new plates of the 1d. and 2d. values of the 1882 and 1887 issues.

Victoria has been slightly revised, notably, the first issues, where a number of new shades have been added. The important matter of pricing has evidently been carefully considered. To generalise, we may say that the old line engraved stamps show a steady but slow appreciation, recent Queen's Heads show a big advance, while the single watermark King's Heads are, all things considered, very moderately priced.

Few countries have been so revised as Great Britain where we find, with few exceptions, a steady increase in the prices for used copies; in an unused condition, however, we find considerable reductions. The first stamp listed, namely, the 1d. intense black, shows a drop of 15/-, the 1d. roulette is down £2, the 4d. pale carmine of 1855, small garter, £2, the 4d. medium garter £5, the 4d. medium garter on white paper £5, and the 3d. on orange of 1887 shows a fall of £1. These are but a few of the sweeping reductions that have been made.

A large number of fairly recent issues show considerable advances, notably stamps in the same category as the 4d. brown Virgin Islands, now priced at 4/- against the modest 8d. of last year.

The thin edge of the wedge has been inserted by placing the letters O or C, or both, against most of the recent issues denoting that they are known on ordinary or on chalky paper, the prices however are for the cheaper variety.

We shall be very surprised if chalkies are not listed in the next catalogue, if they are not, it is quite certain that the chalky New South Welshmen should be deleted, if only for the sake of consistency, but then of course inconsistent collectors want inconsistent catalogues. Ten more pages have been added and consequently collectors get even a cheaper bargain than heretofore.

Sir Rowland Hill: the Story of a Great Reform.

Told by his Daughter. Portrait and illustrations. T. Fisher Unwin. 1907, 5/- net.

This book is not, as might be at first inferred from its title, a biography of the Reformer, but an account of his postal reforms. The history of the transition from an antiquated system, loaded with every form of restriction and abuse, to the wonderful service as we know it to-day, must always be of interest to philatelists, and we looked with more than usual interest to this work, which attempts to outline the various stages of postal reformation, and which, from its source, might be expected to yield information of particular value. It is unfortunate, however, that the purview is entirely that of Sir Rowland Hill's personality, and although this somewhat justifies the title of the volume, it is nevertheless a considerable drawback to find running through the book a sort of family obsession, in which not only Sir Rowland himself figures, but also his various relatives, to such an extent as almost to be, if one may venture the shaft, an *apotheosis Montium*. Moreover, the frequent introductions, especially in the footnote, of quite irrelevant matter which has no possible connection with the theme of the book, makes it at times irritatingly garrulous.

Mrs. Smyth, in an introduction, outlines the early life of Sir Rowland Hill, and his vigorous and inventive mind is evidenced in the career which found him a teacher in a school of original type, and which doubtless laid the foundation of that desire for order which marked his later life. He had the good fortune to meet many intellectual men and women of the day, and his life was passed in constant touch with reform and progress. Leaving educational work he became Secretary to the Colonizing Commission for South Australia, which position he resigned when attached to the Treasury to carry out his postal reform. After his dismissal he became a Director of the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Company until he filled his proper sphere as the Head of the Post Office.

A sketch of the old postal system and of early attempts at its improvement occupy the first two chapters, and these contain some strange information. Not only were the charges high—averaging according to one account 6½d. per letter as late as 1838—but this onerous burden upon communication was made more oppressive by the franking system, under which the number of letters passed in the same year was seven millions, causing a loss of revenue of £1,065,000 for the year, which was, of course, responsible in great part for the heavy charges exacted for paid letters. Then there was the distinction of single, double and treble letters, where the letter consisted of a single sheet of paper or contained other sheets or enclosures under the one cover. All such extra sheets were charged at the same rate as the single sheet, the 'treble' letter costing three times as much as

the 'single' one, and a process of examination called 'candling' was adopted, the letter being held up to the light to test its nature. Add to these distinctions the reckoning of distance to determine cost of postage and it will be seen how complicated was the pre-reform period of postal practice. The author gives some curious examples of perverted ingenuity exercised in the evasion of postal rates, especially by means of newspapers (where the address was, by variation, made to impart information to the recipient), by smuggling, and by composite letters on one sheet of paper which was afterwards divided.

Sir Rowland Hill early attacked the question of postal reform, and in 1826 he had convinced himself that much time might be saved in sorting and delivery; but it was at a later date that a statistical inquiry into the cost of the service and into its many anomalies led to the essential of his propositions, a uniform rate regardless of distance, and to his pamphlet *Post Office Reform, its importance and practicability*. The full results of this momentous publication and of the agitation which followed it, the strenuous opposition of the Post Office and of the Postmaster-General (who characterised the proposals as "the most extraordinary of all the wild and visionary schemes of which he had ever heard or read"), the Committee appointed to consider the whole question, and much incidental matter will be found related in a readable form in this volume. But even after the adoption of the scheme suggested all was not plain sailing. In his position at the Treasury Sir Rowland Hill saw himself fettered by reason of his inability to apply thorough and drastic reform in other directions, and it was not until long afterwards that the peculiar position in which he stood was changed for one in which he was no longer adviser, whose advice was not only often disregarded but openly flouted, but head administrator. Before that consummation, however, he was the object of a meanness to which only governments can descend, when he was dismissed from his office, even though he offered to work without salary, and "at the age of forty-seven he had to begin life afresh."

Mrs. Smyth, before describing her father's work when he had entered into his own at the head of the Post Office, occupies a chapter in discussing the stamps. Early stamped covers or proposals therefore are considered, together with the Chalmer's claim, and the author is unnecessarily acid in referring to the "Chalmer's fable" in a variety of hard terms. Many details are given of the difficulties met with in finding an ink for stamps and obliterating purposes, which should render cleaning impossible, and this chapter brings out well

the many obstructions to this new adhesive frank which were met with at the time of its origin and which to-day are practically unknown.

The later chapters of the book show (the regular advancement which followed Sir Rowland Hill's direct efforts, particularly when his protagonist and nominal coadjutor had retired and the full reins of office were in his hands. The passing reflection which results from reading this book is rather that Sir Rowland Hill should have accomplished so much, than that opposition to him should have been so great. The dead wall against which the weight of his proposals was thrown, might well have been considered in that conservative age immovable; that one man should, with but little help at the outset, have continued a system which was in the opinion of the officials and of many administrators of the day the least possible, is little short of a miracle of reform. How greatly the change was needed and how fully it met the need is shewn in many extracts and references given in this book.

THE STAMP COLLECTORS' ANNUAL, 1908.

The fifth edition of this useful little handbook is before us for review. As in past years, the book contains many admirable features, chief of which is a Philatelic Index, compiled from the 1907 stamp papers.

Another useful list is that of all the New Issues for the year 1907, written up by Mr. Chas. Nissen.

A most interesting little article on Stamp Perforating Machines at Somerset House—illustrated; a Summary of Last Year's Auction Prices; a capital List of Colonial and Foreign Postmarks to be found on English Stamps; an exhaustive paper on the Adhesive Revenue Stamps of the United Kingdom, issued during the reign of King Edward VII.; and several other short articles, together with the usual Directory of Societies and Exchange Clubs, completes a very good Annual; one which, although not showing much improvement on last year's book, is well worth the modest 1/- that the publishers—Messrs. C. Nissen & Co.—ask for it.

THE SIMPLIFIED CATALOGUE OF STAMPS PRINTED FROM PLATES MADE BY MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & Co.

This list, compiled by Mr. P. L. Pemberton, will be ready in time for distribution at the Imperial Stamp Exhibition, and a copy will be forwarded to all those who have written asking for it.

Well-known Philatelists.

No. 97.—MR. HUMPHREY BENNETT.

MR. HUMPHREY BENNETT was born at Great Lever, near Bolton, on October 18th, 1880, and, as is usually the case with our well-known philatelists, commenced his stamp collection while a youngster at school. Like most school-boy collectors he was always open to have a deal with other school chums, with the usual result that several small collections passed out of his keeping.

In 1896, however, Mr. Bennett purchased from a school friend a small collection in a Senf's Album, and since then he has been a serious philatelist. The Senf collection was soon transferred to an Imperial Album, where for several years it was largely added to, until in 1900 its owner was fully convinced of the futility of remaining a general collector. During that year Mr. Bennett broke up his collection and sold all his foreign countries, the year following the used portion of his British and Colonial stamps was disposed of, while two years later a further sweeping reduction was made by selling all but African Colonials, some Indian Native States and Sarawak.

Even with such a restricted field for his energies Mr. Bennett still found that he could not do justice to his African stamps, so during 1906 they together with the Native States were discarded leaving his Sarawaks alone in their glory.

We do not know why Sarawak was finally chosen, but the elimination of some of the other countries must have been rather difficult.

Needless to say, Mr. Bennett has a very fine collection of Sarawak stamps in singles, pairs, blocks and sheets, one regret only remaining, namely, that he cannot include a Sarawak Post Office and staff in his collection.

A fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, a member of the Junior Philatelic Society and a corresponding member of the Manchester Society, he has good opportunities of occasionally adding to his collection.

We think that in collecting only the stamps of so philatelically small a country Mr. Bennett hardly does himself justice, we hope that in the near future he may be induced to work up one or two of his former favourite African Colonies.

Regarding the future of our hobby he is quite optimistic; he says:—

"I consider the future of philately is a very rosy one, as there are even yet plenty of countries about which there is lots to be found out, even for the younger members of the hobby; as I have found in the short time I have been specialising in Sarawak. I think that to have had a general collection and then to thin out the countries till you get to only one is the best

way to collect, and to stick to one country at a time is much better and more satisfactory than to try and keep everything going. In fact, I think, everyone should go in for specialising as far as possible."

As doubtless our readers know, we fully endorse Mr. Bennett's remarks, and while, not restricting ourselves to a single country we think that many collectors try to collect far too many stamps.



The Lindenburg Medal.

WE are very pleased to announce to our readers that Major Edward B. Evans, Editor of the *Monthly Journal* and one of the leading philatelic writers of to-day, has been awarded the Lindenburg Medal.

The *Monthly Journal*, to which paper we are indebted for our information, says that "The Lindenburg medal was founded by the Berlin Philatelic Club in honour of its distinguished

founder, Karl Lindenburg, and it is intended as a mark of distinction for those who have won special fame in Philately by scientific investigation and numerous contributions to philatelic literature."

The previous recipients have been: Mr. Theodor Haas, Leipzig; Dr. Legrand, Paris; Dr. E. Diena, Rome; Mr. E. D. Bacon, London; and Mr. L. Hancianu, Brussels.

Needless to say, we heartily congratulate Major Evans on his well deserved honour.

Current Chatter.

BY ANGUS MCTAVISH.

THE Editor has received, and passed on to me, a letter, in which the writer casts grave doubts, as to *me*—McTavish—being a Scotchman. Hoots awa! what next, it was no a brither Scot that wrote that letter. Sure, some people would be trying to take the breek off a Hielander. Angus McTavish not a Scot, and him named after the wee bit birdie on the Labuan stamps. Weel, weel.

As foretold, the sale held by Plumridge and Co., on January 23rd and 24th, was a great success, from the auctioneers point of view. Although the first day was very foggy and the second only slightly better, there was a bumper attendance. It would be a black pea souper that kept Loudon dealers away from the fray. Fog, indeed, some of them like it.

The new stamp paper, promised on the McTavish page last month, has made its appearance, with "Tancred" at the helm. Knowing Tancred's form of old, I must confess to feeling a wee bit disappointed with the *Philatelic Adviser*, as Messrs. Bright and Son's new paper is called. Perhaps it is not fair to judge the initial number of any paper, but No. 1 seems to lack the brilliancy that one is apt to associate with the names of Messrs. Wetherell and Oliver.

Unfortunately, Professor Wetherell is due back in India in the fall, and what will friend Oliver do then?

Writing of the Professor, reminds me that I heard it rumoured recently that, although he collects Spanish stamps with great gusto, he also appreciates Port-u-gals.

The recent meeting of the Herts was a great success. Mr. C. J. Phillips was down for a paper on "Forgeries." Unfortunately, the "flue," as we say in America, prevented his being present; but Mr. Frank Phillips was there, with numberless volumes chock full of forgeries, reprints and essays, and worthily did the honours. Unfortunately, the books were not written up.

The H.P.S. is a real live Society, but its members are rather sedate, toddling off home, at a time when the riotous I.P.U. people are just commencing to think about a committee meeting. Perhaps it is that the I.P.U.'ers like to dine before their displays.

The Juniors are going ahead with their Exhibition plans. March 12th, 13th and 14th will long be remembered in the stamp world, if only five per cent. of the invited guests arrive, to say nothing of the philatelic strays that are sure to be attracted *en passant*. President Melville tells me he anticipates a record attendance; well he might, for his energy and the energy of his Committee well deserve it.

Several of my friends, knowing how inter-

ested I am in stamps, are apt at times to commiserate with my relations, one indeed (a friend, not a relation) went as far as to express the feeling that I was a "bit slow in the uptake," when he heard I had paid a few pounds for a scarce stamp. That friend, curiously enough, is a collector of coins. In the *Daily Telegraph* for January 23rd I see that, according to their Vienna correspondent, £6000 has just been paid by the French National Museum Authorities for a certain 20 franc piece of the year 1806! Begorrah, bejabers, didn't I just post off a marked copy of the *D.T.* to my friend, him that only reads the *Daily Looking Glass*, the *Daily Wail*, and others of the half-penny ilk.

Just recently I have been buying a number of wholesale and mixed lots of Western Australians, at auction and elsewhere; and it has been a curious fact that neither of the two stamps I am very short of have been represented in any of these lots. The two stamps in question are the 2d. orange of 1860 and the 1d. yellow ochre of 1882 with compound perfs., the first catalogued at 10/- and the second at 7/6.* The three stamps of 1861 with the 14 perf. have also been very poorly represented.

Perhaps the stamp with a catalogue value of over 20/- that has been best represented, is the 6d. purple-brown of 1861 with the "not so" perforation. Methinks the prices in the 1907 catalogue need revising.

I was informed the other day, by one of those dealer fellows who sell stamps for a living, that there is quite a boom in stamps on the entire cover; in fact he told me that he frequently gets full catalogue prices for anything very fine, even in common stamps.

I was not surprised to hear this, for many years I have been on the look out for old stamps on original covers; that is, old stamps in good condition on clean covers. If any of my readers have any duplicates they wish to dispose of they cannot do better than send them along to Angus McTavish, c/o the Editor, and he will purchase any he hasn't already got, provided of course, the prices are moderate, I shouldn't have given away the dealer fellow who charges full cat. for nice things on the original, but then of course none of my readers would mark any of their duplicates at over half cat. when sending them to McTavish, they simply couldn't.

The present boom in Cayman Island stamps seems to effect American quite as much as English collectors.

In a recent number of *Mekeel's Weekly* I see that a correspondent, writing of the troubles that a collector of Caymans would have, says: "I am sure that no collector will make a mistake in trying to fill up his Cayman Islands spaces. There aren't many, but he will have lots of fun with each stamp." Judging from

* The "Current Chatterer" will be pleased to see that this stamp is now catalogued at 10/-.—ED.

the extremely unkind remarks that were made when I innocently asked a certain well known dealer—known by the number of cigarettes he consumes—if he had a block of thirty of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 5/-. I think it probable that the collector will have “lots of trouble” who hunts for Cayman provisionals round Holborn-Kingsway-Strand way.

Apropos of Caymans reminds me of a touching little story that Mr. L. S. Charlick told me the other day. “A friend of his, knowing that the current $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. stamps were likely to soon become obsolete, decided to have a mild philatelic flutter, so he remitted 5/- to the Postmaster of the Caymans and requested that an equal number of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. King’s Heads should be sent him. When at last they arrived, he found that the recently issued $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. provisionals had been sent together with a letter from the Postmistress apologising for sending surcharged stamps, but hoped they would do! Some people have *all* the luck.”

The Lindenburg medal, the V.C. that all good philatelic writers covet, has been awarded to Major Evans. Bravo Major, honour where honour is due, and I don’t mind waiting another year a wee bit.

The Pence Issue of New Brunswick.

BY F. F. LAMB.

THE collector who collects only catalogue varieties has yet to enjoy many of the pleasures that the Goddess of Philately yields to her devotees. The stamps of New Brunswick, few as they are, are most interesting; yet few countries have been so neglected by catalogue compilers, so much so that I now venture, to the best of my ability, to describe all the catalogued and uncatalogued varieties of these stamps, of which I have cognizance.

Mr. Donald King, writing to the *Monthly Journal* for January and March, 1895, gives much information regarding the official notices that heralded the approach of the first stamps in 1851. I find that on March 15th, 1851, an Act was passed. The following is a short extract:

“In conformity with the Post Office Acts it is hereby declared, and so far as regards the Province of New Brunswick, it is ordered, as follows:—On and after this date, all letters transmitted by Post in British North America, with the exception of Packet Letters, to or from the United Kingdom, and Letters to and from Newfoundland and the United States will be liable to a uniform rate of three-pence currency per half ounce, for what-

ever distance conveyed (prepayment will be optional) the charge increasing according to the following scale of weights; thus, on a letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, three-pence currency; on a letter over half an ounce in weight and not exceeding one ounce, six-pence currency, and so on.”

The Packet rate on letters to and from the United Kingdom was fixed at one shilling sterling, or one shilling and three-pence currency, per half-ounce, on all letters sent *via* Halifax. Letters sent *via* the United States were charged at the rate of one shilling and two-pence sterling, or one shilling and five-pence halfpenny currency. The charge for books, magazines, etc., was fixed at seven-pence halfpenny currency for the first half pound and so on at the rate of seven-pence halfpenny for every additional half pound.

Letters addressed to the United States were liable to a rate of six-pence currency per half ounce, while letters to Newfoundland were charged at the rate of seven-pence halfpenny for the half ounce, four-pence halfpenny of this amount was for the Packet rate and 3d. for the Inland postage, prepayment being optional. The same rate was charged on West Indian correspondence, but evidently prepayment of the Inland rate of 3d. was compulsory, the payment of the balance, namely 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., being optional.

Naturally enough I should not attach so much importance to these and later Post Office notices were it not for the fact that they emphasize the total inadequacy of the number of values that constituted the first issue of stamps.

In the same Act, referred to above, we find the following clause, which now makes curious reading.

“New Brunswick postage stamps when used will be taken in the United States as evidence of the prepayment of postage on letters going from New Brunswick to the United States.”



The first New Brunswick stamps were issued to the public at Fredericton, St. John, and elsewhere on September 6th, 1851, and consisted of three values only, namely, the 3d., 6d. and 1/- stamps, all engraved and printed in *taille douce*, in sheets of 160, by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. All three values were impressed on bluish wove paper and various shades exist, both as regards the amount of

blueing that the paper underwent and the amount of ink used. Unfortunately, I cannot find any record of the quantities of each or any of the values that were printed, but compared with the present day requirements the number would be very insignificant.

Shortly after these stamps were put on sale, reductions were made in the current postal rates. In an Act passed 3rd of May, 1853, I find that the postage on letters to the United Kingdom was fixed at a uniform rate of sixpence sterling or sevenpence halfpenny currency, for every half-ounce; while for letters addressed to Bermuda and Newfoundland the charge was eightpence currency the half-ounce. On letters for the West Indies generally a charge of one shilling and one penny currency was made. When it is remembered that we have to only consider the "currency" and not the "sterling" amounts, it is very obvious that the then current stamps with a face value of 3d., 6d. and 1/- were totally inadequate.

It, perhaps, quite naturally followed that resort was made to bisecting stamps, with the result that "split provisionals" were used, and, as such, constitute some of the most interesting stamps that are known. Although the division of a stamp, to enable the sender to prepay postage, was allowed by the Post Office authorities, there was not I believe a notice passed to that effect. When it is remembered that the postal rate to England was 7½d., while equally odd amounts were sometimes needed on heavy book packets, it is surprising that split provisionals are the rarities they are. On the other hand it must be remembered that prepayment on most letters was optional, that comparatively few envelopes were, in those days kept after receipt, and also, that a number of letters were prepaid in cash, a method I will explain later on.

Before going any further, it would be as well, I think, to give a reference list of most of the split provisional varieties that I can trace. In the Tapling collection at the British Museum are shewn:

- (1) Half of a 3d. cut vertically, used, to make up with a 6d. stamp the postal rate of 7½d.
- (2) Half of a 6d., cut diagonally, used as 3d. on a local letter, postmarked Sackville, Jan. 11th, 1853.
- (3) Half a 1/- and half a 3d., cut diagonally, used to make up the 7½d. rate.
- (4) Quarter of a 6d. and a 6d. on an entire, dated, St. John, April 2nd, 1860.
- (5) Half of a 1/-. used as a 6d. value, on entire, postmarked Chatham, Jan. 11th, 1860.

To this list must be added the following varieties, chronicled by "Canadensis" in the *Monthly Journal* for December, 1891:

- (1) Diagonal half of 3d.
- (2) Quarter of 1/- to make 3d.
- (3) Two 3d. stamps and diagonal half of 3d. to make 7½d.

Mr. King gives yet a few more varieties, namely:

- (1) Two 6d. stamps and half a 6d. to make up 1/3.
- (2) One 6d. and half a 6d. to make up 9d.
- (3) Half a 1/- and half a 6d. to make up 9d.
- (4) Half a 3d. and a 3d. stamp to make up 4d.

Most of these split stamps were divided diagonally. One reason why these stamps are rare is that, although their use was permitted, it was quite evident that the practice was open to abuse, with the result that at many post offices prepayment of letters was made in cash and the amount paid was postmarked on the cover.

I have recently had the pleasure of examining a number of original covers that form part of the collection belonging to Mr. Edgar Nelton, now in England on a visit from the States. Although the strength of this collection is in the Canadians, I was very pleased to find three New Brunswick covers bearing no stamps, dated (1) Woodstock May 1857, (2) St. Stephen Nov. 27 1858, and (3) Canterbury April 6/1860; all of which were postmarked with a circular date stamp, either as below or with a somewhat similar stamp with the



word PAID and 3d. in a circle, and the name of the town outside. A fourth cover I have seen was simply postmarked Woodstock Oct. 30 1857 and 3d. in a small circle. These covers are most interesting as, coming from different towns, all with a paid postmark, they help to account for the scarcity of cancelled stamps.

Unfortunately the three Perkins, Bacon stamps were reprinted sometime during 1890. In the *Philatelic Record* for Nov., 1890, I find the 3d. stamps described as being reprinted in a bright vermilion, the 6d. in a bluish-black, and the 1/- in violet-black. I do not know how many sheets were reprinted but they are extremely scarce. The reprints are on thin, hard, and whiter paper than are the originals. Fortunately all the plates from which New Brunswick stamps have been printed were destroyed at Ottawa shortly after these reprints were taken.

Proofs of several New Brunswick stamps are known, namely, black impressions on India paper, and the same on fairly stout white card.

Before proceeding further it might perhaps be as well to give a reference list.

September, 1851.

3d. dark red on blue paper, various shades.

6d. yellow on blue paper, various shades.

1/- purple on blue paper, various shades.

The paper used for these stamps varies but little in thickness, the main differences being found in the amount of blue in the paper and the colour of the ink. The 3d. is found in three or four distinct shades, likewise the 1/-.

All three stamps comprising the pence issues did duty as split provisionals, namely the 3d. halved, the 6d. halved, also quartered, and the 1/- also halved and quartered.

The following is the most complete list I can give my readers of these "splits."

To make up the	1½d. rate, half of a 3d. stamp.
" .. "	3d. 6d. "
" .. "	3d. quarter of a 1/- stamp.
" .. "	4½d. half a 3d. and a 3d. stamp.
" .. "	6d. half a 1/- stamp.
" .. "	6d. two halves of a 3d. and a 3d. stamp.
" .. "	7½d. half of a 3d. and a 6d. stamp.
" .. "	7½d. 1/- and half of a 3d. stamp.
" .. "	7½d. quarter of a 6d. and a 6d. stamp.
" .. "	7½d. two 3d. and half of a 3d. stamp.
" .. "	9d. one 6d. 6d. "
" .. "	9d. half a 1/- 6d. "
" .. "	10½d. half a 3d., a 3d., and a 6d. stamp.
" .. "	1/3 two 6d. and half of a 6d. stamp.

Those marked with an asterisk are in the Taping Collection.

The above list could be still further enlarged were both vertical and diagonal splits included.

A history of the first stamps of New Brunswick would be far from complete were no mention made of that curious freak—that elusive bogey of surcharges—that took so much killing, namely, the 1½ surcharge in red on the bisected half of the 3d. stamp. Doubtless many present day collectors have never seen this stamp, but twenty years ago it was very much to the fore. In M. Moens' Catalogue, for 1886, this stamp was listed, but marked as doubtful. The *Philatelic Record* for September, 1886, quoting the *Stamp Collectors' Chronicle*—a paper published at St. John, New Brunswick—says:

"It was improvised to serve on local or drop letters some time in 1860 and was prepared by the clerks of the postal department then located in Fredericton. The surcharging was done by hand, twice repeated upon the threepenny stamp, and were sold in this way—*i.e.* in pairs—the purchaser dividing them as required. We are informed however that very soon after their introduction the pence issues gave way to cents, thus rendering their further service unnecessary."

In a later number of the *P.R.* it is proved that there was no need for a 1½d. stamp for drop letters, as the only two towns where letter carriers were employed were St. John and Fredericton, in both of which the local rate was 1d.

Of course, it is just possible that the 3d. stamp was surcharged by some enterprising post-office employee. That there was a need for a 1½d. stamp is pretty evident. Apart from the fact that local or drop letters probably cost 1½d., the postal charge on letters to

England was 7½d. If local letters were delivered for the sum of 1d. they must have been paid for on delivery, or over the counter, as, fortunately, covers bearing the sixth of a 6d. stamp or the twelfth of a 1/- stamp are yet unknown.

In my list of split provisionals on entires I mention the half of a 3d. stamp used as a 1½d. value. I chronicle this variety on the authority of "Canadensis" who lists it in the *Monthly Journal*, also on the authority of Messrs. Collin & Calnan, who include it in their catalogue for advanced collectors, but I should like to have further particulars concerning it.

It may be I think safely assumed that fully ninety per cent. of all the split stamps were stuck on the letters by Post Office employees. Not only are there no authentic unused halves known, but from a personal knowledge of the somewhat officious kindness of many postmasters in way back New Brunswick townships I feel quite confident they would not consider a letter posted unless they (the postmasters) stuck on the stamps, read the address, and generally supervised the whole business.

The study of New Brunswick postmarks should prove a most interesting one, perhaps in a later paper I may refer to the numerous cancellations to be found. The commonest perhaps, on the 1st issue, is the oval shaped gridiron with a numeral or numerals inside. I have not been able to compile a list of these postmarks, but from specimens now before me I note that No. 1 is St. John, No. 17 Salisbury, and No. 24 Sackville.

All three of the pence stamps have been somewhat largely forged. Fortunately, most of these bogus stamps are very crude lithographs, made in the early sixties to defraud youthful collectors. Some of the later products of the faking community are, however, much more dangerous.

Occasionally, too, these stamps are found in a cleaned condition. They have had a light postmark chemically cleaned off and been re-gummed. Fortunately, however, these faked stamps can be recognised at once by any one at home with this class of fraud.

Imperial Stamp Exhibition.

TO BE HELD IN THE CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER, MARCH 12TH, 13TH & 14TH.

THE last Junior Philatelic Exhibition, held in Exeter Hall, was such an unqualified success, that there is no reason to doubt that the coming Exhibition, to be held in Caxton Hall, will prove to be the most successful Exhibition ever held. The Committee have had a good long time in which to mature their plans and we can confidently recommend our readers—no matter in how far out of the way towns or villages they may live—to come to London during March, and spend one at least of the

three days when the Exhibition will be open, at Caxtan Hall.

We have received No. 2 of the Exhibition Committee's little paper, "Notes and News," from which we make the following extracts:—

"The Right Hon. Sydney Buxton, M.P., has kindly consented to open the Stamp Exhibition on the afternoon of Thursday, March 12th, subject to the exigencies of his Parliamentary work. It is highly fitting and appropriate that an Exhibition, which will illustrate the resources of His Majesty's Mails throughout the Empire, should be opened by the head of the Department of the Post Office in the Mother Country, and the Committee desires to express its grateful acknowledgments to the Postmaster-General for the high honour he confers upon the Junior Philatelic Society, in consenting to open the Exhibition.

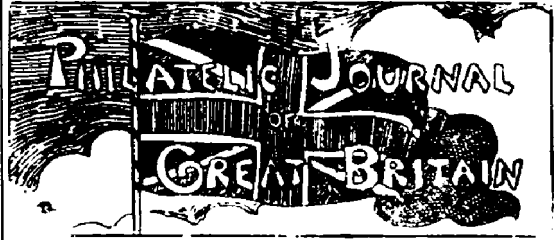
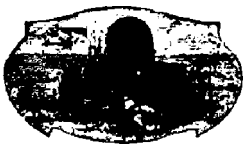
"It does not appear to be generally known, that the Exhibition Committee is relying largely upon the voluntary donations of all stamp collectors interested, in order to cover the very heavy expenses involved in such an undertaking.

"As the admission is entirely free to all visitors, there are only two sources of income open to the Committee, and little more than one half of the total expense will be covered from the hire of the trade stalls.

"Up to the present, the voluntary donations only amount to £29, and this sum will have to be very considerably increased if the Exhibition is to be carried through without a heavy deficit."

The stall holders will considerably add to this total, but, granted all the stalls are let there will still be a deficit. Those of our readers who feel inclined to assist with a small donation should address their contributions to the Secretary of the Stamp Exhibition, 44, Fleet Street, E.C.

Caxton Hall is one minute's walk from St. James' Park Station, to which there is direct communication by Tube and Underground Railways from all parts of London, and our advice to all our readers is on no account forget to pay a visit to the Exhibition. There will be a wonderful display of stamps, a big live crowd of brother collectors, a rare chance of picking up Exhibition bargains from the dealers, and last, but not least, a splendid chance of viewing, without even having to buy a box of mounts or a perforation gauge, one of the finest collections of (to quote Mr. C. J. Phillips) "Philatelic Eagles" in London, to wit, the humble, but necessary dealers.



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Publishers' Note.

THIS number of the *P. J. G. B.* will be on sale at our stall at the Junior Philatelic Exhibition, where no doubt we shall be able to induce a number of new subscribers to add their names to our postal list. For the benefit of those collectors who see this paper for the first time we should like to draw their attention to the fact that the "*P. J. G. B.*" is sent post free to any address for the small sum of 2/6 per annum. We should also like to inform our new readers that this, the current number is no better, and we trust no worse, than the average number. In other words, we have not "gotten" up a special edition to try and tempt new subscribers. When it is remembered that only one monthly stamp paper is published that contains more reading matter than

does the "P.f.G.B.", we think that we are offering an extremely good paper for the modest sum asked.

Messrs. Taylor Bros., of 78, Faulkner Street, Manchester, wish us to inform our North of England readers that the "P.f.G.B." can be obtained from them on the 21st of each month.

South African News.

MR. W. P. COHEN, Secretary of the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg, has kindly sent us a copy of the *Johannesburg Star*, dated November 28th, containing an account of a paper read before the Philatelic Society of Johannesburg on November 19th. Unfortunately, we have not space to print this in full. Mr. Vallentine's remarks on specialism are interesting.

"When a collector has made up his mind to become a specialist, it then remains for him to select his class of specialism. Specialism may be considerably varied according to the whim, taste, discretion or inclination of the collector; for instance, an interesting collection could be formed of all twopence-halfpenny stamps, or other values, issued by the various Postal Union countries since the Union rate of postage came into force. Or all the halfpenny stamps of England and her Colonies would be a very interesting collection, and even in these values many very rare stamps would be included; for instance, Malta, Ceylon, Queensland, etc., have some fairly rare stamps in this value. Plate No. 9 of England in mint condition would not be considered a very common stamp in a collection of this kind. It may appear or sound strange to know of a collector who only collects stamps with red postmarks; yet there are such collectors nowadays, and no doubt these could give a satisfactory reason for their peculiar way of collecting. Be this as it may, it is quite certain that a quite common stamp becomes scarce when it is required to have a red cancellation. How often such a collector is grieved when he finds the coloured postmarks of various places formerly used in England are not the obliterating stamps. And so specialism can go on for ever, but as long as a collector sticks conscientiously to his peculiar and particular kind of collecting he is a good collector and worthy of being placed in the front rank of philatelists; his opinion and advice can be taken as authentic, and he will find many followers."

Although we cannot quite agree that a man is worthy to be placed in the front rank of philatelists, simply because he collects red postmarks, we think, as evidently does Mr. Vallentine, that specialism should mean research, not, as it frequently does, only £ s. d. *Apròpos* coloured postmarks we cannot make out what Mr. Vallentine means about the

collector who is grieved when he finds out that the postmarks are not the obliterating stamps. Do any of our readers know anything about the various places that apparently were once used in England (Ireland)?

* * *

A few months ago a great number of Natal high values including a number of the 5/-, 10/- and £1 stamps were on the London market. A correspondent to *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* informs that paper that a new obliterating stamp has been employed to cancel high value stamps used on certain Government documents. It is in the form of a square, the sides of which measure 34mm. Diagonal lines from all four corners do not run quite into the centre, but end in an oval, containing the date. Above the oval is the word "REVENUE" and below "NATAL."

We wonder if this cancellation will be used on telegraph forms, anyway if it is badly centred the word Revenue might escape the stamp.

* * *

Rumours, faint, but still tangible are afloat concerning a find of old triangular Cape of Good Hope's, consisting, so it is said, of one or more sheets of each of the De la Rue printings. Coming events cast their shadows before, and we saw a pretty big shadow the other day in blocks of four of the 1d., 4d. and 6d. values, in the possession of a collector who has *never been known* to pay more than half catalogue.

* * *

Trade depression has, unfortunately, had a bad effect on stamp collecting throughout the Cape and Natal. Many ardent philatelists, in out of the way townships, have had to close down until the mining and farming industries look up a bit.

* * *

By way of experiment (so says a correspondent to the *D.T.*), "an innovation has been introduced into the postal service at Potchefstroom which would be a boon to many a country district at home. It has been arranged that the postmen engaged in the delivery of letters shall undertake the sale of postage stamps to the public. If the scheme proves a success it will probably be made permanent, and extended to other places."

Rural postmen in Great Britain have for many years been authorised to sell ½d. and 1d. stamps, also registered letter envelopes, while on their rounds, a fact, probably not known to one in ten of country residents.

Don't forget to inspect our publishers' stock of Colonial Stamps, on view at their Stall, in the Caxton Hall, March 12th to 14th.

The Scottish Philatelic Society

JUNIOR BRANCH.

THE monthly meeting of this Society was held in Dowell's Rooms, Edinburgh, on the evening of Saturday, 1st February, at 7 p.m. Mr. N. M. Berrie, President, in the chair. The was a good turn out of members, 26 being present.

After a general exchange of Duplicates the Hon. Secretary read the minutes of last meeting, which were approved.

Three new members were admitted.

The Hon. Secretary reported the sales from the Exchange Packets in circulation, which were considered very satisfactory.

The Librarian reported gifts to the Library from the President, and to the Forgery Collection from Miss Mackenzie and the Hon. Secretary; the collection was on view.

The Hon. Secretary reported that the arrangements for the Stamp Auction on 11th April were in progress, that about 300 lots had already been promised and that Mr. Dowell had very kindly offered, free of charge, the services of an auctioneer. Lots to be included must be sent in by the end of March.

The Hon. Secretary also stated that the Prize Fund already exceeding the amount available last year and that a definite announcement on the subject would be made at next meeting.

The meeting had an opportunity of examining a very fine collection of the stamps of Great Britain, mostly in mint condition, sent by Mr. J. J. Knowles, Wednesbury, one of the best known collectors in the Midlands. It contained a number of rarities and many scarce stamps of the Queen's Reign, including £1 I.R. Official. Strips of the 1d. black, in one case with large Crown inverted, blocks of the old 1½d. on blueté, £1 brown, strips and blocks of £1 green, block of 3d. on orange paper, 1d. red on Dickinson paper, 2/- brown and many other very scarce stamps, all in mint condition.

The collection excited the envy of all present and one page of £1 green in mint condition seemed especially to tempt members to disregard the tenth commandment. There were also some curios in the shape of ¼d. and 1d. with printing on both sides and a block of the 4½d. showing the stamp with dot.

Mr. Walker, President of the Senior Branch, gave an interesting account of the early issues of India and the history of the various dies, accompanied by an excellent display, including blocks, in mint condition, of the ¼ and 1 anna, 1854 issue, and a specially fine display of the long service stamps, in superb condition.

Very hearty votes of thanks were awarded to Mr. Knowles and Mr. Walker for their contributions to a very enjoyable meeting.

Hon. Secretary, FRANK CHALMERS, 24, Bruntsfield Gardens, Edinburgh.



February, 1908, Report.

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MEMBERSHIP.

Candidates for admission must be over 18 years of age, and supply at least two satisfactory references. They will then be proposed for election, and if no objection be lodged within fourteen days, be duly elected. The Entrance Fee, 2/6, and Subscription, 5/-, should accompany the application, and will be refunded in the event of the non-election of the applicant. (The Committee are empowered to elect Life Members, not exceeding ten in number, at a fee of Two Guineas.)

NOTICES.

The fifth meeting of the season was held at Essex Hall, on Thursday, Feb. 13th, when there were present: L. W. Fulcher, B.Sc. (in the chair), P. L. Pemberton, J. C. Sidebotham, W. Schwartze, Oswald Marsh, A. B. Kay, and the Hon. Sec. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. Marsh gave a display of his fine collection of the envelope stamps, post cards and newspaper stamp of Great Britain. The collection has been sixteen years in making, and in addition to a large and comprehensive collection of the various dies employed, includes some very fine and in some cases unique things in the way of proofs, specimen copies and other rarities that it would be very difficult to duplicate. The very interesting explanations given by Mr. Marsh, showed the large amount of time and patient study that he has bestowed on this somewhat neglected branch of British philately, and afforded a very instructive evening to those present.

The meeting closed with a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Marsh and to Mr. Fulcher for presiding.

The next meeting will be held at Essex Hall on Thursday, March 12th, at 8 p.m., when a display will be given by Mr. J. C. Sidebotham. All members and any visitors cordially welcomed.

Applications for membership, subscriptions for 1908, or donations to forgery collection gladly received and promptly acknowledged by—

THOS. H. HINTON,

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Int. Phil. Union,
26, Cromford Road, East Putney, S.W.

Feb. 14th, 1908.

Competition.

The winners of the small prizes offered last month are Mr. Geo. White, Cheetham Hill, Manchester; and Mr. A. Briant, Carlton Road, Kentish Town, N.W. To the former we have posted a cheque for half-a-guinea, while the latter is entitled to select stamps to the marked value of 10/- from our approval books. Mr. White's list was as follows:—

Aitutaki, Barbados, Bermuda, Bt. Guiana, Bt. New Guinea, Bt. Solomon Islands, B.C.A., B.S.A., Brunei, Cape, Cook Islands, Dominica, Fiji, Grenada, Labuan, Mafeking, Malta, Mauritius, N. Brunswick, Newfoundland, N.S.W., N.Z., Niue, Penrhyns, Papua, N. Borneo, O.R.C., St. Helena, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, South Australia, Sudan, Tasmania, Tonga, Trinidad, Turks Islands, Vryburg, Victoria.

Very few of the competitors included the stamps of South Australia and Victoria in their lists, although in the 1857 issues of the latter country a ship forms a very noticeable portion of the design.

We have decided to award a cheque for one guinea to the sender of the best short philatelic article received by us by the 10th of March. We desire short papers about stamps. Nearly every collector has made some discoveries during his stamp studies, and we want those discoveries embodied in notes for our paper.

We reserve to ourselves the right to refuse any contributions sent in, so that in the case of no articles being received that we consider good enough to publish, there will be no prize awarded.

Articles to contain from 500 to 1,000 words. Competitors requiring their contributions returned must enclose stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondence.

The Editor *P.J.G.B.*

DEAR SIR,

GIBRALTAR.

With reference to your admirable article on the stamps of Gibraltar in the January No. of the *P.J.G.B.*, I should like to observe:

(1) Issue of July, 1889. The third minor variety (*i.e.*, variety "5") is *not* found on all the values in the same position. You are correct in saying that the 25c. on 2d., 25c. on 2½d., 50c. on 6d. and 75c. on 1/-, show the variety in the second vertical row; but in the case of the 5c. on ¼d., the setting is quite different, and instead of ten varieties (*i.e.*, one vertical column), there are thirty—the 1st, 5th and 6th vertical columns all contain this variety. Only a short time ago a complete sheet of the 5c. on ¼d. came into my possession, and I was thus able to verify what I had previously gathered from hearsay.

(2) King's Head issue. You say the two varieties, broad top to "M" and hyphen between "NC," are found in all values on the three different papers. This is not quite correct. None of the chalky values have the N.C variety except a few 5c (a rare stamp). Neither do the 5c. and 10c. chalky contain the broad topped "M" variety. The 20c. chalky has not been issued, though Stanley Gibbons' New Catalogue quotes 20c. on ordinary and chalky paper!

Yours faithfully,

J. H. ROSKILLY.

Abyssinia.

A STUPID HOAX.

OUR publishers, together with many other London dealers, received, two or three weeks ago, a circular letter purporting to come from *La Société française de Timbrologie*, stating that "all the stamps of Abyssinia, without exception, even those figuring in our official catalogue are absolutely bogus, having never existed, nor been issued, in the country." The letter continues to assail, with most opprobrious epithets, the firm of Messieurs Theodore Champion & Co. for having introduced these stamps to the market. Naturally this letter, which, on the face of it, appeared to be genuine, caused considerable excitement among its recipients. Enquiries however reveal the fact that the letter is a forgery and that the French Philatelic Society disclaim it entirely. It is evidently the work of some misguided person who has a spite against Messieurs Theodore Champion & Co., and we extend to the latter our sympathies in being the victims of such a cruel trick. Efforts are being made to trace the miscreant and we hope to hear of their early success.



FEB. 20, 1908.

Philately at Home.

The *London Philatelist* for January, although containing a number of interesting "Notes," "Reviews of Books," and other kindred matter, does not commence the New Year with the first instalment of any really important article, such as we had fondly looked forward to. A well written article, partly dealing with chalk-surfaced varieties is of interest. The writer says:—

The question as to the exact status, from the collector's point of view, of the new issues on chalky paper has been one that has evoked considerable discussion among Philatelists. Some contend that this variation of paper is too minute to be catalogued, and others that it is more important than many other varieties that have been accorded catalogue rank. Our own opinion is on the whole with the latter, as we regard the change as so palpable as to be impossible, at least for the specialist, to overlook. For the general collector it may be different, but catalogues nowadays seem largely written for the former class. We confess, therefore, that we fail to see how these varieties can be consistently excluded, not only is the paper quite different from the normal in its glazed surface, but in the majority of cases the colours and impressions of the stamps are affected thereby, thus constituting a distinct epoch in the life of the stamp.

We certainly hold that this difference, affecting the whole appearance of the stamp, is far more worthy of full catalogue rank than such variations of perforations as "comb machine, 11½ x 12, or 12 x 12"!

We, too, admit the importance of surfaced paper, and, to be consistent, chalky varieties should be listed in the catalogue, not only because they *are* on chalk-surfaced paper, but because they, nine times out of ten, are quite a different shade.

The *Monthly Journal* for January contains, as usual, a number of well written contributions.

Mr. L. Hanciau continues his excellent article on the "Postal Issues of Denmark and Colonies" this month's instalment dealing with the 1884 to 1902 issues of Denmark. Mr. J. Bornefeld continues his paper on the Electrotyped Postage Stamps of Queensland, 1879-1906. Writing of the 4d. and 1/- values, he says:—

THE FOUR PENCE.

The one mould used for this value was constructed in the same way as that of the 1d. The "hook" is present in Type III., as before. Sixteen alterations were again made in the ends of the side ornaments, but they are quite different from those in the lower value, as may be seen in the illustrations at the points marked *a, b, c, d*. All, of course, differ from one another, but for purposes of examination the upper end of the left-hand ornament will be found to show the most decided variations:—

In Type I., the turned-in curl and prong are most prominent; in Type III. the prong is very long, longer than in Type II.; and Type IV., instead of a dent where the curl and prong meet, has a projection like a wart,

The words "FOUR" and "PENCE" have both been separately engraved upon each of the four types. The differences can be easily seen, but are not so easily described. In Type I. the letters are more uniform than in the others; the "P" is upright, the "E" that follows it usually shows a thinning in the middle of its lower bar. (The letter "G" for "C" in "PENCE," shown in the illustration, is the error or defective letter that is found on one electrotype, only, in the plate.) Type II. has the largest space between "N" and "C," and the "C" is knobby at the end, so is sometimes mistaken for the error "G." In Type III. the letter "O" of "FOUR" usually touches the oval line above it; the tail of the "R" is thin, and the letter "P" is more slanting than in the others. Type IV. shows the largest spaces between "R" and "P," and between "C" and "E."

THE ONE SHILLING.

The mould for the 1s. was made in the same way as those for the 1d. and 4d., and the "hook" in Type III. remains in its place. Sixteen fresh alterations were made in the ends of the side ornaments, at the points marked *a, b, c, d* in the illustrations. The best defined points of distinction are as follows:—

In Type I. the top prong of the right ornament joins the curl (this is the case also in Type IV. to a small extent), and if prolonged it would run immediately into the oval line. In Type II. the upper end of the left ornament is compressed, and this is the only type in which this prong is securely joined to the curl. In Type III. the top prong of the left ornament is quite separate from the curl. In Type IV. this top prong, though still not touching the curl, is longer than in Types I. or III.; and the top prong of the right ornament if prolonged would touch the oval line much lower down than in Type I. though in its shape and nearness to the curl it resembles that type.

The letters of the words "ONE SHILLING" vary considerably, both in shape and in relative position, but the variations are, in this case also, more easily seen than described. Note the short top and long lower bars of the letters "E" of "ONE," the width of the "N" and the "E," and the space between "N" and "G" of "SHILLING." In Type II. the space between "N" and "E" is wider than in the other types, especially at the bottom; the upper part of the letter "S" is heavy and the lower part short; there is much less space between the "G" and the right-hand

ornament than in any of the others. In Type III. the space between "N" and "E" is very narrow; the first "L" almost touches the oval line below it, there is greater space between the "G" and the ornament than in the other; and this type has the "hook." In Type IV. the space between the letters "NE" is similar to that in Type I., but rather wider at the bottom; the first letter "L" is rather crooked.

It is really very necessary to see the excellent plates with which Mr. Bornefeld's article is illustrated, before one can thoroughly follow these small variations.

Mr. B. W. Warhurst contributes a capital article on that interesting stamp, the 1 centavo Salvador, of 1879, wherein he corrects several mistakes made by Mr. Leavy in that gentleman's recently published paper on the "Stamps of Salvador."

An excellent New Issue list and a budget of Notes and News complete a good *M.J.*

The *Philatelic Record* for January starts the year well as it contains plenty of good reading.

Mr. George B. Duerst contributes the first instalment of a very interesting paper on the local stamps of Morocco. As is the fashion now-a-days, the article is largely composed of geographical and historical facts, none the less interesting on that account, for, as we have frequently pointed out, History, Geography and Philately, must, and always will, go together.

The well-known philatelist is Mr. W. R. Lane-Joynt, an old friend of *P.J.G.B.* readers, most of whom will remember our interview with him published nearly two years ago.

The Editorial deals with the recent Brighton Stamp Case and the extermination of forgeries, we make the following extract:—

It has been commonly known, we believe, that the arm of the law is sufficiently strong to put down forged stamps if only proceedings are instituted. The difficulty in all these matters is to get the Authorities to prosecute, and we think we are right in saying in the case to which we have referred, that the Revenue Authorities would not have prosecuted had it not been that the dies were of stamps available for postage to-day. From the Revenue point of view, perhaps this is sufficient for their protection, but from the collectors' standpoint it is quite as important that protection should be afforded in regard to obsolete stamps and equally in regard to postage stamps offered for sale, whether they are obliterated or unused. It is important in this connection to observe that in France a well-known stamp dealer has been recently prosecuted for being in possession of used forged stamps of the Republic, and in spite of the plea that he had bought them at the Stamp Bourse as forgeries, that he had a reputation of twenty years' standing, and that the stamps were sold more as curiosities rather than with any attempt to defraud, he was subjected to a

fine of 50 francs. This may seem a rather harsh judgment to some, but at the same time the public sale or dealing in forged stamps ought to be put down with a strong hand, and the prosecutions which have taken place here, in France, and in Germany, are pleasing signs of the times.

A copious budget of "Notes and News" and a New Issue List complete a capital number of the *Philatelic Record*.

The *Monthly Report* of the "Herts Philatelic Society" for January, is a credit to its Society and Editor, we shall miss the *M.R.* during the summer months.

Mr. C. P. Rogers contributes a very short instalment of a paper entitled "A Few Uncatalogued Varieties." In it he mentions the fact that the Barbados Nelson 2d. stamp is to be found on blued paper; undoubtedly this may be the case, as the *CC* paper on which these, and many other large size stamps, are printed is liable to become bluish under certain conditions.

No fewer than five numbers of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* are before us, all of which contain much interesting reading, none of which is of a very advanced nature, but all very acceptable.

In the copy dated February 1st, there is a very interesting letter from Mr. Leon De Raay, dealing with the recent Dutch De Ruyter stamps. We make the following long extract:—

The stamps were to be issued on 23rd March and considered obsolete after 31st May, and to be only available for internal correspondence, I will not speak about the poor design or execution, but will keep myself strictly to the statement of facts. The sale of the De Ruyter stamps seems not to be very satisfactory, as in June I received some semi-official communication that a total was sold of 1,393,000 stamps to the value of 16,940 gulden or £1411 15s. od. divided as follows: 462,000 of the ½c., 575,000 of the 1c., and 356,000 of the 2½c. value.

Undoubtedly these totals would have been much higher if the restriction had not been upheld of not using the stamps for foreign correspondence. The remainders were now as follows: 30,000 of the ½c., 40,000 of the 1c., and 20,000 of the 2½c. value, but these figures were and are still kept in secrecy by the authorities for purposes later cleared up. The Government had these remainders to the nominal value of £9 on hand*, and instead of destroying them, as many countries would have done, decided to have these stamps surcharged with new values and to use them as Postage Due stamps. The 30,000 ½c. value were surcharged with the new values of 7½, 10, 12½, 25c., and 1 gulden: the 40,000 1c. value received the surcharges of ½, 1, 1½, and 2½c.; and the 20,000 2½c. were surcharged with the values of 5, 6½, and 15c., so that the original face value of these thirteen stamps of 3d. was raised to nearly 4s. per set. A nice little profit for the Government. The authorities, however, did not stop at this, but had notices inserted in the newspapers stating that these *Postage Due* stamps were

*£9 is probably a misprint for £90, as the number of stamps mentioned as being surcharged total, at face value, to £87 10s. 0d.—Ed. *P.J.G.B.*

obtainable by the public at all post offices throughout the kingdom at the new face values on 9th November. Of course everyone wished to obtain a few of these curiosities, and it is therefore not surprising that on the very first day of issue all the 1 gulden were sold right out, speedily followed by the 50c., 6½c., and ¾c. values. Most of the newspapers wrote small articles on this subject on account of some stamp dealers monopolizing the 50c. and 1 gulden values and selling them at exorbitant prices, these prices being realized through said newspapers stating that the surcharged stamps were only a small remainder and *no more would be issued after this was exhausted*; in fact, in a few days most of the other values were sold out and no more were to be obtained.

What struck me as very singular at the time was that the postal authorities kept the totals of the surcharged stamps a secret, thus leaving them a way open to reprint later on as many as they wanted. A boom came in these stamps, collectors and dealers paying high prices for those values that were first exhausted; and these prices would no doubt have been raised if nothing new had happened. But six weeks later, 24th December, collectors and dealers were thunderstruck by a notice appearing in the newspapers stating that the authorities had decided to issue a further supply of these stamps in *all* values, and, in fact, on 26th December all values were again attainable at the post offices, with the exception of the ¾, 6½, 50c. and 1 gulden values. Not understanding the reason of this new supply, I collected the following information of a semi-official nature.

The Postmaster-General, being aware that most of the post employees had speculated and cornered several of the high values, thus preventing the public obtaining stamps of all values, decided to counteract the said speculation, and had *all* the values newly printed, which were to be issued to the public as long as there was any demand for them. This I read in an official circular issued to all postmasters. Why the missing values were not issued at the same time as the other values is still a mystery, but, anyhow, on 3rd January three of the missing values, viz. 6½c., 50c. and 1 gulden, were again procurable at every post office. The ¾c. value was not again issued, doubtless on account of the face value not being worth while (¾c. being one-tenth of a penny), and not worth the cost of printing, the 1 gulden being more remunerative, raising this stamp two hundred per cent. higher than the previous value. The stamps are now issued in such great quantities that I do not believe that any speculation will be entertained in future.

The ink used for the first printing is jet black, and does not leave any colour of the stamps to be seen through the letters. That of the second printing is of a rather thinner kind of ink and lets the colour of the stamps through the letters. The letters of the second printing seem to be somewhat thicker (in my opinion they are the same letters used for the first printing, but are more or less clogged, or not neatly cleaned, thereby giving a somewhat greasy impression), and the "P" of PORTZEGEL has a smaller opening at the top than is the case in the first printings. On the values surcharged with decimals such as 1½, 2½, 6½, 7½ and 12½c., the difference between both printings is easily to be noted by the "1" of the "¾" being about a millimetre closer to the larger figure.

Yet another visitor to our Review of the Review columns, namely, *The Philatelic Adviser and Stamp Market Journal* to give it its full baptismal name—a paper published by Messrs. Bright & Son and edited by Mr. E. W. Wetherell. Needless to say, we are always ready to welcome really good philatelic work to our select

little coterie, if we may use the word, of philatelic papers for review.

The first number of the *Philatelic Adviser* consists of twenty pages of reading matter, five of which are filled with an excellent article contributed by the editor on the 1870 issue of Spain. Mr. Frank Oliver (why is it that Franks are such dons at New Issue columns?) contributes six pages of carefully written up "New Issues and Discoveries," well illustrated and well worth a subscription to the *P.A.*

The remaining nine pages are filled with business announcements, a report of the eternal Brighton Forgery Case, a notice regarding the coming Stamp Exhibition, a few Notes and Extracts, and a very elementary article on the "Stamps of Gambia."

First numbers are notoriously hard to edit, and, considering this, we have nothing but praise for our new *confrère*. We trust, however, that No. 2 will show many improvements.

The *West End Philatelist* is a regular and welcome little visitor, arriving punctually to time every month. We have read advertisements in which the *W.E.P.* is bravely called "The Best Stamp Paper for Collectors" or words to that effect. We have often wondered on what basis that claim was made. In the January number of the *W.E.P.*, we find the following:—

The dromedary, together with the Bactrian, or two-humped camel, and the llamas constitute the well-defined family Camelidæ, which belongs to the artiodactyle or even-toed section of the Ungulata or hoofed mammals.

The *W.E.P.* has substantiated its claim to be the *very* best, no other paper could give its readers such accurate philatelic information.

We have received No. 1 of the *Journal of the Philatelic Literature Society*, a paper which is an eloquent testimony to the up-to-date printers art.

Seldom, if ever before, has it been our pleasure to review such a carefully edited and well printed paper. May the *J. of the P.L.S.* have a long career of usefulness before it.

Published in the interests of the Philatelic Literature Society, the new paper is to appear quarterly and will be sent free to all members, each member having, we believe, a specially numbered copy.

The January edition consists of only 150 copies, 100 of which are numbered

consecutively, while the remaining 50 are for review and specimen purposes. Unfortunately we are outside the magic circle, so our copy is one of the poor papers destined to go through life without a number.

Commencing with a short Introductory Note, contributed by Mr. E. D. Bacon, in which he sets out the *raison d'être* of the new Society, the new paper contains a lot of interesting matter, interesting that is, to members and others who collect philatelic works.

Mr. L. W. Fulcher, Hon. Librarian to the Royal, contributes a capital paper on the Royal Society's Library.

Mr. E. D. Bacon contributes the first instalment of a paper entitled "The Principal Sources of Information for Philatelic Literature Collectors," while several of the members have lent a hand to compile a lengthy and interesting list of "Notes" and "Queries."

As before stated, the *Journal of the P.L.S.* will only be sent to members of the Society, so all of our readers, who are interested in philatelic literature, and who care to invest the sum of one guinea, should write to the Hon. Sec. of the Society, Mr. F. J. Peplow, 185, Barry Road, Dulwich, S.E.

Philately Abroad.

LIST OF FOREIGN JOURNALS RECEIVED.

With Publisher and Annual Subscription post free.

- L'Annonce Timbrologique.* Monthly. A. Dethier, 66 Rue Floris, Brussels. 2fr.
- Berliner Briefmarken-Zeitung.* Fortnightly. P. Kosack, 12 Burgstrasse, Berlin. 2Mk.
- La Circulaire Philatélique.* Monthly. C. Lemaire, 169 Galerie de Valois, Paris. 2fr. 50.
- Le Collectionneur de Timbres Poste.* Monthly. A. Maury, 6 Boulevard Montmartre, Paris. 1fr. 50.
- Le Courrier Philatélique Universal.* Monthly. Avenue de la Station, Goury, Belgium. 1fr. 50.
- L'Echo de la Timbrologie.* Fortnightly. Yvert & Tellier, 37 Rue des Jacobins, Amiens. 3fr.
- Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung.* Monthly. H. Krotzsch, 22 Lange Strasse, Leipzig. 3mk.
- Der Deutsche Philatelist.* Monthly. G. Frayse, 7 Blumenshasse, Hanover. 2mk.

- El Filatelico Espanol.* Monthly. A. Sabadell, 28 Diputacion, Barcelona. 2fr.
- Friedl's Briefmarken-Offertenblatt.* R. Friedl, 1 Herrengasse, Vienna. 2mk.
- Iustriertes Briefmarken-Journal.* Fortnightly. Gebrüder Senf, Leipzig. 4.50mk.
- Le Journal des Philatélistes.* Monthly. T. Lemaire, 16 Avenue de l'Opera. 1f. 25.
- Nederlandsh Tijdschrift voor Postzegelkunde.* Monthly. J. B. Robert, 57 Balistraat, Gravenhage. 3fl.
- De Nederlandsche Philatelist.* Monthly. Martin, Ray & Co., 69 Fleet Street, E.C. 1/.
- Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift.* Monthly. E. Christensen, 22 Amalievej, Copenhagen. Kr. 2.60.
- Der Philatelist.* (Internationaler Philatelisten-Verein, Dresden). Monthly. E. Plotz, 18 Rabenerstrasse, Dresden A. 3Mk.
- Philatelistische Miscellen.* Monthly. C. Beck, 42 Scharnhorststrasse, Berlin, N.W.
- Le Postillon.* Weekly. A. Montader, 16 Avenue d'Orléans, Paris. 2fr. 75.
- El Progresista Filatélico.* Monthly. J. Minondo, San Sebastian. 2fr. 50.
- Rivista de la Sociedad Filatélica Argentina.* Bimonthly. A. Fontaine, Box 1265, Buenos Aires. 5fr.
- Rivista del Francobollo.* Monthly. 59 Via Due Macelli, Rome. 2fr.
- Svensk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift.* Sveriges Filatelist-Forëning, 24 Greffuregatan, Stockholm. Kr. 2.60.
- Schweizer Briefmarken-Zeitung.* Monthly. J. Thalmann, Fischenthal, Zurich. 3fr.
- Le Timbre-Poste.* Monthly. C. Mendel, 118bis Rue d'Assas, Paris. 5fr.
- Vertrauliches Korrespondenz-Blatt.* C. Vicenz, 13 Freilligrathstrasse, Hamburg. 3.50 Mk.

Der Philatelist. 15th January.

An interesting short account of the stamps of Formosa appears in this number, and, as a pendant, is further given some particulars of the curious stamps issued apparently during the short existence of the "Republic of Formosa," formed under a Chinese Governor, which fell at the hands of the Japanese after six months. An illustration is given of three of the stamps on the entire letter, postmarked Taiwan Republic Sep. 5 1895, in English characters, but the stamps themselves have Chinese characters only. We have seen one similar specimen ourselves, stamped apparently in some ink similar to that used for rubber stamps and having a postmark the same as that described, but no explanation of the use or value of these stamps has reached us.

Another very interesting paper sets out the results of study upon minor varieties of the stamps of Montenegro, 1874-93, continuing the investigations in this direction shewn by the work of Mr. Phillips. Two pages of type illustrations accompany the article, which will be of value to those specialising in the stamps. Some further information in preparation is also given.

We have also a short description of the Schroeder collection, said to be the largest German collection ever formed, which has recently passed into the hands of the German dealer, Herr Kohl, of Chemnitz.

Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung. January.

An article on the 1901 and 1902 issues of Finland, the continuation of the "Stamps of Sweden," and the best and fullest account of the new Austrian stamps we have yet seen, giving in great detail descriptions of the portraits and views shown upon these stamps, these with shorter articles make up an unusually good number. We note a paragraph referring to the great philatelic library of the late Dr. Fraenkel, regretting that this collection should have been allowed to leave the country, and stating that it had been sold and sent to England.

Der Deutsche Philatelist. January.

This journal commences its second volume absorbing the *Philatelistisches Echo*. Noteworthy contents are "Notes on the essays of Hanover," and the first portion of a reprint of Herr Krasemann's very useful "Bibliography" of special countries, which first appeared in the *Journal of the Swedish Philatelic Society* and was afterwards issued separately by that Society. The postmarks of Hanover by Herr Ohrt should also be mentioned as the work of an authority.

Le Postillon. 12th January.

Writing in the issue of his journal for the above date M. Montader, criticising the reflexions of a contemporary upon the apparent impossibility of modern methods producing a satisfactory and truly fine postage stamp, will not accept as a reason any inherent defects in these methods and points out that there is no lack of examples of fine designs in all processes of manufacture, however economical these may have been. He says:

This is not my opinion: I consider it quite easy, on the contrary, to produce a beautiful stamp, and that by reason of the perfection of these very processes. To begin with, the first idea and the composition of the stamp have nothing to do with the processes of reproduction, and furthermore, there exist a large number of admirable stamps of very diverse styles. The five shilling New South Wales is superb, the 1868 issue of Canada is perfect and a model of its kind; the Japanese stamps are masterpieces of ingenious design: the figure Thurn and Taxis, the French stamps of the second Empire, the first issue of Belgium, the one franc lilac of the same country, the stamps of Saxony with portrait, are as good

as could be wished. The Sicily with head of Ferdinand are simply wonderful. Nothing is lacking in the above-mentioned stamps, neither figures of value, borders, designs or symbols. The actual processes of manufacture are no less of an obstacle: if our modern stamps are reproduced by typography this does not differ from the method employed for the French stamps of 1849, for the same of the second Empire, for Greece, Belgium 1865, etc. If the demand for rapid output is greater to-day than formerly this is compensated by the superiority of modern machinery.

So far from considering the methods of production themselves the difficulty, it is rather a reproach to those using them, who obtain such poor results, for their ignorance of the capabilities of these methods; there is an infinity of resource which they disregard, or at least seem continually to ignore and disdain.

M. Montader refers to the recent colonial issues of his own country as examples of the worst of their kind, but it is impossible to look around among the crowd of new issues without seeing how greatly has deteriorated both the style and appearance of most modern stamps. A complete lack of what constitutes elegance in a small design like that of a postage stamp, which should give simply but strikingly few details, is conspicuous in modern art. With very few exceptions, there is nothing to compare with the chaste and often beautiful stamps which saw the light during the first two decades following their invention.

Philately in the Colonies and Elsewhere.

Mekeel's Weekly, dated Dec. 14th, contains an excellent article on the Postal Fiscals of Chili, contributed by Mr. C. A. Howes. Apparently during the war with Peru and Bolivia, postage stamps ran short and telegraph and fiscal stamps were authorised for use. The following extract is of interest.

Now it happened that on March 1st, 1878, Chile had been supplied with a handsome set of fiscal stamps made, like the adhesives, by the American Bank Note Company of New York. When, therefore, the chief of the distributing bureau advised the Director General of Posts of the exhaustion of the 5c. postage stamps, a decree was issued on July 3rd, 1880, authorizing the use of the 5c. fiscal stamps in their place. Later the 1c. and 2c. postage stamps gave out and on November 27th, 1880, a second decree authorized the use of the 1c. and 2c. fiscal stamps for franking purposes. We thus have the following properly authorized postal fiscals:—

1. 1c. vermilion.
2. 2c. brown.
3. 5c. blue.

The use of the 5c. stamps was discontinued on January 15th, 1881, and the 1c. and 2c. ceased to be valid for postal purposes on August 8th, 1881, both dates being fixed by decrees.

Apparently no further need of supplementing the postal issues was felt for ten years, when civil war broke out between President Balmaceda and his opponents in Congress. The Congressionalists seized

the nitrate provinces in the north and from their revenue were able to wage a successful war against the President. But, being cut off from the central government, the stamp supplies gave out and it was again necessary to requisition the fiscal treasury for help. On April 17th, 1891, a letter was addressed to the Provisional Minister of the interior stating that all the postage stamps had been sold in the office of Iquique, and that great inconvenience would be caused, especially with the franking of foreign mails, unless fiscal stamps could be obtained. Minister Errázuriz passed the letter on to the fiscal Treasurer who replied that the only postage stamps in stock were a small number of 20c. and 50c.; that the fiscal stamps of 5, 10, 20c. and 1p. were lacking; but that there was a supply of 2, 10 and 20c. telegraph stamps. He also suggested that the fiscal and telegraph stamps be appropriated for postal purposes. The following decree was therefore issued:—

IQUIQUE, April 21, 1891.

No. 13:—In view of the note which precedes and the information given by the fiscal Treasury of Iquique.

The Governing Junta has decided and decreed:

The revenue and telegraph stamps are appropriated for postal franking.

Let this be recorded, distributed and published.

[Signed] ISIDORIO ERRAZURIZ.

From this it will be seen that all values of both sets of stamps were presumably valid for postal purposes, but the use of the 5p. and 10p. stamps is problematical at least and the *Anales* of the Santiago Philatelic Society, from which this matter is taken, declare that these two values were absolutely not employed in the postal service. That copies have been seen with a postmark is admitted, but there has been much post-marking to order of Chilean fiscals, particularly of pen-marked copies which have been cleaned, so that it is very possible that they may come under this class.

The last two numbers of the *Australian Philatelist* have been almost completely filled with "Commonwealth Postage Stamp" news—all of which is of great interest to Australian collectors—but not very exciting to home readers who are already a little tired of Australian varieties of printing and perforation. In the November number there is a very interesting little article entitled "Three Anomalies," in the course of which the writer says:—

We have from time to time asked ourselves several questions, and we have studied the subject from various standpoints with the result that we have concluded that the Victorian stamps used prior to July, 1851, must be catalogued after New South Wales as "District of Victoria," on the same lines as the Republic of Colombia.

In like manner certain stamps of New South Wales which were used in Queensland between the date of the separation (10th Dec., 1859) and the first issue of that colony's stamps (1st Nov., 1860) should be catalogued under Queensland as the first provisional issue. This is done—and has been for years—in Messrs. Bright's catalogue.

On the same principle the stamps of the Australian States which were in use on the 1st January, 1901, should be classed under the Australian Commonwealth.

In support of these rulings Victoria was an integral part of New South Wales until 18 months after the first stamps were issued in both places. Queensland purchased the New South Wales stamps at the cost of production, and the Federal authorities have had entire control of all the State post offices since early in 1901.

We have repeatedly heard various arguments in refutation of the assumption that Sydney Views were used in Melbourne, one being that all those bearing the Victorian postmark were "ship letters," i.e., letters posted on board the ship at Sydney and postmarked on arrival at the Melbourne end. We are afraid, however, this is weak; for, although Mr. Rundle asserted in the *Australian Philatelist* in 1899 (Vol. 6, Nos. 2 and 3) and again in 1905 (Vol. 12, No. 1), that 1d., 2d. and 3d. stamps were on sale in the Victorian Post Office from the 1st January, 1850, we are still without any evidence that the stamps which we know as the first issue of Victoria were on sale before the 5th January.

The study of postmarks is a fascinating hobby—undoubtedly the first stamps used in Queensland were purchased from the N.S.W. Government, and they have every right to be catalogued as Queensland stamps.

We have received number three of the *British Guiana Philatelic Journal*, a paper that shews many improvements since the last half-yearly number was issued.

Mr. J. Rodway contributes an exceptionally interesting paper dealing mostly with the early postal history of British Guiana. Unfortunately we cannot spare space to print the whole of his article.

With the arrival of the British in 1796 date the first Post Offices in Demerara and Berbice. The Postmaster was a deputy of the Postmaster-General, and had nothing to do with the Colonial Government. His business was to receive the letters, and as one of them said, to "sell them" at a shilling per sheet, with 20 cents (2 bits) for his trouble; if ship letters he got a whole guilder. This system continued to 1860, when Anthony Trollope was sent out on a special mission to the West Indies to arrange for each colony taking over the deputy Post Office. This having been done here, the late deputy became Colonial Postmaster.

Until this time no colonial stamps were available for foreign letters, but in May, 1858, an arrangement was made for using English stamps here, the values being 1d., 4d., 6d. and 1s. These were on sale at the Post Office for two years, and I have seen a Demerara letter with an English stamp of that period.

Coming now to the Colonial Post Office as distinct from that which dealt with foreign letters, the beginning was in a small way. After the Emancipation it became necessary to establish police stations in the country districts, and these became distributing centres for letters. I have not found any records of the charges for postage, and probably the stations were mainly used for mail letters, those from one part of the colony to another being sent by messengers, mainly the drogher captains.

In 1839 the steamer "Royal Victoria" plied regularly twice a week to Airy Hall, for which the first-class was \$4 and the deck passage \$1 50. Letters were received at the offices of the Steamboat Company, the postage being 8 cents for letters and 4 cents for newspapers. Very few letters could have been forwarded, for the Company's balance for six months from October, 1841, to March, 1842, shows that the receipts from postage amounts to only \$5 24. At this time the letters were generally sent on horseback, and in a discussion that took place later in the Court of Policy in regard to newspapers, one of the members said that if the postage was too cheap the load might be too

heavy. In August, 1842, a notice was published that on the arrival of the "Royal Victoria" at Airy Hall a mail-cart would run as far as Richmond and carry letters and parcels, which would be received at the police station; no fees are stated. About the same time a steamer went to Berbice twice a week, and arrangements were settled for a fairly regular inland mail. In 1845 the Court of Policy voted a small sum to the Deputy Postmaster for his work in superintending these mails, but there was some difficulty in the way of his receiving it because of his connection with the British Post Office. In 1850 Deputy E. T. E. Dalton received a salary of £280 from the English Post Office, and when the inland mails were put on a new footing he was granted \$600 per annum from the colony. The old system virtually came to an end in 1849, when a dispute in the Combined Court led to the virtual disbanding of the police for a few months. This gave an opportunity for reform when the matter was settled, and the establishment of a nucleus of a Colonial Post Office.

No one, however, thought much of the matter,—in fact the "Gazette," in its review of the fortnight in which the Post Office was established, said that since their last review; "not a wave has rippled the surface of our colonial existence." Surely the introduction of postage stamps ought to have made a little stir.

The Government notice was published on the 15th of June, 1850. After the 1st of July, mails would be made up every afternoon except Sundays, for Plaisance, Beterverwagting and Buxton, to return the following morning and be delivered in Water Street and Main Street at 10 a.m. Every Tuesday and Friday mails would be sent to Essequibo and Berbice. The postage was 12c. for Berbice and Essequibo, 8c. for Mahaicony, Leguan and Wakenaam, and 4c. for the East and West Coasts. Postage stamps of the respective values would be ready by the 24th of June. Newspapers were free at this time and therefore the fees only refer to letters.

As may be seen, the arrangement was hurriedly made, and the stamps prepared in a few days. Every collector knows what poor things they were—certainly discreditable to the printers. However, there they were, and to-day everyone is eager to possess them. As we have already seen, letters were by no means common, and the cost of stamps prevented anything like a sudden rush to the new Post Office. The consequence naturally is that these stamps must necessarily be scarce, and as they were only in use for about a year, the number printed must have been very small. Being printed with common type they could be easily forged at any printing office, and therefore were initiated by the Postmaster or one of his clerks. The clerks were in 1858:—J. B. Smith and E. D. Wight, and the two letter-carriers, J. Goring and C. A. Watson. Besides the police stations, some of the principal stores in the country were post offices, e.g., in Essequibo there was Tilbury's at Zorg; on the West Coast, Harrison's at Boerasirie; and on the East Coast, Cumings', Plaisance, Van Grovestein's, Beterverwagting, Glover's, Buxton and Victoria, and Smellie's at Mahaica.

The *B.G.P.J.* contains a good deal of other readable matter, so much so, that we should like to see the paper come monthly instead of only every six months.

The *Philatelic Journal of India* for January is a good number, containing much to interest. The principal feature is a continuation of Sir D. P. Masson's and Mr. Gordon Jones' article on "Afghanistan Stamps." The "Notes and Extracts" are as voluminous as ever, and, to

Indian readers, some of whom do not see the Home papers, must be a very acceptable feature, giving as they do a resumé of the Philatelic press.

We have received from Denver, Colorado, a new American stamp paper, called the *Stamp Journal*. With the somewhat restricted field of nomenclature that is open for stamp papers, we think our Denver friends have hit upon a very happy title. From the editorial of the baby Yankee, we find that the *Stamp Journal* is to be run on independent lines. We extract the following:—

Our ideals are high. We are free from all entangling alliances, and think we can, for that reason, serve our brother collectors better than if we were engaged actively in the stamp business, with goods to sell. We aim to make this paper the forum of every kind and class of stamp collecting. Indeed, all forms of collecting in the kindred sciences, will have here an exponent of their interests. We will not deal in personalities, but will try to produce a journal that is well tempered and seasoned, sweet and spicy.

May the *S.J.* long live up to the very high standard it has set itself to fulfil.

Proposed Gumpaps.

M. WARING DAVIS and A. NORTON BUELL both favour us with clippings from the *Montreal Star* indicating that a commemorative set of postage stamps may be issued in honour of the 300th anniversary of Canada's birth. Mr. Davis writes: "There is a plan on foot to convert the Plains of Abraham and the battlefield upon which are the monuments of Montcalm and Wolfe into a national park on the Tercentenary, and it has been suggested that special postage stamps be issued to commemorate the same, similar to those issued by the U.S. Government for the Jamestown Exposition." To accomplish the above project will require the appropriation of a large amount of money, and federal aid to the amount of \$300,000 is expected. Subscriptions for the purpose will also be opened not only in Canada but in England and France as well. The special set of postage stamps is expected to add considerably to the needed funds.—*Mekeel's Weekly*.

BINDING CASES

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No. 207. VOL. XVIII. MARCH 20, 1908.

[PRICE 2D.]

EDITORIAL.

IT is to be sincerely hoped that new issues have reached the high water mark of popularity when collectors are eager, as many are, to purchase unused provisional stamps, unheard of three months ago, at many thousands per cent. over face value. At

Undesirables. recent auctions, blocks of four of the recently surcharged 1d. on 5/- Cayman Islands have sold for the extraordinary sums of from forty to fifty shillings per block. When it is remembered (1) that the Cayman Islands are a dependency of Jamaica, and that a separate issue of stamps was only found necessary there eight years ago; (2) that these provisionals, if they can be dignified with the name, are type-set and liable to be re-issued at any minute; (3) that the islands have issued, and are issuing totally unnecessary high values; and (4) that used Caymans, with the exception of those that have purposely been sent out to be postmarked, are very scarce; one would think that all stamps emanating from these islands would be tabooed by collectors.

That this is not the case is clearly proved inasmuch that collectors and dealers are ready to pay big prices for them. Dealers, of course, buy to sell again, so do, we are very much afraid, a big proportion of the so called collectors who buy these, and kindred stamps.

Some months ago we tried to define the difference between a philatelist and a collector, at any time a difficult task to essay, now we think a good definition of the latter would be "one who craves for Cayman's."

Were there any beauty of design in these recent abortions we could partly understand the mad desire to possess them, but surely the most rabid of new issue collectors could not call a badly set up provisional Cayman surcharge a thing of beauty. This being the case we are reluctantly bound to admit that Caymans, so lovingly sought after, are only bought as an investment. Although keenly alive to the fact that there must always be a financial side to our hobby and that most collectors cannot afford to purchase indiscriminately, with no view to market value, we think, as do many leading philatelists of the day, that the deathknell of stamp collecting as a science has been sounded when stamps of so unsavoury a character are freely invested in with the sole object in view of almost immediately selling at a profit. To the true philatelist the disposal of any of his stamps is a thing to be regretted, but many modern collectors are only too pleased to sell if they see their hundred per cent. profit, that is, unless there is some prospect of making two hundred per cent. by holding on a little longer.

Naturally enough the supply will always, we are afraid, be equal to the demand, so that, as long as collectors will buy this class of speculative stamp,

there will always be a ready flow of perfectly unnecessary new issues and varieties.

Fortunately, the gentlemen who try to corner new issues are rarely if ever *quite* successful; for every *coup* there are a

dozen failures, with the result that, as is evident to every one with a knowledge of stamps, there are a great number of unused Colonial stamps on the market that have been somewhat aptly described as "have beens."

Papers for Moderate Specialists.

BY P. L. PEMBERTON.

IX.—SIERRA LEONE.

FOR the first twelve years of its philatelic history this West African Colony was content to issue only 6d. postage stamps, this was between 1860 and 1872. Until the latter date there was no inland Postal Service within the Colony, and 6d. being the foreign letter rate, it was not thought necessary to issue stamps of any other denomination.

This stamp is unique in its shape and is also, I believe, the only normal-sized stamp



which continued to be printed on *Crown CC* paper until late in the '90's. The reason for the latter peculiarity will be seen later.

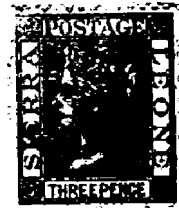
THE 6D., NO WMK., PERF. 14.

The first issue of the 6d. was made in 1860, probably very late in the year. It was printed in dull purple or lilac, on unwatermarked paper, perf. 14. The sheets consisted of 240 stamps, arranged in twelve panes of 20, in four rows of three. Each pane consisted of 20 stamps in five rows of four. Round the margins and in the spaces between the panes appeared the inscriptions "Sierra Leone—Postage." "Price—6 Pence per Label—2 Shillings per Row of 4—1 Pound per Sheet of 40." The paper was bluish of varying degrees of intensity, or white. Until quite recently most catalogues mentioned this stamp imperforate but since no satisfactory used specimen has turned up it is now believed that the unused specimens known are proofs, a verdict which is strengthened by the fact of their being on paper which is rather different from that of the perforated stamps.

THE 1872-73 ISSUE, PERF. 12½.

In 1872, no doubt owing partly to the formation of the Inland Postal Service and partly

to the need for other values owing to a revision of the postal rates for the Foreign Service, four new values were issued in a design somewhat resembling that afterwards used for the neighbouring Colony of Gold Coast. These



four values, the 1d., 3d., 4d. and 1/- were printed on paper with the watermark *Crown CC* sideways and were, together with the 6d., perforated 12½. The last mentioned still came on unwatermarked paper as the *Crown CC* paper, being made for sheets of stamps arranged in four panes of sixty, could not be made to fit a sheet constructed of twelve panes of twenty. The colour of the 6d. was, at the same time, changed to bright violet but the paper continued to be, variously, bluish or white. Mint unused specimens with this perforation, on white paper, are amongst the *desiderata* which collectors should be on the look out for.

In September, 1873, new printings of the 1d., 3d., 4d. and 1/-, together with a new value, the 2d., arrived in the Colony and these had the wmk. *Crown CC* upright. The 3d. of this printing was in a very curious shade of saffron-yellow which sometimes stained the paper slightly giving a tinted appearance on the back. To get sets of the four values with watermark sideways and upright, either unused or used, should be the aim of even the moderate specialist.

It will be noticed, on examining specimens of this issue that the value, which is expressed in words, in the lower label, is rarely in exactly the same shade of colour as the rest of the design while occasionally there is quite a marked difference. It is thus evident that the values were printed at a second operation and that the same plate printed the main portion of the design for all values.

ISSUE OF 1876-77, WMK. CROWN CC., PERF. 14.

This issue is identical with the last in design and watermark, but perforated 14. Two new values, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., were added, and all continued to be printed at two operations. All the values are becoming scarce, especially in mint condition, and have shewn marked rises in price in recent years.

ISSUE OF JUNE, 1883, WMK. CROWN CA.

This set consists of three values only, the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2d., and 4d., which are the same as in the last issue but have the wmk. changed to *Crown CA*. The 4d. unused is the greatest rarity among the standard varieties of Sierra Leone. Ten years ago it was worth more than it is to-day, but an entire pane turned up about the year 1900 which enabled many collectors to provide themselves with copies at prices ranging from £5 to £8 each.

THE 1884-93 ISSUE, WMK. CROWN CA.

This issue is in the same design as before, but most of the values are in new colours. A 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. value was introduced in 1891. All the stamps of this issue, as well as the preceding issues, were printed from plate 1. As with most De la Rue printings of this period, the gum varied from brownish to white. The values most frequently found with the brown gum are the 2d., 4d. and 1/- . The most desirable stamp of the set is the first printing of the 1d., which is in the shade of the CC printings instead of in the bright carmine, in which it afterwards appeared.

THE CROWN CC., 6D.

As mentioned before, the sheets of the 6d. were so inconvenient in shape that they continued to be printed on unwatermarked paper until 1885. At this date it was found that, though unsuitable, the paper which was used for large-sized Colonial stamps, to wit, the 2r. 50c. Ceylon and the 5/- stamps of Trinidad and Natal, could be used for the 6d. Sierra Leone. Supplies on this paper were first issued in 1885. The colour was similar to that of the last issue of this value, but the perf. was altered to 14. In May, 1890, the *Philatelic Record* chronicled the change of colour from violet to "brown" i.e. to the shade catalogued as "brown-purple." The Philatelic Society's work on Africa fixes the date of this stamp as Jan., 1890. The same work fixes the next change of shade, to brown-lake, at April, 1896, but as it was noted in the *Ph. J. of G. B.*, for April 10, 1896, it is certain that the date of issue could have been no later than March of that year. The brown-purple and brown-lake shades are still attainable in entire panes of 20, and specialists should endeavour to procure a pane with the inscribed margins intact. In this condition they are very beautiful and of convenient shape for an ordinary album. A pane will also show how much too widely spaced are

the watermarks for stamps of this size, and if the pane is from the top or bottom of the sheet it may show that no portion of the watermark appears on the upper or lower row of stamps.

THE "HALF-PENNY" ON 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ D. SURCHARGE OF 1893.

This surcharge was normally applied just above the middle of the stamp with two lines obliterating the original value at foot. The overprinting, being done locally, was not always in its correct position, and specimens in which the two obliterating bars were either too high or too low, frequently have a line ruled by hand in ink across the words, "3 half pence." These manuscript lines were sometimes drawn across the sheets without a break, but more often they were done in short lines which just covered the old values. An error occurred on the first stamp of the third row, reading "PFNNY." There were also many minor varieties in which HALF appears HALP or HAIF, but these, and others, were due to defective printing and were not constant. The surcharge is also found inverted.

At the date of this provisional the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on CA paper had only just superceded that with the CC watermark, and while most of the surcharges were applied on the new stamps, there were a few sheets with the CC watermark left on hand which were used. The stamps with this surcharge are very rare, while the error PFNNY is, of course, sixty times scarcer. The greatest care should be exercised in buying these stamps as the surcharges have been cleverly counterfeited.

THE ISSUE OF 1896-97.

This set is in one of Messrs. De la Rue and Co.'s convenient designs which were adaptable for several different Colonies. The stamps were printed with the labels at top and below left blank for the reception of the name and value at a second printing. The set comprised



the same values as before with the addition of the 5d., 2/-, 5/- and £1. There are slight shades of most of the lower values. Marginal strips or blocks shewing the plate number should be sought for. The first head plate had been dissipated in the preparation of stamps for Gold Coast, Leeward Isles, etc., before 1896, and therefore all the values of this issue are from plate 2, while supplies of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d. and 3d. were also printed, later on, from plate 3. These are well worth procuring, especially the last mentioned.

THE SURCHARGED FISCAL STAMPS, 1897.

This provisional issue was rendered necessary by a shortage of 1d. and 2½d. stamps. To make up for the former the one penny revenue stamps were overprinted with the words "Postage—and—Revenue" in three lines. Gibbons' catalogue lists a variety with double surcharge, but I have not seen it.

2½d. 2½d. 2½d.

I II III

2½d. 2½d. 2½d.

IV V VI

The 3d. and 6d. Revenue stamps were similarly overprinted but with the addition of six bars covering the old value and the new value surcharged in numerals. Of this surcharge there are four types, Nos. 1, 3, 4 and 5 of the accompanying illustrations. The entire sheets of 60 stamps, in six rows of ten, were overprinted by a setting of type arranged in three rows of ten, which was applied twice to each sheet. The varieties occur in the following quantities on each sheet:—

Forty-four of Type	I.
Ten ... "	III.
Four ... "	IV.
Two ... "	V.

The 1/- and 2/- revenue stamps were overprinted with "Postage and Revenue" in two lines, and five bars instead of six obliterating the old value. The 2½d. surcharge now appears above instead of below "Postage and Revenue," and in addition to three of the types appearing in the setting just described there are two others, Nos. 2 and 6. This setting was arranged in three rows of ten as before and applied twice to each sheet. The numbers of each type are as follows:—

Forty-four of Type	I.
Two ... "	II.
Four ... "	III.
Eight ... "	IV.
Two ... "	VI.

The number of 1/- and 2/- sheets overprinted was very small, especially of the latter, and the completion of the set of types on this value will be found to be a matter of the greatest difficulty.

THE KING'S HEAD ISSUE.

This set presents few special features. It first appeared in 1903 on paper watermarked with single *Crown CA*. There must have been a very small supply of these, as they were shortly superceded by the issue on *mult. Crown CA* paper. The single wmk. stamps are therefore worth procuring, and their present catalogue quotations seems to be less

inflated than those of most other King's Heads with the single wmk. Only one of the values in the original colours appeared on the *mult. ordinary* paper, namely, the 1d., and of this there could have been but a small printing. All values have since been issued on chalky paper.

In 1907 the ½d., 1d. and 2½d. appeared in single colours, instead of bi-coloured as at first issued, and on multiple ordinary paper.

POSTAL FISCALS.

A provisional fiscal stamp was issued in 1894 formed by surcharging the long 6d. Revenue stamp with the new value "One Penny" in words. There were two settings



of the surcharge, which can be distinguished in single specimens by the presence or absence of a hyphen between "One" and "Penny." I have seen a portion of a sheet of the setting without hyphen, from which it seems that the surcharges were probably set up in a block of 60 in order to print the whole sheet at one time, and not, as in the case of the 2½d. surcharges of 1897, in a block of fifteen which was struck twice on each sheet. A variety without stop after PENNY occurs more than once on each sheet, but I am only able to locate one of these which occurs on the second stamps in the fifth row. There is also a variety with inverted "N" in "PENNY." The stamps in the first, second and fourth rows have the value obliterated with two thick and one thin line. In the third and fifth rows there are one thick and three thin lines, the two centre thin lines being very close together, on the bottom row there is one thick and three thin lines, all of which are equal distances apart.

The setting with the hyphen is much commoner than the other, but I have not seen a large block of it. From the fact that the same varieties as I have described are said to occur in it it seems possible that the type was not re-arranged and that the hyphens were either removed or inserted. There is no necessity for a hyphen between the words "One Penny" and the probability is that the surcharge being first set up with the hyphen was afterwards corrected.

These stamps once had all the glory of catalogue rank and they are frequently found with genuine postal obliterations, but lately they have been left out of Gibbons catalogue, why, I cannot say. I wrote to the Postmaster

of Sierra Leone some months ago asking him if he could say whether they were ever authorized for use as postage stamps, but was not favoured with a reply.

New Issues and Varieties.

(We shall be glad to receive any new issues or new varieties from our readers for description in this column. Letters should be addressed to THE EDITOR OF THE PHILATELIC JOURNAL OF GREAT BRITAIN, c/o MESSRS. P. L. PEMBERTON & Co., 84, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.)

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Barbados. A correspondent to *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* says that the 1d. Tercentenary and the ½d., ¼d. and 2d. Nelson stamps are now obsolete.

British South Africa. Miss G. Killick, of Johannesburg, kindly sends us a photograph of a block of 28 of the current 1d. red, being imperf. vertically. Our correspondent states that she believes there are only 240 copies known in this state.



Cayman Islands. According to *Mekeel's Weekly* only nineteen sheets of 120 stamps were overprinted of the ½d. on 5/-, and fifteen sheets of the 1d. on 5/-.

It has come—we knew it would. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles another provisional; this time the 4d. stamp is defaced by being surcharged 2½d., and we have to chronicle it.

Why, oh why was last year's earthquake at Kingston, Jamaica.

Adhesive. King's Head.
2½d. in black on 4d. brown and blue.

Federated Malay States. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the current \$5 stamp on chalky paper.

Adhesive. Multiple C.A., chalky paper.
\$5 green and blue.

Maldive Islands. According to *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* the "Maldivian Government" will shortly issue a set of stamps!! We like the title "Maldivian Government." Who is to be their philatelic plenipotentiary?

New Zealand. A correspondent to *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* sends that paper sheets of the current ½d. green, but perforated by a new comb machine gauging 14 × 13½. *Ewen's Stamp News* chronicles the 1/- stamp in reduced design, perforated 14 × 13½.

The same paper chronicles a pair of the 6d. pink, large size, overprinted OFFICIAL, perforated 14 horizontally but imperf. between.

Adhesive. Perf. 14 × 13½.
½d. green.

Design reduced.
1/- vermilion.

Papua. Although we chronicled in the December number of this journal the numbers of all the British New Guinea stamps overprinted Papua, both overprints, we have only just seen the 2d. and 2½d. values with the second, or small overprint chronicled.



Overprinted Papua, small type.
2d. black and violet.
2½d. black and ultramarine

Queensland. We extract the following information from the February number of the *Australian Philatelist*—

"A doubt having been expressed as to the issue of the 2/6 and 10/- lithographed on Q and Cr. paper, we invited the assistance of Mr. Appleby in getting at the facts. Mr. Appleby asked the acting Deputy P.M.G. to obtain authoritative information on the point from the Government Printer. The following is the official reply. 'In reply to your inquiry I may state that the Government Printer, Brisbane, has advised me that no lithographed 2/6 or 10/- stamps on Q and Crown paper have been printed.'"

In August, 1906, we chronicled the 2/6 and 10/- stamps on the authority of the *Australian Philatelist*, as being lithographed on Crown and Q paper. In April, 1907, we repeated (by an oversight) the chronicle of the 10/- stamp, this time on the authority of *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*, as being lithographed on Crown and Q paper. Will Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. those kind solvers of new issue puzzles come to our assistance?

St. Kitts-Nevis. *Mekeel's Weekly* chronicles the 6d. value on multiple ordinary paper.



Adhesive. Multiple ordinary paper.
6d. violet and olive-green.

South Australia. The *Monthly Circular* chronicles the discovery of an unused copy of the 1/- brown of 1867-70, perf. 12½, this stamp is of course on the large star paper and would come in the catalogue between Nos. 87 and 88.

Straits Settlements. Johore. The *Monthly Journal* on the authority of a Continental Exchange chronicles a new value in the current type.

Adhesive. \$10 green and black.

Why?

Transvaal. Major Davies has shewn us the Transvaal rd. V.R.I. without stops after R and I.

Victoria. The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles the following variety, namely, the current 2d. stamp perforated 12 at top, 11 at bottom, and 12½ at sides. Why should the sides be twins?

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Bavaria. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, on the authority of *Der Deutsche Philatelist*, chronicles five of the current stamps overprinted with a large letter "E" standing for the word "Eisenbahn" (railways). These stamps are intended, so we are told, for the use of the railway officials, as all the Bavarian railways are the property of the Government.

The five values so overprinted are the 3, 5, 10, 20, and 50pf. stamps.

Belgium. *F.P.O. Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*, on the authority of *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, says that in consequence of the increasing commercial relations of Belgium with China, the Belgian Government has opened several post offices in China. The stamps to be issued are the current 5, 10, 25 and 50c., surcharged "Chine," and with value

in Chinese money. These may be superseded by a series of distinctive designs.

Adhesives. Overprinted "Chine."
5c. green.
10c. rose.
25c. blue.
50c. grey.

Crete. The *Monthly Journal*, on the authority of *Le Timbre Post*, chronicles a new Cretan stamp, but gives no particulars as to design.

Adhesive. 10l. rose.

Italy. Albania. Mons. Hanciau writing to *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, informs that paper that two more values of the current Italian stamps have been overprinted ALBANIA and the value for use in Albania. The same values have been also surcharged with the value only, for use in Janina.

Adhesives. Italian stamps overprinted ALBANIA
20 PARA 20.
20 para on 10c. rose.
80 .. on 50c. mauve.

Overprinted with value only.
20 para on 10c. rose.
80 para on 50c. mauve.

Japan. *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* chronicles the current 4 sen stamp in a new shade and perforated 13 × 13½.

Adhesive. Perf. 13 × 13½.
4 sen, pink.

Nicaragua. *Mekeel's Weekly* publishes a full list of the recently surcharged Provisional Officials. The surcharge is in black on the 10c., in dark blue on the 15c., 20c. and 50c., and in brownish-red on the peso values.

Provisional Officials.
10 cvs. on 1c. green.
15 cvs. ..
20 cvs. ..
50 cvs. ..
Un Peso on 1c. green.
Dos Pesos ..

Panama. Canal Zone. *Mekeel's Weekly* says:—

"Gust. G. Volger has shown us covers with specimens of the current Panama stamps, surcharged "Canal Zone," which have been converted into provisional postage due stamps, by printing the words "Postage Due" diagonally across the stamp, reading up. The surcharges are too large for the stamps, and having evidently been stamped in the sheets, a part of each surcharge is missing. There are two types of the overprint, in one the letters being 7½mm. tall, in condensed caps and lower case, while the other is all caps, nearly square letters, 4mm. tall.

Comment is unnecessary.

Spanish Colonies. For the benefit of those of our readers who complain that we do not write up our New Issue columns sufficiently we reproduce the following paragraphs from the *Monthly Journal*:—

Fernando Poo. According to *Le T.-P.* the 5c. stamps have run short and the 10c. stamps (presumably of last year's issue) have been overprinted "HABILITADO—PARA—05 CTMS," in three lines, in black.

5c. on 10c. claret.

Rio de Oro. According to *Le C. de T.-P.* a provisional 5c. stamp has been found necessary here (probably the new stamps are all wanted in Madrid), and it has been formed from a large oblong fiscal stamp of much handsomer design than any of the Spanish postal issues. In the centre are the Arms of Spain, surmounted by a Crown and surrounded by the collar of the Order of the Golden Fleece, hung upon a kind of monumental tablet; at left is a female figure in somewhat scanty costume, who is evidently regarded with stern disapproval by a completely draped lady on the other side; the latter holds a pair of scales and a sword, and doubtless represents Justice; the former we can only suppose to be "the naked Truth," never very welcome in polite society. At foot is the inscription "TERRITORIOS ESPAÑOLES DEL AFRICA OCCIDENTAL," and at top is the value. This fine design is greatly disfigured by the following overprint: "HABILITADO—PARA—CORREOS" in three horizontal lines across the centre; "RIO DE ORO" vertically at left, and "5 CENS" vertically at right; all in red.

5c. in red on 50c. blue-green.

We would point out to our readers that the existence of this fiscal stamp (presumably there is a series similarly inscribed) is a sufficient proof that one set of stamps is all that is required for the Spanish territories in West Africa, and that the four sets of postage stamps now on sale have only one object, the fleecing of collectors. The Golden Fleece seems a suitable accessory.

According to *L'Echo de la T.* the 25c. stamp of last year has been converted to 15c., by a surcharge of similar nature to that applied to the 25c. of 1905, and other provisionals have been produced from other values of the issue of 1905, by surcharging them "1908—2—Cens," or "1907—10—Cens," in three horizontal lines in each case.

- 2c. in violet on 2p. dull orange (1905).
- 10c. in carmine on 50c. myrtle-green (1905).
- 10c. " on 75c. violet (1905).
- 15c. " on 25c. bronze-green (1907).

Switzerland. Baron A. de Reuterskiöld contributes to the *Philatelic Adviser* a splendid list of recent Swiss issues. We take the liberty of reproducing it in full.

1904. Re-drawn type, with small figures of value. Watermark Cross in oval. Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$.
40c. grey.

"This stamp may exist perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11$, but I have not seen it."

1905-1907. New watermark Multiple Crosses.

(a) Perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$.

- 2c. bistre
- 3c. grey
- 5c. green
- 10c. red
- 12c. dark blue
- 15c. dark violet

(b) Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11$.

- 20c. orange
- 25c. dark blue
- 25c. pale blue—redrawn type
- 30c. red-brown
- 40c. grey
- 50c. green, dark green
- 1fr. carmine
- 3fr. yellow-brown

Variety: 20c. orange, with retouch of vertical lines on top.

(c) Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$.

- 20c. orange
- 25c. pale blue
- 30c. red-brown (?)
- 40c. grey
- 50c. green
- 1fr. carmine
- 3fr. yellow-brown (?)

1907-1908. New types. Thicker granite paper. Watermark almost invisible.

(a) Tell. Perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$.

- 2c. bistre
- 3c. red-brown
- 5c. green

(b) Helvetia. Perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$.

- 10c. red
- 12c. chrome-yellow
- 15c. violet

(c) Type as before. Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$.

- 20c. yellow, orange
- 25c. pale blue (?)
- 30c. yellow-brown, red-brn.
- 40c. grey
- 50c. green, dark green
- 1fr. carmine
- 3fr. yellow-brown.

Philately in Sheffield.

THE Sheffield Philatelic Society held a most successful *Conversazione* and Exhibition of Stamps on Friday, February 21st. We are indebted to the Hon. Secretary for the following newspaper report:—

The members of the Sheffield Philatelic Society had an enjoyable *Conversazione*, together with an Exhibition of Stamps, last night, at the Mappin Art Gallery. Nearly three hundred were present during the evening, including the Master and Mistress Cutler (Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Bedford), the President (Mr. F. Atkin), the Hon. Presidents (Councillor F. A. Keiley and Mr. Charles Clifford), and the American, French, Spanish, and Austrian Consuls. It was the seventh Exhibition held by the Society since its formation in 1894. It regularly holds, however, bi-monthly meetings during the autumn and winter.

Mr. F. Atkin showed a very fine specialised collection of the stamps of the United States—it included pairs and blocks, and contained a great number of very rare stamps, one of the most valuable being the 24 cents violet of 1861 *premiere gravure*.

Mr. Alex. Maxwell showed selections of Queen's and King's Head stamps of Cayman Islands, Ceylon, Morocco, and New Zealand pictorial issues.

Mr. J. H. Chapman's exhibit consisted principally of unused stamps, and included Great Britain, Australia, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Malta, Holland, and France—the most notable stamps being the £5 orange of Great Britain in mint condition, and the high values of Australia, including several £1 and £2 Victoria in mint condition.

Mr. J. F. Peace's exhibit was a very interesting one—he showed the first stamps issued during the respective reigns of Queen Victoria and King Edward, also the famous Mulready envelopes. He also displayed a number of stamps issued to commemorate certain events, such as the Jubilee of Queen Victoria, the Columbian Exhibition, Charity Stamps, the opening of the Victoria Falls, etc.

Mr. W. C. Fox, who possesses over 18,000 specimens, sent down a superb collection of the stamps of France and Colonies—it included nearly all the rarities. He also had on view a selection of British West Indian and African stamps.

Mr. Charles Clifford had on view a very fine lot of stamps of Ceylon, South Africa and West Indies—they were particularly noticeable for the splendid condition of the stamps, and attracted a good deal of attention. There were a number of the triangular Cape stamps, whilst the other Colonies were complete up to £10 unused. St. Vincent included the rare 5s. watermark Star.

Mr. R. Sneath exhibited a number of triangular Cape stamps and several curious stamps of Nova Scotia, which had been cut in half to make up odd postal values. He also showed a nice lot of the rare Sydney View stamps and other old Australian stamps.

Mr. J. E. Bartlett had a very complete collection of Great Britain (Victorian issues only), including the rare 5s., 10s. and £1 watermark Maltese Cross. The rest of his exhibit consisted of British African Colonies, which were very complete, and contained all the high values up to £10.

Mr. A. T. Nixon exhibited a selection of King Edward stamps of Hong Kong, Grenada, Lagos and African Colonies.

The Society had on view a collection of forgeries and reprints, including the 1s. green of Great Britain, which is believed to be the only British stamp which has been forged. It was discovered by a philatelist, but unfortunately not until 26 years after it had occurred. The Society also had on view a most interesting series of stamps, the colours of which had been chemically changed, also a set of unique menu cards designed by members of the Society.

The Sheffield Philately Society does an amount of real good work for the cause, all of which is done without a big flourish of trumpets and without a 1/- subscription list.

We are sorry we were unable to pay Sheffield a visit on the 21st of last month. By not going we evidently missed a most successful evening, both from a social and a philatelic point of view.

Cribbing.

IN *The Collector's Journal* for February, 1908, we are surprised to find a short article entitled "Duplicates," apparently contributed by an extremely enterprising person who signs himself W. J. Hodges. The article in question is almost entirely made up from the contents of two letters published in the *P. J. G. B.* for April and May of last year.

Below we quote the concluding passage from each paper.

From the "P. J. G. B.," June 1907—

"These stock books are too well known to need describing, all well known dealers use them. I find the ones containing about sixty oblong leaves the most handy for use. My desk—once the home for nearly a dozen cigar boxes, all containing elusive envelopes of still

more elusive duplicates—is now adorned with a neat little row of well bound stock books, an innovation I can confidently recommend to your troubled correspondent."

From "The Collectors' Journal," Feb., 1908.—

"These stock books are too well known to need describing—most dealers use them. I find the ones containing about fifty leaves, and holding about 15,000 stamps, the most handy for use. My desk and 'den' shelves, once the home for nearly two dozen cigar boxes, all containing elusive envelopes of still more elusive duplicates, is now adorned with a neat little row of well-bound stock books, an innovation I can confidently recommend to every troubled collector whose trouble is Duplicates."

The whole article, short as it is, is as faithfully copied, with only here and there a word altered. We think our readers will agree with us that this is a most bare-faced case of piracy; although imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, we think that in a case like this flattery savours more of robbery.

Protection.

NOTHING is more essential for the welfare of Philately than that all forgers and fakers should be eradicated. The Stamp Trade Protection Association, formed some years ago, has done an immense amount of good, not only in helping to punish the faker, but in preventing the would-be wrong doer from following the downward path. Did collectors realize the big risk they run in buying scarce stamps from unknown persons, many of whom masquerade as "collectors disposing of their duplicates," and did dealers recognize that "opportunity makes the thief," in other words, that they should exercise more care in sending valuable selections to unknown applicants, we feel sure that the work of the S.T.P.A. would be considerably lessened.

If there were no collectors it is fairly obvious that there would be no dealers, so that everything that tends to the detriment of our hobby should be rigorously attacked. Forgeries and fakes, of all descriptions, do more to kill the collecting instinct than do the whole multitude of new issues, speculative issues, re-issues and every other kind of issue that flood the philatelic market.

Many stamps, that dealers and experienced collectors can tell at a glance to be bad, give a lot of trouble to inexperienced collectors. The S.T.P.A. has, as one of its chief objects, the extermination of all forgeries and forgers, and we feel sure that all collectors and dealers, who have the true interests of Philately at heart, will do their individual best to support so worthy an Association. Elsewhere we publish the last Annual Report, and our readers will find embodied in it an amount of reading, some of which leaves considerable room for reflection.

Well-known Philatelists.

No. 98.—MR. THOMAS WHITMORE PECK.

As Vice-President of the Birmingham Philatelic Society, a position he has occupied since 1900, we feel sure the views held by Mr. T. W. Peck, regarding the future of philately, will interest our readers.

He says: "I feel that its future is largely in the hands of our well established societies and much, I think, depends on how they are managed. I am mindful of what has been done in philately, but, considering the many organisations up and down the country, what has been done for philately (e.g. the spread of philately, the keeping of philately more in the public eye, the bringing together of the active, and the awakening of the dormant collector) has been comparatively little. The good of philately ought to dominate the benefit of the few. Meetings of societies I think should be more often reported in the public press. The larger societies might easily, I think, give annually either a public display or a private competitive exhibition."

A collector since 1880, Mr. Peck has had many opportunities of reviewing the progress that philately has made during the past two decades.

Like so many of our well-known philatelists he first collected stamps when a boy at school, in fact, stamp collecting was the universal hobby in those days at King Edwards' Grammar School, where Mr. Peck was a scholar during the early eighties. One of the most vivid recollections of those early days was seeing a school chum tear in halves a copy of the 1854, 4d. Western Australia, because it had the centre inverted and consequently must have been a forgery! Quite a number of present day collectors first commenced collecting while scholars at the Birmingham Grammar School, in fact the subject of our present sketch knows several; this being the case we are sorry to hear that for some years, collecting at King Edward's Grammar School has been banned by the masters, dealers sent the boys so much stuff to sell on commission that philately became lost in mere commercialism.



Mr. Peck was for many years a general collector, retaining in fact one of his early collections dating back to his school-boy days, but, like so many other philatelists he commenced to specialize, turning his attention to the stamps of New Zealand, South Australia, Victoria, Norway and one or two other Countries. That he is a keen philatelist is evident from the following remarks.

He says: "I am particularly fond of all stamps of the line engraved period, and always mint unused copies when obtainable—but all must be in superb condition."

Joining the Birmingham Philatelic Society in 1896 and elected Vice-president four years later, a member of the Traveller's and Woden Stamp Exchange Societies Mr. Peck has ample opportunities of adding to his already very fine collection.

Although a keen collector for so many years Mr. Peck has not been lucky enough to make any startling discoveries of old Lalliers, containing practically all the old stamps, or even has he been able to purchase, for a mere song, a book full of rarities; in fact, the nearest he has been to wooing the fickle Goddess of Luck has been in knowing a dealer who persistently destroyed Cape woodblocks because he thought they were forgeries! In that every dog has his day, and every good philatelist his find of old stamps, we feel sure that Mr. Peck is nearing

a grand haul, may it be a real good one containing many old New Zealands and South Australians.

A collector of prints, coins, china, etc., in fact almost anything antique, Mr. Peck, gives precedence to his stamps.

Referring to his different hobbies he says: "None give me so much pleasure as stamps and all have had to give place to them. I know of nothing more enjoyable than for four or six stamp enthusiasts to meet at dinner and afterwards to spend the evening discussing stamps."

We agree with Mr. Peck, and join him in saying *Floreat Philatelia*.

HAVE you written to our publishers for a copy of their new Catalogue of Line-Engraved Stamps?

Current Chatter.

BY ANGUS MCTAVISH.

LAST month I got into hot water from the powers that Be because I exceeded my allotted page, as if readers of the *P.F.G.B.* could have too much "Chatter"! I suppose I trespassed on the space that the great one had reserved for himself. I have also had orders not to write about the Exhibition, somebody else is to do that, perhaps just as well, for were I to start telling about a few of the things I saw and heard there I should get into trouble.

I was nearly taken in the other day by a lot of mint St. Helenas, 1890-97 issues, all values, full gum, until I carefully examined them and found almost imperceptible traces of a violet cancellation. They consisted of part of the Government remainders with the cancellations carefully cleaned off.

Almost every week I receive a new stamp paper through the post—have had no fewer than four just recently. A comparatively newcomer, however, *Redfield's Weekly*, has not put in an appearance lately. Where, oh where has it gone?

Being a good philatelist, I always read my *Philatelic Record* every month. In the February number of that paper there is the following extraordinary statement: "There is a very old and true saying that, if there were no Re-issues there would be no Thieves."

Being from John O'Groats (where the McTavishs, that is the Angus Wallaby McTavishs, emigrated to in 1066) it took me a few minutes to see the point. It reminded me of a somewhat similar printer's error that bothered me once. Writing about Perak stamps, I wished to describe one of the well-known antique "e" varieties—of course, the printers set it up in the proof as Antigua "e." I corrected it, but my kindly philatelic printers had evidently made up their mind that I knew nothing about geography and set it up as Antigua, and so it remains to this day.

I wonder whether any of my readers (I take it for granted you see that somebody else reads Current Chatter, besides McTavish and the poor devil who sets it up) can tell me the meaning of the curious cancellation on the West Australian stamp illustrated below.



As can doubtless be seen, it is the 4d. Crown and C.C., perf. 12½, and is cancelled

with a Crown and the word "PAID." I have never before seen this cancellation on any West Australian stamp. Can any of my readers help me?

The latest rumour I hear is that "Tancred" is going to live, at anyrate during the summer months, at Tunbridge Wells. Lucky man, What philatelic corroborrees there will be when Messrs. Wetherell, Cornelius Wrinkle, Tancred and Nankivell foregather together. I should like to be there.

I gather, from various sources, that the Russian, Austrian and Dutch Governments are having trouble with the ubiquitous stamp faker. In each case the trouble is with cleaned stamps. The recent Austrian portrait gallery issue has been withdrawn from sale because the highly glazed surface has enabled the faker to clean the postmarks off. The current Russians and Dutch Indies likewise have been largely cleaned, with the result that new issues are possibilities of the near future.

The wily Chinee, I believe, makes a good thing out of cleaning postmarks off most of the current Asiatic stamps. I wonder what John thinks of the chalky Hong Kongs. I guess its a case of "Too muchee rub makee welly helly mess."

Looking through the 1908 Catalogue, I chanced to notice that several Ceylon stamps are priced too low. They are mostly very cheap stamps, but at 50% off catalogue should make a good investment. I am not going to tell my readers what stamps they are—of course not—but if anybody cares to send me good copies, at half catalogue, of the following varieties, used, well, I am prepared to go "sixteen annas" (as they say in India, i.e., the whole hog): 1868, 3d. rose; 1885, 5c. on 8c. lilac, 28c. on 32c. slate; 1886, 25c. buff; 1890, 5c. on 15c. olive-green; 1892, 3c. on 4c. lilac-rose; there are others, of course, but then, you see, McTavish wants to come in first.

Orders, or no orders, I must unload a little chatter, concerning the Exhibition. Ever since I went there on Friday morning and nearly rubbed shoulders with the Prince of Wales and Mr. Johnson, I have bubbled over with pride. The husband of Mrs. McTavish was a proud man that day.

Philatelic eagles indeed, philatelic doves would be a better description. The Golden Eagle—the great C.J.P.—being in Spain, the rest of the Sparrow Hawks made merry. Oh, what a loving little flock of fluffy feathers they are and how carefully they watch each other.

Puir wee McTavish (no connection with any London Mc's) was like a frightened dove overshadowed by a dozen hawks—and oh, what naughty unkind things I heard said, even during the short time I could detach my attention from the wondrous two-legged sights, I heard enough scandal to warrant six libel actions, two divorces, and a breach of promise.

After making obeisance at Stall No. 8 (I started up side down—I mean inside out—dash it, I mean, I started backwards) I reached Stall No. 6 and en route collected enough material for a Judge, four K.C.'s and a Jury. What sights I saw, poor little flies from Manchester and elsewhere, being conducted to the various parlours where such silken little webs had been prepared—it was cruel—while poor Mr. Z., a well-known private dealer, trying to capture a wealthy North of England philatelist who was in tow of one of Mr. P . . k . . s tow boats, en route for Stall No. —, was a sight I wouldn't have missed for untold Nova Scotias.

I have a lot more reminiscences I could tell, but my solicitor tells me they would probably cost me between £20,000 and £100,000 (with his costs) for libel actions, and as even the smaller amount is more than I can screw up just at present, I will leave them unwrit (see it?)



March, 1908, Report.

List of Officers and Committee, 1908.

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MEMBERSHIP.

Candidates for admission must be over 18 years of age, and supply at least two satisfactory references. They will then be proposed for election, and if no objection be lodged within fourteen days, be duly elected. The Entrance Fee, 2/6, and Subscription, 5/-, should accompany the application, and will be refunded in the event of the non-election of the applicant. (The Committee are empowered to elect Life Members, not exceeding ten in number, at a fee of Two Guineas.)

The following are now proposed in accord-

ance with the above: Mrs. H. Jones, Dublin, proposed by T. H. Hinton, seconded by W. S. King; J. H. Abbott, Esq., Manchester, proposed by T. H. Hinton, seconded by P. L. Pemberton.

LIBRARY.

The Hon. Librarian acknowledges with thanks: From Messrs. Bright & Sons, their A B C Catalogue for 1908, which will be available for members reference at all meetings; "British Guiana Philatelic Journal"; "Collectors' Journal"; "Briefmarken Offertenblatt"; The Journals of the Philatelic Literature Society (Specimen Number) and Herts Society.

NOTICES.

The sixth meeting of the season took place at Essex Hall on Thursday, March 12th, when there were present: W. Schwabacher (in the chair), L. W. Fulcher, E. Wetherell, W. Schwarte, J. C. Sidebotham, W. S. King, and the Hon. Sec. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. Sidebotham displayed a portion of his collection, comprising France, Montenegro, Guatemala, and Tonga. In this display were included some interesting minor varieties and rarities in fine condition. Mr. Wetherell followed with a display of Spain and Cuba 1855-6-7 issues, a fine and highly specialised collection, including reconstructed sheets, shades, errors and forgeries made to deceive the government and postally used. Mr. Wetherell has made a very exhaustive study of these stamps and his notes accompanying the display afforded much interest to those present. A hearty vote of thanks moved by Mr. Fulcher and seconded by Mr. King, was accorded to Messrs. Sidebotham and Wetherell, and to the chairman, and concluded a pleasant evening.

The next meeting will be held at Essex Hall on Thursday, April 9th, at 8 p.m. (committee 7.30), when Mr. Wetherell will give a display of the stamps of Mauritius and some other African colonies. All members and any visitors cordially welcomed.

Applications for membership, subscriptions, or donations to forgery collection gladly received and promptly acknowledged by—

THOS. H. HINTON,

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Int. Phil. Union.
26, Cromford Road, East Putney, S.W.

March 16th, 1908.

The Scottish Philatelic Society

JUNIOR BRANCH.

THE Monthly Meeting of this Society was held in Dowell's Rooms, Edinburgh, on the evening of Saturday, 7th March, when Mr. N. M. Berrie, the President, presided

over a large attendance, over 30 Members being present.

The minute of the Monthly Meeting on February 1st was read, approved of and signed, new Members were admitted and the Hon. Sec. reported the sales from the Exchange packets in circulation.

The Hon. Sec. read a letter from Mr. Fred J. Melville, President of the Junior Philatelic Society, London, in which he explained his inability to be present owing to the pressure of work caused by the Imperial Philatelic Exhibition in London, and intimated a donation of a set of his works to the Society's Library. A gift of books to the Library from Mr. Field, London, was also intimated. The Hon. Sec. was instructed to convey to these gentlemen the thanks of the Society. Contributions to the Forgery Collection have also been received from Mr. Stewart and Mr. Nightingale.

The Assistant Secretary (Mr. W. D. Small, 10 Glenorchy Terrace, Edinburgh), reported progress in connection with the arrangements for the Auction Sale on Saturday, 11th April, for which lots to be included must reach him not later than the end of March. He also reported with regard to the Prize Competition Scheme for the best collections from Members and the best sheets sent in to the Exchange Branch.

The members then had an opportunity of examining a choice selection of 110 sheets from the famous collection of the postage stamps of Ceylon, belonging to Baron A. de Worms, Honorary Vice-President of the Society and a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. Baron de Worms' collection is generally admitted to be the finest collection of Ceylon stamps in existence, and the treat afforded was thoroughly enjoyed. An exceptional feature of the display was the remarkably fine condition of the used specimens. Baron de Worms' collection is practically complete, and contains many very great rarities.

Mr. F. L. Gregory, a member of the Society, delivered some interesting and original notes on the stamps of the Sudan, accompanied by an excellent display, including panes of many of the values and some of the rare errors, such as the Army Official, 1 millieme single wmk., of which only 120 were issued, including the very scarce error "Official," one of which occurs in each block of 30. The inverted surcharges of the 5 milliemmes and 5 piastres 1903 issue were also represented, and many others. Mr. Gregory referred to the absence of any publications on the stamps of the Sudan, and pointed out the happy hunting ground they afforded to the specialist of moderate means.

Cordial votes of thanks were, on the motion of Mr. Walker, President of the Senior Branch, awarded to Baron de Worms and Mr. Gregory

for their kindness in providing a most interesting and enjoyable evening.

Hon. Secretary, FRANK CHALMERS, 24, Bruntsfield Gardens, Edinburgh.

New Leaves to Cut.

BRIGHT'S "A.B.C." CATALOGUE PART II.

We have received from Messrs. Bright and Son Part II. of their "A.B.C." Catalogue, containing a full list of postal stationery.

Unfortunately our knowledge of "Entires" is too limited to enable us to give a competent review of this book, but Mr. Walter T. Wilson, an acknowledged expert in this branch of philately, writing to the *S.C.F.*, waxes very enthusiastic over the new publication—so we may take it for granted that Part II. is all that it should be.

If it is as good in its way as is Part I. we can confidently recommend it to all our readers, many of whom, although they do not collect "entires," have a number stored away—relics of early collecting days. Perhaps the new catalogue will revive old interests; at any rate, most general collectors will do well to invest in a copy.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF CHINA.*

THIS little work is a companion volume to those on Siam and Sarawak by the same author. It is surprising to find that for works on such limited subjects, even though published at the moderate price of 1/-, there should be a large enough public to warrant the enterprise; but Mr. F. J. Melville now has a public of his own and can count on a large measure of support in advance. The success of his *brochures* may be attributed in some degree to the fact that he dwells more on the historical and picturesque aspect of his subject than on those dry details which are expected by the specialist. In this way he appeals to a larger circle of readers, but it must be admitted at once that the work under notice will prove of little or no assistance to an advanced collector of Chinese stamps. We are surprised to find Mr. Melville referring to a "retouched plate" when speaking of a lithographic issue, and that he should give credence to Mr. Mencarini's unlikely story of every stamp on the stone of the 2 cents of 1895 being "retouched" to produce the issue in which the foot of the "2" is straight instead of curved!

However, in spite of the meagreness (from a specialist's point of view) of the purely philatelic information, perhaps, indeed, on account of this very deficiency, the book is readable and interesting from end to end.

* *The Postage Stamps of China*, by Fred J. Melville, London, 1s, Sudbourne Road, Brixton. 1/- nett.

The chapters on the history of the Chinese Post and the descriptions of the designs and emblems employed in Chinese philatelic art are admirable. There are also some useful tables, giving the numbers printed of the stamps of the 1894 issue, and of the surcharged issues of 1897; these prove that Chinese stamps are by no means overpriced at current quotations, for the figures are surprisingly small.

The book is very neatly got up in the æsthetic style, and contains three colotype plates of illustrations, which are beyond all praise.

Correspondence.

The Editor *P.J.G.B.*

DEAR SIR,

We have been making enquiry concerning the provisional stamps issued for Cucuta and Santander last year, as we had been informed that a decree was issued in 1903 forbidding the use of separate issues of postage stamps in the various departments. We wrote to the British Consul at Bogota asking him to make enquiries and we enclose copy of his reply. The stamps referred to will be found in Stanley Gibbons' catalogue, page 123, Nos. 49 to 69, and page 124, Nos. 32 to 46. We think the stamps have been made officially, but in view of this letter we can hardly believe that they were intended for postal use, but most likely were surcharged in order to get rid of the stock.

Yours faithfully,
WHITFIELD KING & Co.

COPY.

British Consulate General,
Bogota,
January 22nd, 1908.

GENTLEMEN,

In reply to your letter of the 30th November last, I beg to inform you that I have shown the enclosed stamps to the Postmaster-General of the Republic, who confirms your supposition as to the impossibility of their being genuine. He informs me that you are also correct in believing that a decree still exists prohibiting any further issues of postage stamps by the different Departments, and he remarked that the surcharging of the stamps was, to his mind, in itself conclusive. I have also shown the stamps to an acquaintance of mine who is a collector, and he informs me that some, at least, of the stamps are obvious forgeries, and that they all look to him doubtful.

I beg to return the stamps, as requested, and remain,

Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) VICTOR HUCKIN,
Vice-Consul.

Whitfield King & Co.,
Ipswich.



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All communications to be addressed to—

P. L. PEMBERTON & Co.,

84, High Holborn, London, W.C.

Publishers' Note.

MR. MELVILLE, President of the Junior Philatelic Society, draws our attention to the fact that one of our advertisers advertised in the February number of this journal, a packet of stamps, under the heading of "J.P.S. Packet," and requests us to inform our readers that this packet is not being sold with a guarantee, or under the patronage of the Junior Philatelic Society; further, that the Junior Philatelic Society has requested the advertiser in question to refrain in future from using these initials when advertising any of his goods. Needless to say, we accepted the advertisement of Mr. Charlick, the gentleman in question, and attached no importance to the letters "J.P.S." Mr. Charlick is a well-known dealer and would not resort to petty tricks to mislead purchasers.

We regret that in publishing the advertisement we inadvertently trod on the evidently very susceptible corns of the Junior Philatelic Society Committee. Mr. Charlick has rechristened his packet the "S.H. Packet," which letters, we trust, will not give offence to the "Silent Harbingers," should there be a Society of that name.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Our publishers wish to announce that they will shortly move into new offices, and have been delaying the publication of this number of the *Journal* in the hope of being able to publish their new address. As this has not been definitely decided upon, they have decided to go to press without it, rather than delay the *Journal* any longer.

Subscribers will receive notice by post, a week or so before the removal.

Owing to press of work, we have not been able to decide upon the winner of the Competition, the result of which will be announced next month.

The Exhibition.

THE Imperial Stamp Exhibition, held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, has been a decided success, a fact that can best be illustrated when it is mentioned that 27,000 people visited it during the three days in which it was open.

The doors were thrown open to the public at 3.30 on the afternoon of Thursday, March 12th, and the opening ceremony was shortly afterwards performed by the Rt. Hon. Sydney Buxton, Postmaster-General, who delivered a speech of about a quarter of an hour's duration.

On the second day the Exhibition was honoured by a visit from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who spent over an hour attentively examining the exhibits; he was accompanied by his son, Prince Albert of Wales, who also seemed to take a great interest in what he saw. Another distinguished visitor was Bishop Hartswell, Bishop of Africa, who was piloted round by Mr. Melville on Saturday afternoon, when the crowd was at its thickest. Mr. Mount Brown, the author of one of the very first stamp catalogues, published in the early 60's, also paid a visit to the show. It would be interesting to know what he thought of the advance made by philately since those early days.

The exhibits were confined to British Colonial stamps and the countries were arranged alphabetically. The aim of the Committee was to have every Colony represented. They were not quite successful in this as there was no exhibit of Mauritius, but this was the only one left out. While it was a pleasure to see so many collections shown by budding philatelists, and by others who, though not so young in the hobby, have not

previously shown at exhibitions, it was a greater pleasure to have an opportunity of seeing some of the classical collections, notably the New South Wales of Mr. Harvey Clarke, the Tasmania of Mr. Yardley and the West Australia of Mr. Hausburg. The first mentioned has been added to since the London Exhibition of 1906, and, in the opinion of many was the finest collection on view, but, if this was so, it was run very close by the others just mentioned. Undoubtedly the most popular variety in the whole Exhibition was the 4d. West Australia with inverted centre shewn by Mr. Hausburg. Besides these the Barbados shewn by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Zanzibar by Mr. T. W. Hall, the Canada of Major French, the Cape of Good Hope of Mr. P. Bright, and the New Zealand of Mr. Hayman, were in the very first class. Four of these exhibits were quite new to exhibition goers. It is difficult to pick out a few collections for special mention but we feel that we must refer to the following, which were all of very great interest:—Mr. Yardley's Griqualand, Mr. Beckton's Grenada, Mr. Trenchman's various collections of Ceylon, New Zealand, St. Vincent, Queensland, and others, Mr. Ransome's Trinidad, Mr. Humphrey Bennett's Sarawak, Major French's Cyprus, Dr. F. W. Abbott's Straits Settlements, Mr. J. H. Abbott's Tonga, Mr. Ashby's British New Guinea and Papua, and Mrs. Bazett's Uganda. Mr. A. H. L. Giles shewed nice collections of Victoria and New South Wales, Mr. D. C. Gray a most interesting little collection of the first issues of India shewing the different transfers and some of the retouches, Mr. Owen Fearnley an interesting lot of Ionian Islands, principally on covers, and Mr. Harland a very pretty collection of St. Helenas. We hope we shall not offend our other friends whose collections we have not mentioned but this short account is being written just before going to press and time and space do not permit of our going into further details.

For the same reason, we cannot make more than a passing mention of the excellent arrangements made by the Committee for the amusement and comfort of the visitors and stall-holders. Lectures were delivered on two evenings by Mr. F. J. Melville and Mr. I. J. Bernstein, illustrated by lantern slides thrown on the screen by Mr. Frank Phillips. Music was provided by Mr. Leonard Wright's Orchestral Band.

Much of the success of the Exhibition is attributable to the hard work put in by the Secretary, Mr. H. F. Johnson, and to him and Mr. Melville, together with the others of the Executive Committee of the Junior Philatelic Society, the thanks of all are due. We hope that the J.P.S. will not have a balance on the wrong side when the accounts are made up, for it is astonishing that such a show could be arranged without making any charge for admission.

The Stamp Trade Protection Association.

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1906-7.

THERE are at present 50 subscribing active Members of this Association, of which seven were elected during the year, five old Members retiring.

The current year is opening very well, two new Members having been elected and several gentlemen having applied for particulars of membership.

The expenses are rather heavier this year owing to an arrangement for English and Foreign Enquiries with an Enquiry Office of the highest standing and reliability; included is also the honorarium voted to the Secretary at the last Annual General Meeting.

The Secretary has to thank the Members generally for the aid they now afford in advising any doubtful applications or transactions. It often enables him to know how to deal with one of those individuals if he has succeeded in imposing on one of the Members.

The number of cases placed in the hands of the Secretary for the recovery of stamps and debts totalled 265 during the year, of which 97 have been settled in full, over 40 being still in the hands of solicitors or the police, and in 17 cases the time limit for the possible settlement has not yet expired.

The greater proportion of the unsuccessful cases were due to the fact of the removal of the parties and the inability to trace them, and to the use of Letter Call Offices, this last evil shows signs of continued increase.

The amount in cash and stamps recovered amounted to £402 8s. out of a total value of £1022.

The prosecution of Treherne, at Brighton, absorbed so much time that some of the matters in hand have stood over longer than they would otherwise have done; this case, full reports of which have appeared in the Philatelic Press, has cost the Association so far £34, and there are at present claims amounting to a further £27.

Included in these expenses are the expenditure paid by the Association in obtaining evidence and preparing the case for the Inland Revenue Authorities.

Particulars of Membership will gladly be sent. Applications should be addressed to the Secretary,

J. S. G. TELFER.

63-4, Chancery Lane,
London, W.C.

Correspondence.

Amsterdam,
2e Jan v. d. Heydenstr. 5,
21st Feb., 1908.

To the Review Editor *P.J.G.B.*

DEAR SIR,

I note in your issue of Feb. 20th, that you were so kind to insert an extract of my letter published in *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* of Feb. 1st, you however state in a footnote that the figure of £9 is probably a misprint. This, however, is not so, as the total of the face value amounts to exactly 105 gulden, or in English money £8 15s. od.

	fl.	£	s.	d.
30,000 of ¼c.	15.00	...	1	5 0
40,000 ,, 1c.	40.00	...	3	6 8
50,000 ,, 2½c.	50.00	...	4	3 4
			£8 15 0	

Thanking you for inserting this.

I remain, yours very truly,
LEON DE RAAY.

[Two nights we wrestled with the above figures and it was only after spending nearly the whole of one month's editorial honorarium on a visit to Miss Hook, of Holland, that we finally came to the conclusion that Holland is a good country to live in i.e. if 40 gulden will purchase 40,000 one cent stamps. — Ed. *P.J.G.B.*]

20, Cricklade Avenue,
Streatham Hill, S.W.,
March 14th, 1908.

The Editor *P.J.G.B.*

SIR,

With reference to the packet of stamps which I advertised in your paper for February, I have received a letter from a firm of Solicitors, purporting to act on behalf of the Junior Philatelic Society, in which they make the astounding suggestion that the letters J.P.S. (January Philatelic Success) which I applied to this packet are calculated to give the impression that they are sold under the guarantee of, or in connection with this Society.

This, I most emphatically deny, and would further state that the two or three hundred letters of recommendation which I have received recently for these new packets, are better calculated to promote the sale of my goods than the patronage of even the Junior Philatelic Society.

I have altered the name of the packet to "S H" Packet, and trust that no Philatelic Society will wish to claim the exclusive use of these letters, or of words of which they may be the initials.

Yours faithfully,
L. S. CHARLICK.



MARCH 20, 1908.

Philately at home.

The *London Philatelist* for February contains a capital paper on "Dutch Stamps," being a *resumé* of Mr. A. J. Warren's paper, read before the Royal Philatelic Society.

We should very much like to reprint copious extracts, but want of space prevents.

The Rev. P. E. Raynor contributes a few short notes concerning South Australian stamps. Writing about the Crown and S.A. watermarks, he says:—

When the distinction was first made between the wide and close forms of the "Crown over SA" watermark, it seems to have escaped notice that there is an intermediate variety coming between the two. The wide SA was in general use for the 2d. value from September 1868, to July 1877; but until January 1875, the old Perkins, Bacon type of the 1d. continued in use; consequently the type-printed 1d. of De La Rue and Co., which was then issued, was printed on the wide SA paper for a year and a half only (1875-7), as compared with the nearly nine years' currency of the 2d. value with this watermark (September, 1868, to July, 1877). This fact accounts for the comparative scarcity of the De La Rue 1d. with the wide watermark. About the beginning of 1877 the intermediate variety began to appear, and was employed concurrently with the wide variety during the first half of that year. Its use appears to have continued until about 1880, and since then the close type alone has been employed. In the second or middle type the Crown is very similar to that in the wide SA, the chief difference being that the rudimentary cross above the ball is absent, while the ball itself is more rounded. There is a difference in the distance between the letters SA, which are 2mm. apart in the centre, while the wide type has a space of 3½mm., and the close type of 1mm. only. But the most striking difference is in the shape of the letters themselves, which in the intermediate type have distinct serifs; these are very slight or altogether absent in the other two types.

It may be noted that this type of watermark sometimes has the transparent appearance of the earlier type, the pulp of the paper being so thinned in the process of manufacture that the watermark almost shows through the stamp.

Having just recovered from a severe prostration, resultant of trying to distinguish between the two Queensland watermarks of the 1879-80 issue, we do not at present feel up to trying to separate our South Australians. There is, how-

ever, a noticeable difference in the Crown and S.A. type of watermark, and at a later date we must try and make out the third type.

A few other "Notes" and the usual regular monthly features complete a very good number of our contemporary.

The *Philatelic Record* for February contains some very trenchant remarks about recent unnecessary issues. We make the following short extract:—

The voice of this magazine, during the last fifteen years especially, has often been raised against new issues on account of their being to such a considerable extent speculative and unnecessary, and also due to the fact of the unhealthy trade, to our minds, which has arisen in them.

Bravo *Record*; with the grey-headed *P.R.*, the middle-aged *P.J.G.B.*, and the youthful but energetic *Postage Stamp*, all voicing the same sentiments, we can but influence a number of collectors—every one of whom, that makes up his mind to ignore "speculatives," will by so doing drive a nail into the coffin that is being prepared for the *Great Unnecessary*.

The rest of the *Philatelic Record* is mostly made up with extracts from other papers; a long report of the recent Calcutta Exhibition; a short sketch of Dr. William C. Bowers, of America, known to fame lately through the pages of Warren Colson's admirable book; a New Issue Column and the usual budget of "Notes and News."

The *Monthly Report* of the Herts Philatelic Society for March contains, among other admirable reading matter, a *resumé* of Mr. T. W. Hall's recent paper read before the H.P.S., and the first instalment of a capital article contributed by Mr. R. B. Yardley, entitled "Collectible Varieties and Curiosities." We make the following extract:—

The object of these notes is not to advocate the respective merits of specializing and collecting generally (as those terms are commonly understood), or any other mode of collecting, but to place before those

who are beginning to form a collection a short account of the lines on which most advanced collectors of the day proceed, and to indicate the points and conditions which are chiefly appreciated or regarded as of real importance, so that those who are entering on the pursuit may be to some extent enabled to judge for themselves of the relative importance of certain varieties and materials (not necessarily true postage stamps) which they may come across. As will be seen, there are many things not strictly postage stamps which yet may be of great interest in the study of postage stamps and the detection of forgeries and fakes. Collectors in the early stages of their career have to follow the lines laid down for them in their albums or the dealers' catalogues, but sooner or later they cannot fail to be impressed with or puzzled by the importance attached to certain stamps or classes of stamps as compared with others—and they further probably come across specimens not mentioned in the catalogues, or for which no spaces are provided in their albums. I will refer more particularly to these latter items in a later stage of these notes, and will now endeavour to indicate in outline some of the reasons why certain stamps are so highly prized. First, let me remark in passing that at the present day, at any rate in this country, hardly anyone collects on the lines which were followed only twenty years ago, and that quite apart from the question of the condition of the stamps. Most collectors at the present time, take only adhesive postage stamps issued, or supposed to have been issued, to the public, and reject essays and reprints, envelopes, wrappers and postcards; again, many collectors, and probably even the majority of those who do not class themselves as specialists, limit their collections to stamps of certain countries or to those issued within certain periods of time; on the other hand, they recognise and collect varieties which were formerly disregarded by all but the most advanced philatelists of twenty years ago. This has been brought about by the mass of new issues and the greater number of varieties recognised as collectible in respect of the older and as well as the modern stamps according to the present advanced philatelic standard.

Mr. Yardley goes on to give a most lucid and interesting account of how stamps were perforated, dealing only with the Perkins, Bacon class of stamps. Like nearly every other serious advanced philatelist, Mr. Yardley remains true to the stamps of Philately, namely, the early line-engraved prints, and, needless to say, his remarks are always of interest.

The Editor, Mr. Franz Reichenheim, contributes an interesting little paper, entitled "Impressions," wherein he tells of a recent visit to the Fatherland and of visits paid there to the Dresden and Berlin Philatelic Clubs.

The *Monthly Journal* for February is as usual full of good things. In the editorial, Major Evans, in referring to Messrs. Bright & Son's A.B.C. Catalogue, makes the following stringent remarks *apropos* "Used Abroads."

A feature which has attracted our attention is a long list of "British Stamps Used Abroad," which we believe responds to a want that is felt by some collectors at the present day, though it is a want which we, personally, feel but little sympathy. A note at the head of the list says, very rightly, that:—

"These were issued by Branches of the British Post Office established in various Colonies and Foreign Ports." We should omit "Branches," but in any case this gives the whole show away. They were British Post Offices, or British stamps could not have been used at them, and therefore on the same footing, postally and philatelically, as Post Offices in the British Isles; and the stamps that happened to have passed through one office have just as much claim to consideration as those that have passed through another. Of course there is the practical, business point of view, that there are people who make collections of the stamps used in Post Offices outside this country, whilst there are none, or very few, who make collections of stamps used at different offices in the country, and that is an argument which there is no getting over; but we think these collections are made principally by people who do not understand the true nature of the case. We would also point out that lists of these stamps are by no means complete; the British Post Office is one and indivisible, and every stamp that is current at one of its offices is current at every other. A stamp that could be used for postage in London on a certain date could be used at the same period at any other British Post Office on the face of the earth; it does not matter a bit whether it was sold at that office or not, it could have been used there, and who can tell that a specimen of any particular variety may not have been used there? Collectors are free to collect what they please, but it is well that they should understand what they are collecting; and we think the question of British stamps with their value largely increased by an abnormal postmark is one that requires very careful handling.

We think Major Evans is a little too severe on the poor harmless collectors who fancy "Used Abroads." Personally, although we think that a specialized collection of Colonial postmarks on English stamps would not be worth the labour and expense entailed in getting it together, we are strongly of the opinion that a specialized collection of, say, Malta, should include a few British stamps used in the island prior to the general issue of Maltese stamps.

Major Evans evidently has the courage of his own convictions, for which, of course, we honour him, but we think he is a little hard on "Used Abroads" and a little hard on the A.B.C. Catalogue. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, by the bye, is publishing an excellent article on these maligned stamps. The Editor of the *M.J.* should write for a copy.

Mr. J. Bornefeld contributes another excellent instalment of his article on the "Electrotyped Stamps of Queensland." He deals mostly with the retouched 1d. and 2d. stamps of 1887 and the issues of 1890-4. Writing about the various shades, these stamps are to be found in, he says:—

The One Penny varies in shade from ochre-yellow to the deepest vermilion and the deepest rose-red. The canary-yellow Penny (the existence of which has been so much disputed) was undoubtedly issued about the end of April and in May, 1894. I have examined

about a dozen copies in a clear canary-yellow, the same shade as the Four Pence (which latter was also issued in an orange-yellow), without any sign of a red tint, and the clearness of the impression convinced me that they were neither faded nor changed by chemical agency; some of the light shades, that have been bleached in some way, have lost a certain amount of clearness.

The Two Pence also shows a run of shades from very faint grey-blue to the deepest ultramarine. Some also are in a seagreen-blue.

The Three Pence can be described as in greyish brown, medium brown, and dark brown.

The Four Pence (old type) is scarce in canary-yellow, and is principally found in orange and deep orange-yellow.

The Six Pence (old type) varies but little in shade.

The One Shilling (old type) No. 173 is now in a lighter mauve than before.

The Two Shilling (new type), perf. 12, is found in light grey-brown and reddish brown; both of these and a scarcer shade, deep reddish brown, exist perf. 124, 13.

We are sorry to disagree with the views expressed by Mr. Bornefeld concerning the id. *canary yellow*, but we are quite confident that this stamp is a colour changeling.

Mons. L. Hanciau contributes a further portion of his estimable paper on "The Postal Issues of Italy and the Italian Colonies," while Mr. J. B. Leavy likewise contributes an instalment of his paper on the stamps of Salvador. The usual excellent New Issue list completes a capital number of our contemporary.

The *Philatelic Adviser*, aged two months, is duly to hand. We are pleased to note many improvements. Mr. Wetherell contributes two more pages of his capital article on the "1870 Issue of Spain." Writing about the numerous forgeries that were made to deceive the post office, he says:—

I have recently seen a block of stamps which throws a great deal of light on the subject, although the stamps were not of the issue under discussion. The block in question consists of some remainders returned to headquarters, and then pasted on a sheet of newspaper and cancelled by means of a number of pen strokes. When this block of 100 stamps was examined carefully, it was found to consist of a large block of 88 stamps of one printing, three strips of three of other printings of the same stamp (4 cuartos of 1862), and a vertical strip of three forgeries. This proves beyond question that forgeries have come out among Government remainders, and, as such, have been accepted naturally as genuine by collectors and dealers. How these forgeries have got into Government stock cannot be proved quite so satisfactorily. My own idea, as already stated, was that they were put into circulation by certain dishonest persons, possibly in Government employment, and that when stock was recalled some of these were included, and not having been examined by an expert at headquarters, escaped notice, and were pen-marked or barred together with the genuine remainders.

Another solution of the difficulty has, however, been suggested to me. It is well known that prior to the demonetizing of an issue, a Government usually

gives a few weeks' grace to holders of the superseded issue to use up or return to the post office such stamps as they hold. A forger might thus get rid of great numbers, especially as it is possible that he might have had a confederate in the post office at the time. In the case of Spanish stamps it is noteworthy that the forgeries are more frequently found pen-marked or barred than used (or unused), whereas in Cuba the forgeries are more frequently found used.

Whatever may have been the truth of the matter, it is known that forgery was carried on to such an extent that a commission was appointed in 1872 to enquire into the matter, with a well-known expert as chairman. Government was, therefore, aware of the extent of fraud, but did not seem to have expected that returns from post offices required examination.

The rest of the *P.A.* is filled with a capital but somewhat, in some cases, belated list of "New Issues and Discoveries," a lengthy and uninteresting "Disclaimer," being an echo of the recent Brighton Forgery Case; a short paper on Falkland Island stamps for the juniors; the usual editorial and trade features; and last, but not least, a clever little skit called "Philatelists' Cramp," in which the writer gives a humorous sketch of this philatelic complaint. A little lighter matter in our stamp journals often cheers the sometimes weary reviewer, so we hope some other imaginary philatelic ailment will be discussed next month.

Personally we know several—one, a dangerous and infectious disease, which in its most virulent form only attacks dealers, affects the patient's head causing it to "wisibly swell"—a good remedy for this complaint is a change of air, say that of London or the South Coast.

The *Postage Stamp* and *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* arrive amicably, side by side, every Thursday. The latter paper, by reason of its seniority, is usually read first. In the number dated Feb. 15th, Mr. E. B. Power contributes another of his powerful (this erudite pun is not copyrighted) little papers on "Hard U.S. Problems Made Easy." In this article he deals with the 1861-66 issues, and treats them in a manner that makes them appear some of the easiest stamps to classify.

Mr. W. Ward contributes the first instalment of a very interesting series of notes on Newfoundland stamps. *G.S.W.* for Feb. 22nd, contains a further instalment; so does the copy dated March 7th.

Needless to say, there is a lot of other interesting matter, in all the copies of the *Weekly* before us, interesting both for beginners and general collectors.

Recent numbers of the *Postage Stamp* contain some interesting articles and paragraphs from its editors pen, besides further instalments of Mr. B. W. Poole's capital Dictionary of Philatelic Terms; and other readable matter. In the number dated February 29th we find a capital article on the recent Cayman Island Provisional Stamps.

We regret to say that facts have now come to hand which prove that the recently issued and much-talked-of Cayman Islands Provisional ½d. and 1d. stamps are nothing more nor less than a scandalous speculation on the part of the local Colonial Postal officials.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., stamp dealers, of Ipswich, who have on many occasions refused to be a party to the exploitation of collectors, send us the following statement of facts:—

"1. At the time of the issue, of these provisional stamps there were actually in stock ordinary ½d. and 1d. stamps of a face value of no less than £168! Consequently, there was no dearth of these values, and we cannot see that there was the slightest necessity for any such surcharges.

"2. That in addition to these ½d. and 1d. values, ordinary stamps of the 2½d., 6d. and 1s. stamps in the old colours were withdrawn from sale at the Post Office by the Commissioner. Those stamps, amounting in all to £676, were offered to us privately by a local merchant, who asked us to make an offer for the lot.

"We had previously been informed by the Postmistress that they would not be sold at face value.

"3. The same person who offered us these stamps has been advertising in the newspapers the three provisionals at 15s. the set of three, the face value being only 2d.

"4. By a letter which we have just received from the Commissioner of the Cayman Islands we are informed that the whole of these withdrawn stamps are now in the hands of the Governor of Jamaica.

"There are other details which at present we are not at liberty to impart, but we think the above will be sufficient."

Thus we have the fact that these provisionals, which were ostensibly issued to provide in an emergency for a shortage of ½d. and 1d. stamps, were purely a speculation on the part of the Postal Officials. That is to say, whilst the Post Office had in hand an ample supply of these values, they made and issued provisionals to take their place. Such action can have had but one motive, and that could only be official speculation of the most barefaced and scandalous character. We were assured that not only were these provisionals necessary to make up for a sudden shortage of these values, but that every care was taken to prevent their being snapped up by speculators to the inconvenience of the general public requiring the stamps. Yet one speculator is said to have secured 1,500 of these provisionals. Of course it was easy enough to sell the stamps over the post office counter at face value and yet make sure that they should be secured for speculative sale. Indeed, dealers were refused supplies. We innocently regarded this refusal of supplies to dealers as a proof that the issue was not a speculative one, but it is now evident that dealers were refused supplies in order that the profits of the game that was being played might be concentrated in the hands of a local gang of speculators inside and outside the Cayman Islands Post Office.

Needless to say we are not surprised to read these facts, but what will our New Issue friends say? We think Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., of Ipswich, deserve

all praise for refusing to have anything to do with the purchase of these stamps, and to use the phraseology of a recent Belgian correspondent we thank them with a very big thank.

Several recent numbers of the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* are on the editorial desk for review. The copy dated March 7th contains, perhaps, the most interesting and varied matter. In an article on "Recent Pictorial Stamps of New Zealand," Mr. W. Buckland Edwards, a well-known "Pictorial" specialist, writes as follows:—

The introduction of a new comb-machine gauging 14 horizontally and 13-13½ vertically comes as a surprise, and opens up a delightful (?) vista of possibilities: it will prevent the issue of stamps "imperf. between," and also those "mixed perf." horrors; but with reductions in size taking place and two or three different perforating machines we may get (or fail to get) some rare varieties. The large stamps cannot of course be perforated with this new machine, and must therefore continue perf. 14.

With all these changes going on, to say nothing of colour variations, it is not surprising to find that dealers are very short of recent issues, and some of the values, both perf. 11 and perf. 14 are really scarce, with a few shades which may even be termed rare. The London prints were speculated in and some interest was taken in them by collectors, which was however well-nigh destroyed by the Waterlow-Basted-Cowan varieties of the ½d. and 1d. values. Then came a quiet time, when I was frequently told that no one collected Pictorials of New Zealand and that nothing would sell in Colonials but King's Heads. The result could be easily foreseen, the neglected stamps were bound to have their day when the uniform dullness of De la Rue stamps became too oppressive, and now you may search in vain for certain varieties current a couple of years or less ago. These I will indicate with ill-timed generosity, for I am not yet complete in them myself!

The ½d. and 1d. values have both appeared perf. 11, 14 and compound, but the 1d. perf. 11 is not rightly listed by Gibbons as No. 255b, it is from the new 1906 plates, made after the "dot" plate, its colour being rose-carmine. The 1d. with dot I have only seen perf. 14 and mixed, but Gibbons quotes it, or rather mentions it, compound. The ½d. has lately reached me with the new comb-machine perf., in its old colour, so the deep olive-green or apple-green shade was ephemeral, there is also a pale green shade not catalogued.

The 2d. purple, compound perf., is very rare, and I do not remember to have seen more than a single copy of it, the 6d. and 5/- compounds now listed for the first time, I have not yet seen. The 5/- with mixed perf. reposes in a collection which is unfortunately not mine, the 4d. mixed I have seen twice, in used state.

The 2½d. deep blue is listed as having appeared last year: I have a block of four postmarked December, 1906, and it was out some months before any notice was taken of it.

The 3d. exists perf. 11 in several shades, the scarcest being a deep bistre-brown. The pale cold bistre is also a good stamp, well worth its 1/- if you can buy it. The same value perf. 14 in its latest shade, pale yellow-bistre, is not common, though only just superseded by the small stamp in brown. The plate was allowed to wear until nearly all the lined background had gone, and stamps showing the stages of wear may be obtained. No doubt it was not thought necessary to

prepare a new plate from the old die, pending the receipt of the new Perkins Bacon plate. The latter, by the way, does not differ in detail, but only in size from its predecessor; the small 6d. value differs in points of detail as well.

I ought to have mentioned the worn plates of the 1d. value, both with and without dot, the wearing goes much farther than in the 3d., until in fact, little but the two labels and dress of the female figure can be seen.

The authorities provided a new plate before the dress completely disappeared!

The 4d. bi-coloured stamp does not seem to be so much used as formerly, and has varied in shade much less than one would naturally expect. There is a flaw in the plate printing the blue centre which appears on the second stamp in the second row in the shape of a blue patch or smudge near the top right corner; it is of course only a curiosity, but noteworthy on account of the rarity of flaws of any kind on similarly engraved plates.

None of the three shades of the 5d. value, perf. 11, are now priced unused, and the sepia is by far the scarcest, though as common as the others used; I find this rather difficult to account for, except on the assumption that dealers managed to miss this shade. It seems to be the practice in some quarters not to import until the current stock is low, and intermediate shades are thus lost. I have read that the frequent variations in shade are due to the fact that enough colour is prepared for one printing only, no attention being paid towards getting the same shade for the next printing; the result is that the values most in demand vary continually in shade, and some prove to be scarce. This state of things will probably continue.

Mr. Edwards goes on to discuss, in the same chatty and capable way, the higher values, and collectors interested in these stamps should invest in a copy of the "Exhibition" *S.C.F.*

Time whitewashes most new issues, and in the face of Caymans, New Zealand "pictorials" are an above-board "group." Perhaps it is that "God's own people," as the Maorilanders like to call themselves, are too fond of advertising their beautiful scenery.

Somehow we always think that time spent in studying these stamps is time partly wasted.

Perhaps in a years' time, when there are 120 catalogue Cayman varieties, 118 Maldives, and others of the same breed, we shall specialize in pictorials ourselves, possibly then we shall regret the views we now hold.

Philately Abroad.

Der Philatelist. 15th February.

Dr. Rommel gives a list of the philatelic periodicals current at the beginning of the year, with publishers' names and addresses. The total number of journals given is 117,

and of these Germany is responsible for 25, France 14, Holland 6, Italy 9, Spain 5, United States 9 (*quantum mutatus ab illo!*), Great Britain 18, Switzerland 7, Austria, Belgium and Hungary 3 each, Luxemburg, Denmark, Argentine Republic and Australia 2 each, and 1 each to Norway, Sweden, San Domingo, Uruguay, Roumania, India and British Guiana. Surely a wonderful total, though even this list does not exhaust the number of periodicals relating to philately at present alive.

The same writer enters an apology for the stamps of the Chinese local posts, which had but a very cool reception at the hands of collectors, though they were probably at least as interesting as much more pretentious unnecessary rubbish which has appeared since and which has not lacked collectors.

Der Deutsche Philatelist. February.

Among the contents of this number are a note on the German Empire 5 marks 1900, second type, an interesting article on the essays and proofs of Hanover, and a further instalment of Herr Krasemann's Bibliography of works in special countries. Under China in this last we find no mention of the important work upon its postal service and stamps by Mr. Mencarine, which was issued officially during last year we believe.

Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung. February.

The leading article discusses the status of the stamps of the 1901 issue of Finland, known in colours differing from those of the regular stamps, and shows from official enquiry, that they were colour trials which managed to escape destruction and found their way into the market.

The twentieth *Philatelistentag*, the annual festival of German philatelists, will be held at Gössnitz, near Leipsic, on August 1st to 3rd, and the provisional arrangements are published.

L'Echo de la Timbrologie. February 15th and 29th.

M. Bernichon recently disposed by auction of a very fine private collection, and some of the prices attained are given in the former issue of this journal, and the relation thereof to prevailing French catalogue prices is decisive testimony to the demand for fine stamps in Paris at the present time. The average of the lots referred to is only 22 per cent less than that of the catalogue prices, and in numerous instances catalogue prices were exceeded. The total amount realised exceeded 34,000 francs.

In an "Historical Note on the First Stamps of Mexico" is published a very interesting account of this issue, prefaced by some introductory matter relative to the postal service. In 1824 the administration of the post was placed under the direction of a Secretary of

State, and five years later a postal tariff based upon distance was inaugurated for the first unit of which 2 reals per letter was exacted, and for the second and third 3 and 4 reals respectively; printed matter was charged at one-third the letter rate, and the cost of foreign letters was double that of those for the interior. After partial reforms in 1832, a new tariff was introduced in 1842, also found upon distance. Within a distance of 15 leagues the charge was 1 real, 16 to 100 leagues 2 reals, 101 to 200 leagues 3 reals, and beyond 200 leagues 4 reals, all for letters per half-ounce. In 1856 further changes were made, two units of distance being fixed, the first 1 to 30 leagues, and the second all distances beyond, for which $\frac{1}{2}$ real and 1 real per half-ounce respectively were charged for letters, printed matter $\frac{1}{3}$ real per 15 ounces. Again an alteration was made, the distances being 1 to 16 leagues or beyond that limit, and the cost 1 and 2 reals respectively per half-ounce, with printed matter at $\frac{1}{2}$ real the pound, and this last tariff was in force at the time of the issue of postage stamps in 1856.

Don Miguel Hidalgo y Costillo, whose portrait appears on the first and later issues of postage stamps, was a village priest of Dolorès, in the province of Guanaxto, who was the prime mover in the revolution of 1810, following upon certain government enactments relating to the manufacture of wine. Aided by Indians and Mexicans he proclaimed a republic and after several battles was captured and put to death in the following year. His revolution was but one of a series against the oppressive Spanish government.

Of the stamps themselves a long reference list is given of varieties of shade and paper, and of split stamps.

A forgery of the 10 centimes Italian, 1901, is described as follows: Lithographed (instead of typographed), on paper thinner than that of the original, without watermark, perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$. It was issued at the end of 1904 at Milan, and is said to be the only forgery of an Italian stamp made since 1863.

Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste. March.

An experiment is being made in France with regard to the franking of telegrams by means of postage stamps, and a system adopted in 1868, and abandoned in the following year, has again been placed on trial, from the 15th February. The difficulties in the case are duly set forth in this journal, together with the decree which authorises the deposition of duly stamped telegraph forms at post offices or in special boxes provided for the purpose at times when the offices are closed. This tentative effort arose out of a question put in parliament on the 15th January, when the Under Secretary for the Post Office stated that the matter should be thoroughly tried to see if it were efficacious.

Le Postillon. 1st March.

A reference to the new Philatelic Literature

Society, recently formed in England, gives to M. Montader a further opportunity for descending upon the shortcomings of his native literature on the subject, and though he apparently derives some consolation from the fact that there are other countries which are equally backward in this respect, he is none the less severely critical of the present position of the French philatelic press. Incidentally this calls forth some remarks on the genera of philatelic periodicals, of which he makes four. Firstly, those appearing regularly, well informed on persons and things, safeguarding their advertisement columns, providing, with documentary evidence, elaborate studies in stamps. Of this class he says, with italicised emphasis, "There are none in France," but gives as types of this class the *Bulletin de la Société Française de Timbrologie*, long extinct, and various English, American and German journals; secondly the journals founded to support the interests of a special firm, not infrequently very well done, for prototype of which may be taken *Gibbons Monthly Journal*; thirdly, advertisement journals, with or without articles (which appeal indifferently to the readers), the best known example of which, in France, is the *Echo de la Timbrologie*; and fourthly, "at the bottom of the ladder, and far behind the foregoing, the sheets which, under the cover of advertisements live really on more or less disguised blackmail, inveighing against the dealer who denies them advertisements and beslaving him who gives them, though he be the greatest rascal in the world."

These generalisations suffer, as do most, from excess of zeal, and while admitting that there is a vast difference in the quantity of philatelic periodicals, we fail to see that M. Montader arrives at a correct estimate of their classification. He asks whether the Society referred to will collect all of the last mentioned type. He must know that it is not the most desirable which is collected now-a-days, and it is possible that some of the journals most despised by him may have a value in another direction to members of that Society.

Philately in the Colonies and Elsewhere.

The *Philatelic Journal of India* for February contains, among other interesting matter, the conclusion of the capital article contributed by Mr. J. Godinho, entitled "The Introduction of Postage Stamps in British India." The following long 'extract' (from the Commissioners' report) is exceptionally interesting:—

"GUMMING."

"The gum is put on after the paper is printed and dried. Particulars given in separate paper appended.

"The Commissioners are about to introduce a process for facilitating the detachment of the stamps from the sheets, of which they form a part, by means of piercing the marginal space which surrounds each stamp with numerous pin holes.

"PARTICULARS OF THE GUM PUT UPON THE BACKS OF POSTAGE LABEL STAMPS, AND THE MODE OF USING IT."

"The cement used is called gum; it is made from starch.

"It may be had of different qualities and prices; but it has been found most economical in the end to use the best that can be got, as any failure in the adhesion of the labels is productive of much trouble to the public, and to all parties concerned in their preparation.

"The best gum which the contractors have been able to get is obtained from Mr. Gentile, 38, Walbrook, London.

"The price is £40 per ton, if delivered in London in the state of a dry powder.

"In mixing the gum for use, one gallon of boiling water is poured upon six pounds of gum, and after it has been stirred about for some time, three gallons more of hot water are added; it is then stirred again and left 12 hours to cool and dissolve. When wanted for use, it is heated by putting it in a can, and placing the can in a boiler, and it is used as hot as it can be made by these means. 'The gum is applied to the paper by hand by means of brushes.'"

The postage stamps in use in France (of which we append some obliterated specimens) appear to be printed from wood; but these though, as we are informed, much less expensive than the English stamps, are more easily imitated. And we are also informed, upon the authority of Mr. Hill, the Supervisor of Stamps in London, that the Austrian Government applied to the contractors, Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Petch, of London, to know the terms upon which postage stamps, similar to those used in the United Kingdom, could be supplied for use in Austria, but were deterred from adopting them by the expense. We are not aware of the cost at which the contractors offered to supply the Austrian Government, but if stamps, bearing the device of HER MAJESTY'S HEAD, and differing only from the English stamps in the denomination of value, can be supplied by the contractors for use in India at the rate of 6d. (or 4 annas) a thousand, we do not apprehend that the cost which is 1/3 per cent. on half anna, and 1/3 per cent. on one anna stamps, added to the cost of the paper and such proportionate share of the expense of establishment at the London stamp office as might be thought reasonable, would deter the Government from adopting the plan best calculated to secure the revenue from loss by forgery. If, however, it should appear that the comparatively small number of stamps required for India cannot be supplied by the contractors at so favourable a rate, and that stamps prepared according to the French process would be considerably cheaper, and therefore better suited to this country, we are satisfied that, owing to the want of mechanical means, and the absence of ingenuity and enterprise in the people, the risk of loss by forgery in India would be less than in any civilised country of Europe, in the United States of America, or in most of the Crown Colonies. We are of opinion that the Head of HER MAJESTY forms the most appropriate device that could be adopted for the postage stamp of India, and that no other legend is needed than the denomination of value in the English language. The distinguishing colour of each description of stamp will be a sufficient indication of its value to those who are unable to read English.

The number of half anna stamps required for a year's probable consumption, at the uniform rate, would be about 20,000,000, and of anna stamps 5,000,000, in the proportion of seven-twelfths for Bengal (including the North-West Provinces), three-twelfths to Madras, and two-twelfths to Bombay.

These two values of stamps will, in our opinion, suffice for the ordinary correspondence of the country, both ship and inland, and for newspapers. But if it should be determined to have stamps of higher value for stamp postage and for *banghy* parcels, we are disposed to recommend an 8 anna medallion stamp (brown) similar to those impressed on the envelopes, and on the shilling and tenpenny stamps, in use in the United Kingdom.

In these degenerate days of unnecessary surcharges and multiplicity of varieties, it is very refreshing and wholesome to refer to extracts such as the above, especially after a weary round of the "New Issue and Discovery" columns that so largely help to make up the philatelic reading of the present day.

Nearly a dozen copies of *Mekel's Weekly* are before us for review, all of which contain one or more articles of general interest.

In the copy dated Feb. 15th, there is an interesting little article on "The Surcharged Montenegro of 1893," contributed by Mr. W. Evans. He says:—

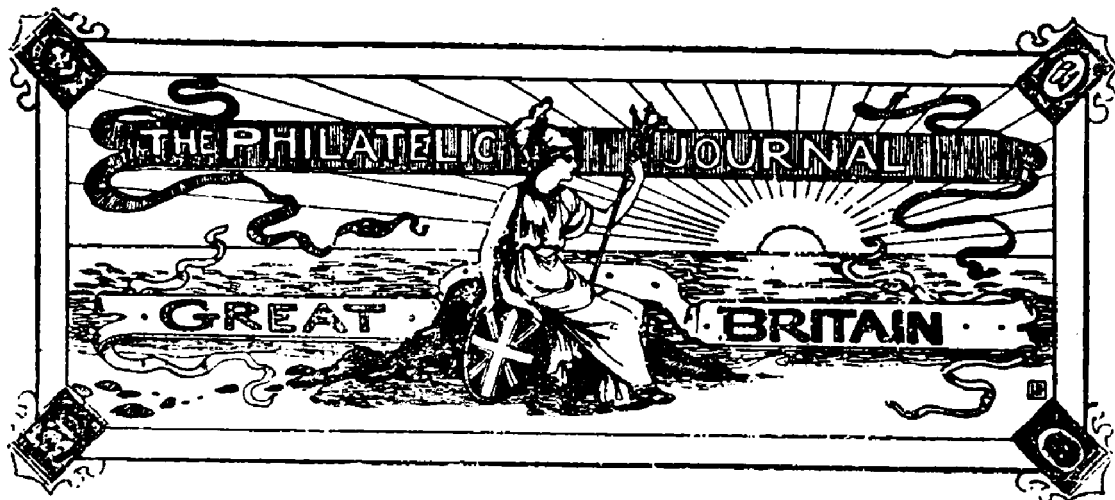
My interest in Montenegro was awakened by two things, an earnest desire to attempt a specialized collection of some country whose stamps were not very expensive, and the heading in Scott's catalogue to the 1874 issue which reads "perf. 10½ to 13." Here seemed to be a cheap country with not many stamps and a chance to collect variety perforations which would prove interesting. Up to the time I began on this line I had not invested in foreign catalogues. When I began to write to dealers for perforation varieties the prices quoted were in some instances at such variance with the Scott catalogue that it was necessary to invest in other catalogues and these soon informed me that "there were others."

The collection of the surcharged stamps of 1893 and the study of the surcharges soon convinced me that there was much in regard to them not known to philatelists in general and a closer study has brought forth results of a most interesting nature. These observations it is my desire to embody in this little article.

In the first place it is evident that there were two or more settings of the surcharge. The later one is comparatively easy to study as large blocks are obtainable. This surcharge was printed upon panes of 25 stamps requiring four impressions to print each sheet and each pane is therefore similar to each other pane in the sheet. Each value was surcharged in black and the three higher values were also surcharged in red or a shade of red. There are to be found three shades of this surcharge, viz., carmine, vermilion and dull red, but it is not the plan of this article to go into these shades very carefully.

It is possible to locate the position in the pane of many of these stamps even when found singly and by collecting blocks it is possible to reconstruct panes as has been done by the writer, though I have in most values unbroken panes showing all the varieties. In order that others who desire may attempt the reconstruction of these panes I give the various differences by which it is possible to tell where any given specimen belongs.

Mr. Evans here proceeds to give a list of small varieties, by the aid of which these stamps can evidently be plated.



The Official Organ of the International Philatelic Union, and the Sheffield Philatelic Society.

No. 208. VOL. XVIII. APRIL 20, 1908.

[PRICE 2D.]

EDITORIAL.

THERE can be little doubt that Sir Joseph Ward (Premier of New Zealand) and Lieut. Shackleton are playing a very amusing practical joke upon stamp collectors in issuing stamps of New Zealand overprinted with the name of a country which is not only uninhabited

A Frost. but uninhabitable as well. Readers of the daily papers have been made acquainted with the bald outlines of this joke which appears to have been so far successful that everybody seems to have been taken in with it. For the benefit of our readers we will review the facts already known and add those little details which are necessary to make an intelligible story.

In January last the British Antarctic Expedition left Lyttleton, New Zealand, for an attempt to reach the South Pole, and, before leaving, Lieut. Shackleton, the leader of the expedition, was provided with one hundred sheets of current one penny New Zealand stamps for the use of members of the expedition in writing home. It occurred to somebody—whether to Sir Joseph Ward, Lieut. Shackleton or some entirely different person does not transpire—that it would be a fine thing to overprint the 100 sheets of stamps with the name “British Antarctic Expedition,” thus providing a cheap advertisement. This scheme would have been carried out, but Mr. W. S. Gilbert who happened to be on the spot suggested that it would be more

humorous if, instead of using the title of the expedition, the stamps were overprinted with the name of some uninhabited portion of the Antarctic region, a proceeding which would be sure to cause great excitement among stamp collectors. “King Edward VII. Land” having been hit upon the stamps were duly overprinted. To heighten the effect of the joke and to increase its chances of success Lieut. Shackleton was ostentatiously appointed “Postmaster of King Edward VII. Land” by Sir Joseph Ward who had quite caught the spirit of the thing. This last idea reveals the master-mind and recalls that wonderful creation the Lord High Executioner.

The promoters originally intended to time the despatch of the first mail so that the letters bearing the stamps of “King Edward VII. Land” should be delivered in England on April 1st, but this part of the scheme went awry, for the mail brought away from the Nimrod by the steamship *Koonya* was delivered in London nearly a month too soon. The public had been prepared for the issue by speciously worded paragraphs circulated through the newsagencies and the reception of the stamps in England was all that Mr. Gilbert could have desired; they have been discussed with gravity by all the stamp journals.

So far as we are aware the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* is the first publication to explain the real reason for the use of the stamps bearing this curious legend, and we have been able to do so not because

we have any further information than any of our *confrères*, but because we have made a study of the art of putting two and two together. Some of the details we have given may not prove to be quite exact, but we flatter ourselves that in diagnosing the "issue" as a practical joke we are more likely to be near the truth than others, who, in taking the stamps seriously, cast about for some other explanation of this triumphant absurdity.

In the meantime, the stamps are before us and we have to decide whether they are worthy the attention of cataloguers. That they were unnecessary is beside the point, there are so many unnecessary stamps in an "up-to-date" collection. There is no doubt that they have been used and that they have been issued by a

properly constituted "Postmaster." The scheme has been well conceived, for these are the main requirements of philatelic legitimacy. The only weak point is the absence of a single human inhabitant in King Edward VII. Land. This is a truly Gilbertian situation, we are between Lieut. Shackleton and the deep sea. In our opinion postal issues of uninhabited lands should be rigorously excluded from catalogues, for the good of the hobby. Most collectors have a spare corner for curiosities and those who are lucky enough to secure these facetious souvenirs will no doubt be glad to put them there. A joke is a joke, and this one has proved highly diverting, but it has gone far enough, and it is to be hoped that the "stamps" will be allowed to lapse into oblivion.

The Stamps of Antigua.

BY F. F. LAMB.

THE fact that the stamps of Antigua are absolutely free from any suspicion of speculativeness, that the majority are line engraved, that there are no surcharges, and last, but not least, that there are no unobtainable rarities, should make them very popular with collectors. In these decadent days of unnecessary surcharges it is hard to realize that so prosperous a colony as Antigua should have issued stamps for nearly thirty years, without recourse being made to surcharged provisionals. Would that the neighbouring islands of St. Christopher and Dominica held so clean a record. Perhaps my readers will forgive me if I refresh their memories with the following few geographical and historical notes.

The Island of Antigua, with an area of over a hundred square miles, is the principal Island in the Leeward Group of the West Indies, and St. John's, the capital, is the seat of the provincial Government. Discovered in 1493 by Columbus, and said to be named by that intrepid discoverer after a church in Seville, called Santa Maria la Antigua, the Island remained uninhabited until 1632, when a small party of Englishmen took possession. These hardy adventurers were joined some years later by a larger party of settlers, under the direction of Lord Willoughby, to whom the Island was granted by Charles II. With the exception of a few months, when the French ravaged the Island, it has since remained a British possession.

Having relieved myself of these few ency-

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With regard to this rough perforation, it is worth noting that practically all the stamps sent out by Perkins, Bacon & Co. during the years 1862 to 1867 were perforated by a machine very much in need of an overhaul, consequently the stamps of other colonies, notably Barbados and St. Vincent, were likewise very badly perforated.

The 6d. no wmk. was not very largely used, and at the current catalogue quotation of 50/- unused and 30/- used is not, in good condition, overpriced.

For several years the philatelic press was constantly chronicling the discovery of this stamp with other than the 14 to 16 rough perfs. For instance, I find the *Monthly Journal* for January, 1893, chronicles the 6d. deep green perf. 15½ at left and bottom and 11 at top and right, while the same paper, in the copy dated January, 1896, chronicles this stamp perf. 11½ all round. It has since transpired that these stamps with irregular

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From a practical knowledge of the relative scarcity of these three distinct shades, I should certainly place the first or lilac-rose shade as being by far the scarcest, in a used condition, and the commonest unused. The vermilion, although catalogued a third higher than the dull rose, is, in my opinion, no rarer than that stamp, at any rate used.

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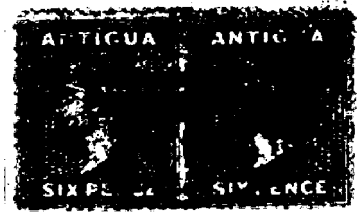
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perforated by the machine then in use by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., consequently the stamps are perf. 12½, as were most of the De la Rue printings of this period. The penny value was first printed in a very clear bright lake, afterwards changed to a clear scarlet, while the 6d. value still came in a bluish shade of green. Not quite so deep a shade, however, as the previous printings.

There is nothing very interesting about this issue of stamps, while the only cancellation I have seen is the Aoz postmark. Collin and Calman chronicle the 6d. value with inverted watermark, doubtless the 1d. stamp also exists, when it is remembered that these sheets were hand "fed" to the printing press it is remarkable how scarce inverted watermarks are.

ISSUE IV. CROWN C.C. PERF. 14.

This issue only differs from the previous one in the fact that the stamps were perforated by a machine gauging 14, and that the 1d. value in the scarlet shade does not exist, or perhaps rather it would be better to say has not yet been chronicled.

There is a very slight difference in the shade of the 6d. value. I have frequently seen it in a lighter or yellower green than the 6d. C.C. perf. 12½, while the 1d. value usually seems to be printed in a little harder shade of lake. Both of these slight variations of shade may be due to the fact that the paper on which these stamps were printed was slightly thicker than that generally used for the 1873 issue.

The stamps comprising this issue are occasionally found with the Antigua dated cancellation, if I remember rightly October 1881 is the earliest date I have seen.

1879. ISSUE V.

Fresh values other than the 1d. and 6d. denominations being needed, Messrs. De la Rue & Co. surface printed, from a new die, a stamp with the face value of 2½d. The plate used for printing this stamp was the first of Messrs. De la Rue's now well known key plates for Colonial stamps. This plate was afterwards used for printing certain issues for other West Indian Colonies, notably St. Lucia and Turks Island, while it was used also for some of the stamps of Cyprus and Natal. This plate was afterwards superseded by another, constructed from a new die, in the same design, but shewing minor differences causing the well known Die II. varieties, but all the Antigua stamps in this design are from plate I.

Only two values constitute this issue, namely, the 2½d. red-brown and the 4d. blue.



The former stamp is the rarest (not including imperf. and trial perf. varieties) of all Antigua stamps. The 4d. value was issued after the 2½d., probably during Sept., 1879.

1882. ISSUE VI. CROWN AND C.A.

This issue consists of three stamps, namely a new value, the halfpenny, and the two stamps of 1879 on the new C.A. paper. The colour of the ½d. value is green, while the two others remain as before. The first mention, which I can trace, of the new ½d. value is in the *Philatelic Record* for July, 1882, so it was probably issued during May of that year.

One of the varieties of Antigua is the split provisional—namely, the half of a penny stamp—used with two pennies to make up the 2½d. rate. This "split," although not authorised, was allowed to pass through the post. I have not been fortunate enough to see this stamp on an entire, or a dated single. In the Tapling collection there is a strip shewing the ½d. provisional used on piece of the original. The first mention I can find of this variety is in the new issue columns of the *Philatelic Record* for Sept., 1882, where it is chronicled as a novelty. The same paper, however, for May, 1883, again lists this stamp.

I cannot understand why the use of this mutilated stamp should have been permitted, surely there could have been no shortage of ½d. or 2½d. values.

Early in 1884 the supply of C.C. paper for the 1d. stamp having given out, this value was printed on C.A. paper, perf. 14. A few months after the first consignment of this new variety a supply was sent out perforated 12. To separate this variety I will call it Issue VII. Although the perf. 12 variety was sent out after some of the C.A. 14 stamps had been delivered.

1884. ISSUE VII. CROWN AND C.A. P. 12.

This stamp is known in two well marked shades, carmine-red and scarlet, the latter being discovered by Mr. Yardley only last year. It is rather curious perhaps that these stamps should have been perforated by a machine gauging 12. This machine was mostly used only in cases of emergency; consequently we may take it that the stamps perforated 12 were despatched somewhat hurriedly, the regular 14 machine being evidently very busy. There are other well known instances of this machine having been used for other West Indians, notable, some of the Bahamas and St. Vincent issues. Nearly all the specimen stamps sent out by De la Rue & Co. are perforated by the 12 machine. The next issue (of which the 1d. CA 14 forms one) is, in my opinion, the last issue of Antigua stamps.

1884-86. ISSUE VIII. CROWN AND C.A. PERF. 14.

The principal changes that took place were the change of colour in the 2½d. and 4d.

values, and the issue of a new value, namely, the 1/-. This stamp was not sent out to Antigua until March, 1886, so consequently it had but a short existence.

The penny stamp is only catalogued in two shades, namely carmine-red and rose; but there is another, a very marked shade, namely pale crimson, which is much the scarcest of the three. I have seen comparatively few, all of which, when used, were postmarked during the early months of 1890.

The colour of the 2½d. value was changed to ultramarine, the 4d. to a dull chestnut, while the 6d. value was issued in a deep green, still, however, with a trace of blue in it. The impressions of this stamp nearly always appears a little blurred, as if the plate had been too heavily inked. The 1/- lilac I have already mentioned, it is a fairly scarce stamp. Before I conclude these few, perhaps somewhat elementary notes, I must refer to that interesting stamp illustrated below, namely the 1d. Antigua, C.A., 14, used provisionally in the island of St. Christopher.



Strictly speaking this is a St. Christopher stamp, as that Island, sick of make-shift provisionals borrowed a supply of 1d. stamps from Antigua. Of course the only way of identifying this stamp is by the postmark, which is the usual St. Christopher cancellation A12.

The specimen illustrated above I picked out, from amongst a dozen or more of the ordinary C.A. varieties where it was priced at 4d., from the approval book of a well known Strand dealer.

As is well known Antigua stamps were, on the 31st of October, 1890, superseded by stamps inscribed "Leeward Islands," the latter being for use throughout the whole Leeward group.

The current gumpaps, now in use in the Island, are not worthy of a description. They are sold side by side with the regular Leeward stamps and were issued quite unnecessarily.



The Early Issues of the Friendly Islands Protectorate.

BY W. WARD.

PERHAPS better known as the British Tonga Protectorate, though nevertheless geographically correct as the Friendly Islands, the stamps of this Protectorate go to show what European elements *can* do among the civilised Oceanian races.

Though the first stamps were issued in August, 1886, a Post Office had been in existence since the earlier months in the year, in the capital, Nukualofa. The stamps used previous to the permanent series were the 2d. pale green and 6d. rose, Fiji, of the 1883 issue, VR engraved, perf. 10 and 10×12½. These stamps were procured from the Fijian administration, at the nominal cost of their printing—about tenpence per thousand stamps.

Why the stamps of Fiji should have been used, instead of the more convenient issues of New Zealand, no one has ever yet essayed, but maybe on account of the friendly relations (I believe from school-days) of the Tongan Premier, the Hon. Shirley Baker, and the High Commissioner of the British Pacific Possessions, Sir John Thurston. It must be remembered that the Tonga Isles were an independent kingdom until January, 1900, they being passed to the protection of Great Britain in November, 1899, by a triple treaty of Great Britain, Germany and the United States, the latter taking over the Sandwich Islands at the same time.

Returning to the provisionals, for such they were, since being used prior to the regular issues, it is to be regretted, from a "Tongan" specialists' point of view, that, so far, there is no known definite difference between the postmarks used in Tonga and those used in Fiji. Not until the introduction of their own postage stamps did the Tongan Post Office use a named obliterator.

The first issue was printed at the Government Post and Telegraph Office, Wellington, New Zealand, on paper similar to that in use for the stamps of N.Z. (*i.e.*, watermarked with a five-pointed Star and the letters N.Z., and perforated 12½ all round). One hundred sheets each of the two values, 1d. and 2d., were received from Wellington on August 27th, 1886, and were placed immediately upon sale.

The remaining values of the set, 6d. and 1/-, were received in Tonga on October 9th, 1886, and April 15th, 1887, respectively, in similar quantities of each.

These stamps proved of great success (*sic*) for we find that such a demand from stamp dealers and collectors made it necessary to print a further supply of 400 sheets of 1d. and 500 of the 2d., which were received on July 15th, 1887, and a little later the 6d. and 1/-

were also received. This second printing were perforated $12 \times 11\frac{1}{4}$. Most of these latter (perf. $12 \times 11\frac{1}{4}$) were cancelled to order, by an obliterater consisting of the word "Tonga" surrounded by several bars arranged in somewhat of a diamond shape. Rumour has it that complete sheets (120 stamps) so cancelled were sold at 5/- a time, irrespective of their face value—this may be stretching a point, but it is certain that they were sold to various persons at a reduction from the nominal face value. The reduction of postage to the United States, Australia and Great Britain, in 1891, to 4d. made it necessary that stamps of that value should be provided. One hundred sheets of the penny and thirty sheets of the twopenny values of the last printing (*i.e.* those used for selling to collectors) were sent to Wellington, N.Z., to be overprinted "Four—pence" and "Eight—pence," respectively. The surcharge was entirely in words in two lines, the colour being black.

The surcharging of the stamps of a low denomination into that of a higher value, left an excellent opening for amateur surchargers to increase the face and postal value of their stamps, as well as the surcharging of those specimens sold to favoured parties at a reduced price, without any pre-cancellation.

To prevent this little "self-investment," the postmaster, Mr. Campbell, overprinted the remaining stocks of the 1d. and 2d. values (which were all of the first printing, perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$) with a black star in the top right and bottom left corners. This "starring" was done by sectional printings, of about thirty stamps, by means of a usual printer's "frame." So poorly was it done, that many varieties consisting of 3, 4 and 5 stars, will be found upon a single specimen.

Early in 1892, a fresh supply of the six-penny value was required, the postmaster ordering some eighty sheets from the New Zealand printers, but curiously he accidentally wrote the colour as *orange*, instead of blue.

His order was obeyed to the letter; the stamps were received in an orange-yellow colour, in Tonga, on August 15th, 1892. Of the whole number printed, 36 sheets were placed for postal use, and the remainder were postmarked to meet the "Philatelic" demand that would follow the issue of something new. This error was perforated as the second printing, $12 \times 11\frac{1}{4}$, and watermarked N.Z. and Star.

In such a state was the Tongan Government, that this descending step—in Philatelic eyes—was probably more than a little godsend to help the civil accounts. Since only 16/- was paid for the printing of the 6d. "error," of some 10,000 stamps, quite a helpful profit could be made by catering for that section of humanity collecting stamps. Again in 1893 the issue of 1892 were surcharged G.F.B. (Gane Faka Buleaga—literally "business with, or on account

of, the Government"). No entry was made with regard to these stamps, and they were not only used for Service correspondence, but were sold, cancelled and uncanceled, to collectors at face and under, according to the status and relationship of the purchaser. An Australian writer once alluded to the surcharge, as being the initials of "Gull Filatelic Balm-pots." Truly, Civilisation among "Cannibal Isles" has much to answer for.

Penny Post from the Pole.

STAMP collectors will have their appetites whetted by the arrival in this country of the first of the letters transmitted by mail from the shores of King Edward VII.'s Land. They come from the exploring ship "Nimrod," and bear a postmark, "Antarctic Expedition, Jan. 15, 1908." The stamp employed is the New Zealand penny red, the words "King Edward VII. Land" being printed in black letters across the face. The mail was brought by the steamship "Koonya," which left the "Nimrod" a mile or so from the icepack near King Edward's most southerly possession. Lieutenant Shackleton, leader of the present expedition, was formally appointed postmaster of King Edward VII.'s Land some little time back. This is the first time that letters from the South Polar regions have been transmitted all the way to England for a penny.

—*Daily Telegraph.*

The "Nimrod" left Lyttleton (N.Z.), on January 1st of this year in tow of the steamer "Koonya," the latter boat successfully towed her to within a few miles of the ice pack, when she returned to New Zealand, carrying, as is evident from the above paragraph, letters franked with an unnecessary surcharge.

The "Nimrod" after parting company with the "Koonya" steamed south, through icebergs galore, until she reached the great ice barrier, 150ft. high, when Lieut. Shackleton landed and formed his winter camp, in McMurdo Bay, under Mount Erebus, only a dozen or so miles from the winter quarters of the "Discovery."

From the *Auckland Weekly News* of Jan. 9/08, we see that: "The mail taken for King Edward VII. Land by the 'Koonya' consisted of about 1,500 letters. Probably 1,300 of these are dummy communications sent in order that they may be returned through the Dead Letter Office and kept as mementoes."

How about the odd 200 letters? Of course this is not philately—but we wish Lieut. Shackleton success.

From the *Evening Standard* of March 7th we see that the "Nimrod" has returned to New Zealand, leaving of course Lieut. Shackleton and his party to make their dash for the South Pole.

Answers to Correspondents.

APRIL being a busy month with us we are unable to reply to all of our correspondents by post, as is our usual custom, so a few letters are answered below.

Africus Primus.—Chalky paper can be tested by the aid of almost any metal—silver being perhaps the best. The old plan of melting 4 oz. of this metal and soaking the stamps to be tested in the solution is now obsolete. The best plan is to borrow a five shilling piece (if you can) and rub it vigorously over the face of the stamp, if, after a few minutes treatment the stamp shows signs of discolouration it was obviously on chalk surface paper.

Miss Verdant.—(1) Your twenty or thirty stamps collected from home letters during the last few months are not likely to be very valuable. (2) Yes, dealers very frequently say what they think of stamps, but being a lady we should recommend you to send them up by post.

Miss Antique.—We are always pleased to assist our readers with advice on delicate or other subjects. You say that three years ago you received a letter from a gentleman friend in China, but only noticed last week that the stamps on the cover were stuck on *upside down*. Yes, we certainly think you would be justified in going out to China as the writer of the letter's promised bride; such a sign of affection could only mean one thing, all the same it is a rather a pity that you have let three years slip past, fickle man is apt to change his mind, and he may be married, but would that matter to so ardent and poetic a temperament as yours evidently is?

Octogenarian.—The stamps you have been collecting during the last seventy years may be worth something, especially those you collected during the first year or two. You say, however, that they are all stuck on tables, plates and saucers. We are afraid this is a slight drawback. Most collectors of the present day are so partial to condition that they might object to a stamp with a plate attached to it. After all this is absurd, because the stamp is the thing, isn't it? (2) If you must sell we think the best way would be to advertise in the *Rumbottle and Gin*.

Envious One.—We think the only way out of the matter is to shoot him.

B.F., (London).—No, we do not advise you to take premises in the Strand. Your capital of £10 would not be sufficient to commence dealing with—even if you only sold surcharged stamps.

Mons. Rumpfellowich.—Your old Russian stamps must not be soaked in tepid or hot water. Russians, being apt to run, should be placed in boiling water, with a pinch of salt, and let gently simmer for two hours.

F.R.L.J.P.S.—Having recently purchased one of our publisher's packets of 2000 varieties and having two young brothers, we think the following plan for mounting your stamps will be found effective. Soak each stamp in best glue for some minutes, and then place on thick cardboard. When dry, bore a hole through the corner of each and securely fasten with packing thread—if the stamps are very valuable (as of course they are) a little sealing wax on each corner—just enough to carry the imprint of your seal—is a good plan. This method also prevents changing.

Veritas.—We cannot help you with any suggestions, as you already have a collection of 18,000 varieties, none of which you have purchased, we think you must be a past master in the art. (2) We think perhaps that as no stamp clubs will now admit you to membership, you will have to advertise. Dealers are so trusting.

Correspondence.

Lepreau,
Charlotte County, N.B.,
Canada.

The Editor *P.J.G.B.*

DEAR SIR,

The January number of the *P.J.G.B.*, just to hand, allow me to compliment you upon the general excellence of its contents. I was much interested in reading a letter from a Mr. A. C. Findlater, who writes from Queensland. Perhaps your readers would like to have a letter from a fellow-collector from this rather out of the way township in Eastern Canada.

Lepreau is a small township populated by a few hundred people, most of whom are engaged in the lumber industry, or as farmers, or employed on the railway line.

The "village" is a good starting point for fishing and shooting parties, quite a number of Yankees coming here in May and June *en route* for their camping out grounds in the woods. Even quite close in, at Lake Troak, there is excellent trout fishing, with the added change of getting a shot at a bear, while of course, there are plenty of deer about.

Like your Queensland correspondent, I cannot give you much stamp news. We get our mails daily, but have to call at the post office for them, as there are no letter carriers. Most of us have a box number, so our mail is pigeon-holed ready when we arrive.

The only values on sale here are the ¼c. of 1899, the King's Head at 1c. to 20c., with the "Special Delivery Stamp" and the three "Postage Dues." Regarding the latter, I have read in the American papers that they were withdrawn some months ago; this is not the case.

The Postmaster, as is usual in small townships, has other duties, while it is usual for residents to give the Postmaster as a reference in the same way that one gives one's Bank at home.

As doubtless your readers know, we get our papers mailed through the post free, so that enables us to subscribe to the *Montreal Star*, which is delivered two days after publication, at a nominal cost.

Well, sir, I hope you will not consider this letter of too rambling a nature.

Wishing you and staff a prosperous year,

Yours truly,

"CANUCK."

[We are always pleased to hear from our "oversea" subscribers, but like letters with a little more stamp news in them.—Ed. P. J. G. B.]

New Issues and Varieties.

(We shall be glad to receive any new issues or new varieties from our readers for description in this column. Letters should be addressed to THE EDITOR OF THE PHILATELIC JOURNAL OF GREAT BRITAIN, c/o MESSRS. P. L. PEMBERTON & Co., 84, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.)

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Antigua. The stamp we chronicled in error last May, on the authority of an exchange, has now evidently made its appearance for we find in *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* the following variety listed.

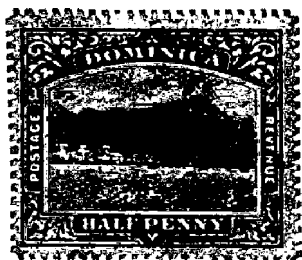
Adhesive. Arms type.
Wmk. Crown and C.A. multiple chalky.
1/- lilac and blue.

Canada. On looking through a collection of entires the other day, we came across a fine cover franked with the half of a 6c. brown, dated Wilmot Feb. 1872.

Cayman Islands. *Meheel's Weekly* says that only two sheets of the recent 2½d. on 4d. provisional were printed. The surcharging took place on Feb. 12th. to supply the outgoing mail. The steamer that took this mail out was expected to bring a new supply of 2½d. stamps on her return, so only enough were printed to supply the necessary demand!

Dominica. The *Philatelic Adviser* chronicles the 6d. Pictorial stamp on multiple CA chalky paper.

Adhesive. Multiple Crown CA, chalky paper.
6 pence orange-brown and grey.



Gibraltar. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the £1 stamp on multiple, chalky paper.



Adhesive. King's Head. Multiple, chalky paper.
£1 lilac on red.

Great Britain. Levant. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the current British stamps overprinted LEVANT. Chalky paper.

Adhesives. Chalk-surfaced paper.
1½d. lilac and green.
1/- green and carmine.

Mauritius. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the current 3c. on multiple chalk-surfaced paper.

Adhesive. Arms Type. Multiple CA., chalky.
3c. green and carmine.

New South Wales. The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles the 1d. scarlet of 1860 with a compound perf. (this stamp should follow Gibbons 148a), also several varieties of perforation in the current stamps.

Adhesives. Wmk. double lined 1.
1860. 1d. scarlet, perf. 11½ x 12½.
1908. Wmk. Crown and A.
6d. deep orange-red, perf. 12 x 11½.
10d. lilac, perf. 11½ x 11.
£1 blue .. 11½ x 11.
£1 11½.

New Zealand. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the current 4d. stamp perforated by the new comb machine. The new 3d. value in the small design is also chronicled with the "comb" perf.

Adhesive. Perf. 14 x 13½.
3d. brown.
4d. yellow-brown and blue.

Papua. Several of our contemporaries chronicle more values of the current set.

Adhesives. Wmk. Crown and A. Perf. 11.
1d. black and red.
2d. violet.
2½d. ultramarine.
6d. green.
1/- orange.
2/6 brown.

Ewen's Weekly Stamp News says that only "specimen" copies of these values have yet appeared.

Queensland. The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles the 9d. stamp in a strip of six on Crown and A paper. Three of the stamps are small type and three large. They are side by side.

Adhesive. Wmk. Crown and A. mixed types.
9d. brown and blue.

Sarawak. The *Monthly Journal* chronicles a new 3c. stamp of the current type, said to have been issued to prepay the postage on letters between Sarawak and Singapore or the Federated Malay States.



Adhesive. Perf. 14.
3c. lilac.

Seychelles. Several of our contemporaries chronicle the 2r. 25c. stamps of 1903, surcharged with a new value, viz., 45c. We have not yet seen this variety.

South Australia. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the current 8d. stamp in a new shade.

Adhesive. Wmkd. Crown and SA. Perf. 12.
8d. dull blue.

Straits Settlements. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the 4c. stamp; colour changed to lilac. This change will necessitate the 3c. lilac stamp being changed to rose.



Adhesive. Multiple, ordinary paper.
4c. lilac.

Victoria. The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles the current ¼d. stamp, perf. 12½ x 11.

Adhesive. Wmk. Crown and A. Perf. 12½ x 11.
¾d. green.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Austria. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles a new issue of Newspaper Stamp Labels. The new design seems to be an exceptionally poor one, consisting of the head of Mercury in a square with a big numeral in each corner

Newspaper Stamps. Imperf.
2h. blue.
6h. orange.
10h. rose carmine.
20h. chocolate.

France. *Offices in Morocco.* The *Monthly Journal* on the authority of *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* chronicle the 1c., 2c., 3c., and 4c. French stamps overprinted with their values in Spanish currency for use in Morocco.

Adhesives.
1 centimo on 1c. grey.
2 centimos on 2c. claret.
3 " " 3c. orange-red.
4 " " 4c. brown.

German Morocco. Another value has appeared on the watermarked paper, namely the 35c. on 30pf.

As our chronicle of these stamps has been somewhat desultory, we append below a full list of these stamps as far as they have been issued.

German stamps surcharged for use in Morocco.
Wmk. Losenges.

3c. on 3pf. brown.
5c. " 5pf. green.
10c. " 10c. carmine.
25c. " 20pf. blue.
35c. " 30pf. black and orange.
1p. 25c. on 1m. carmine.
2p. 50c. " 2m. blue.
6p. 25c. " 5m. lake and black.

Iceland. Mr. W. T. Wilson has very kindly sent us a new value, uniform with the current set chronicled last July.



Adhesive. Perf. 12½.
1 eyr red and yellow-green.

Japan. *P.O.'s in China.* *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* on the authority of a Continental exchange, chronicles the recently issued 6 sen stamp overprinted for use in China.

Adhesive. Overprinted in black.
6 sen marone.

Russia. *Offices in China.* The *Monthly Journal*, on Continental authority, chronicles

the 7 kopecs stamp of Russia, on vertically laid paper, as having been overprinted for use in China.

Adhesive. Vertically laid paper.
7 kop. blue.

Servia. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, on the authority of a Continental exchange chronicles the current Servians on thick laid paper. Perf. 12×11½.

Adhesives. Thick horizontal laid paper. Perf. 12×11½.
1p. black and pale grey.
5p. " " green.
10p. " and rose red.
15p. " and lilac.
20p. " and yellow.
25p. " and blue.
30p. " and grey green.
50p. " and deep brown.
1 din. " and buff.
5 " " and violet.

Turkey. The *Monthly Journal*, on the authority of a French contemporary, chronicles a new series of Turkish stamps. They are described as follows. The design is similar in style to that of the issue of 1905, but has the central device and an elaborate inscription in a circle, and the figures denoting the value in two circles, side by side.

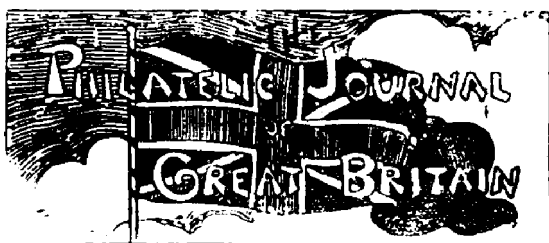
Adhesives. Perf. 13½.
5 par. bistre.
10 " green.
20 " rose.
1 piass. blue.
2 " grey.
2½ " brown.
5 " violet.

Postage Due Stamps.
1 piass. black on rose.
2 " " "

Uruguay. Mr. A. H. Davis, of Montevideo, writing on the 12th of April, kindly informs us that "None of the promised new issue from Waterlow have yet arrived, but on the 1st inst. the P.O. put on sale a 5 milesimo stamp of the same design and colour as the 1900 issue, and the 5 mils. of the 1905 set is to be withdrawn on 1st June next."

Wurtemberg. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles the 30pf. official stamp on water-marked paper. The same paper states that the 25 and 50pf. stamps have yet to come to complete the watermarked set. The former stamp was chronicled in the *P.F.G.B.* for April, 1907 and will be found in *Gibbons catalogue, Part II., page 262.*

Official. Wmkd. Crosses and Rings.
30pf. black and orange.



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Publishers' Note.

FEBRUARY COMPETITION.

ELSEWHERE we publish a short article on Tongan stamps. We have awarded the author, Mr. W. Ward, of Didsbury, the prize of one guinea offered in our February number, as in our opinion his was the best paper received. Although we received nearly a dozen papers in connection with this competition, none of them shewed a great amount of philatelic research. Surely many of our readers, were they to take the trouble, could contribute a few "notes" of real philatelic value.

Well-known Philatelists.

No. 99.—MR. HERBERT CLARK.

WRITING from the quaint old village of Angmering, in Sussex, Mr. Herbert Clark has been good enough to give us the following brief details of his philatelic career:—

"I began by collecting postmarks, from which I drifted into stamp collecting about 1888.

"My first album, which I still have, is Whitfield King & Co's. Crown album, 3rd edition.

"I have always been more or less a general collector, with favourite countries. For instance, Great Britain (unused officials, locals, and telegraphs); United States (including marginal plate numbers); Spain and colonies; German States. I am fond of large blocks and whole sheets and also of proofs, essays and colour trials. At one time I collected the fiscal and telegraph stamps and entire cards and envelopes of the world, but take no interest in the bulk of these now. Local stamps I am rather partial to. As to limits I am not now pushing on my stamps in any country but devote my energies to my library of philatelic literature.

"I believe that two things led me to take special interest in philatelic literature. Firstly, the purchase of a nice copy of Dr. Gray's Catalogue, 2nd edition, in a second-hand book shop for 1d. Secondly, my desire to obtain the books to throw light on my stamps.

"The scope of my library is to include as far as possible uncut copies of all philatelic and the more important postal literature. Of philatelic periodicals and books, I take all languages and editions, with very few limitations. At present the library is very weak in many directions."

Mr Clark is too modest to say much about his superb collection of philatelic literature, but it is known to be one of the finest in England, which is praise indeed when it is remembered the Earl of Crawford, Mr. G. D. Bacon and many others own magnificent libraries. Mr. Clark has a grand lot of early English catalogues and magazines, also American, while he possesses, amongst many other great rarities, a copy of the official book on Japanese stamps published by the Japanese

Government in 1895. When it is remembered that Mr. Clark takes both sets unbound, as issued, and also in publisher's covers, it will be seen that this branch alone of philately must take up a great deal of his time. A member of the Birmingham Philatelic Society, The Junior Philatelic Society, The Dresden, The American Philatelic Association, Canadian Philatelic Association, and an occasional contributor to the philatelic press, it is really astonishing that time can be found for all his numerous philatelic hobbies.

It is almost unnecessary to tell our readers that Mr. Clark is a very active collector, not only where stamps themselves are concerned, but more especially when his beloved books are in question. As a Member of the Council of the recently formed Philatelic Literature Society, we are sure that Mr. Clark's assistance will be much appreciated by that body of enthusiastic book worms.

Mr. Clark holds such eminently sound views regarding the future of Philately, that we feel we cannot do better than quote his own words:—

"Philately, though it may have periods of depression, its permanence and growth is assured. There are natural tendencies in all countries to collect the stamps of the Mother Country and Colonies. I consider the boom in King's Head Singles and Chalkies, etc., has been overdone and I should welcome a movement in favour of old issues. The Perkins, Bacon stamps, for instance, are full of interest and beauty too. I

am very glad to find many collectors who are specialising in unfashionable countries." Would that many present day collectors held the same views; did they do so we should hear less about Caymans and Maldives, and more about stamps.

Perhaps some of our readers will, on reading this short sketch, be induced to collect philatelic literature. If so, we feel sure they will gain much enjoyment, and we wish them, together with Mr. Clark, every success with "back numbers."

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Current Chatter.

BY ANGUS MCTAVISH.

SOME kind friend told me a week or two ago to stick to my St. Pierre and Miquelon stamps, as there is a possibility of the Island coming under British rule. I do not mean by this that Angus McTavish has declared war against the French Republic, but merely that St. Pierre and Miquelon may be exchanged for some other island or "rights" (Mrs. Mc. is the politician) elsewhere, where fishing disputes are not. I don't collect French Colonials, but if the "tip" is worth anything my readers are welcome to it.

Being of an open disposition and generally sunny nature, I don't mind telling brother collectors about a little "snap" I have just had. Every collector dreams more or less of finds that will one day be his, so it may cheer them up a little to know that bonny wee Mc. has just had a haul. Only a dirty old account book, but I fished out of it, amongst many others, a 9d. imperf. Ceylon; 1/- blue-green N.Z., imperf.; a number of imperf. Tasmanias; two fine copies of the 24sk. bco. Sweden; 2/- blue, star, Ceylon; various other pence (about 16) ditto; U.S.A., 1869, complete (the 1c. happened to be the re-issue without grille); Trinidad, 4d., rough perfs.; Tasmania, 1864, 2d. green, perf. 12½-13; a host of scarce Europeans; and a lot of other little Colonial trifles. Of course all the stamps were stuck down, but with a quire of blotting paper and a quart of water I induced them to transfer their allegiance to my collecting books.

None of my readers have been able to solve the Western Australian postmark problem I set them last month. I think it must be that some of them are of too shy a nature. Surely somebody must know what it means. Like Arthur Clennam, I want to know, you know.

One evening, early in the month, as I was wending my weary way homewards, I passed the offices of a certain well known dealer, and as it was long past nine o'clock, I was surprised to see a light within. Being always ready for a philatelic chat, I paid the W.K.D. a visit, and learnt that his staff, including the office cat, had gone home, leaving him in his glory, minus keys to lock up. Having lunched at one o'clock, the W.K.D. was getting rather hungry, but before I could offer my services to go out and forage for a few steaks and chops, a messenger arrived with the missing keys, and the well known dealer locked up and departed for home, doubtless to find out why his keys had not been transferred from the pockets of his Sunday pair of "trews."

The tip I gave away last month concerning certain Ceylon stamps has done good, at least one honest soul has benefited. I can't of course speak for others, but McTavish has

been able to fill up a lot of desirable blanks, at less than half catalogue, with stamps that are certain to rise steadily in value. Provided of course that Mc gets all he wants, I don't mind telling my readers that the following stamps, at half catalogue are in my opinion worth buying; Jamaica Nos. 1, 2, 16, Natal 22, 82, 90, 91, Nevis 38, South Australia 290 to 292, Western Australia 1, 24, 35, 44, 45, 88, of course these are only a few cheap stamps taken quite at random, but I always have the courage of my own convictions, so dealers with surplus stock, and collectors likewise, will find me a buyer, if condition is superb.

What a lot of private dealers there are in London (not including McTavish), no fewer than eight having taken my remarks last month as personal. Of course, I didn't see eight private dealers trying to capture one well-known collector, so there must be a mistake somewhere, or else a lot of young people suffer with guilty consciences. Even Mr. Z., the dealer in question, wasn't really trying to cut out the P. tug-boat. Of course not.

"Me and Myn," our old friend, has been creating quite a little sensation lately in the legal world; *apropos* of this case the *Globe* says:—

"In a recent case each juryman was presented with a copy of Mr. Crockett's book 'Me and Myn.' To serve on a jury is, however, part of the citizen's duty to the State."

There is, however, apparently no evidence to prove that any of the jurymen actually read the book.

Looking through a number of European duplicates the other day I was muchly attracted by some early Bulgarians, so much so that I made up my mind to specialize in these stamps, that is of course, when I have completed my W.A.'s, N.Z.'s, N.S.W.'s, and a few other pet countries. Bulgarian stamps, with the exception of two commemorative issues (which can easily be ignored) are really very interesting and the specialist would find fairly fresh pastures for his tweezers to browse upon, with the added knowledge that the stamps have not been boomed sky-high.

I am told that Mr. Tonald Mac Blither, Assistant Editor to Tancred, of Bangalore fame, has suggested that an illustrated biography of the illustrious McTavish should be published in these columns. Although I know that, like Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Chamberlain, and many others, I shall have to stifle my own private feelings in the welfare of the many, I think I am oo'r young for an illustrated biography yet, bide a wee, Tonald. When fame compels, I will send you an autographic copy, but you must not be disappointed if there is no beard, between ourselves, that is Tonald and Angus; the beard was a failure, although I sat up several nights nursing it.

Writing of Tancred, reminds me that in the March number of his paper, the *Philatelic Adviser*, he asks his readers to compare the 12½c. stamp of Nova Scotia with its modern equivalent. Naughty Tancred to try and puzzle his readers so.

The luck some dealer men have is proverbial. I have just been told that a certain well known stamp man was run over by a cab on April 1st, and is grumbling because it hurt one or so of his legs. Really, anybody that chose a date like that should offer up thanksgivings that it wasn't a motor lorry.

The Pence Issue of New Brunswick.

BY F. F. LAMB.

WRITING about the pence stamps of New Brunswick in the *P.J.G.B.* for February I gave a short list of the numbered cancellations to be found on these stamps, to which I could allot a town. By a somewhat strange coincidence the *Chicago Collectors' Monthly* for February contained a capital article, contributed by that well known enthusiast, Mr. Edgar Nelson, on the "Numbered cancellations of New Brunswick and Canada."

Mr. Nelson has a very fine lot of early North Americans on entires, while he has been collecting *data* concerning these stamps during the past thirty years, so we may infer that the following list, taken from the *C.M.J.*, is as near complete as it is possible to make it.

No.	No.
1 St. John.	17 Salisbury.
8 Chatham.	21 Hillsborough.
10 W.O. Whites Cove.	23 Richibucto.
11 Dorchester.	24 Sackville.
12 Edwardstown or Edmunston.	26 Shadiac.
13 Frederickton.	27 Ottawa.
14 Gagetown.	28 St. George.
15 Hampton Ferry.	30 St. Stephen.
16 Harvey.	34 Colebrook.

Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, New Brunswick entires are becoming really scarce, and, as it is only possible to locate the posting town by the dated postmark, which rarely is on the stamp itself, it is becoming a hard task to place these, and indeed many other early Colonial numbered cancellations. I think that the study of early postmarks is a most fascinating branch of our hobby, and should very much like to see contributions from other philatelists on this subject. Any one who is in search of an interesting philatelic sideline would find, I am sure, much to interest them in the early numbered postmarks of many of our colonies—Barbados and Western Australia for instance.

Are Caymans and the Cayman Islands Postal Authorities Synonymous?

[We have received the following cablegram from our self-styled War Correspondent in Kingston, Jamaica, who sent same "Payment on Delivery," for which the Telegraph Company demanded £13 17s. 11½d. As we cannot afford to lose this amount, we had either to stop it out of the week's wages of our office boy, or send to press. Our office assistant insinuating something about his big brother being able to throw Zybyisco, we decided on the latter course. We leave the *bonâ fide* of this alleged *dénouement* to our readers' credulity.—Ed.]

KINGSTON, April 1st.

T. JACKSON PHIPPS, Archivist to the Postal Committee of the Cayman Islands House of Assembly, has just arrived here to spend his summer holidays. Had pleasure of interviewing him on your behalf, much to the disgust of the representatives of several Philatelic Weeklies. In the course of conversation Mr. Phipps said that the future of the Cayman Islands was assured, and, according to the statistics of the Permanent Head Postal Clerk they are receiving more 6d. Postal Orders than the whole of the Limerick Competitions in Great Britain put together. I drew Mr. P's attention to a large book he was carrying, which he informed me contained the minutes of the Postal Committee.

Before leaving Mr. Phipps, I requested his pleasure and company at the Sugar Candy Hotel that night, since the Myrtle Grove Hotel would be rather crowded with guests of Sir Alfred Jones (and too expensive!), which suggestion he accepted with celerity.

In the evening we again met in the tap—I mean parlour of the aforementioned inn. A jug of native-made molasses standing on the table soon evaporated, no doubt on account of the warm spell of weather we are having. I showed my guest a bottle of our best Pineapple Rum, and he then showed me the Minutes Book. I read "Pitman's" every week, so I was able to take the following down in longhand, of some of the more interesting business of the Cayman's Committee:

"Jan. 1899. Formation of a Committee to deal with the Cayman Islands' Postal Department. The following gentlemen were elected. (Here were given the names of six members of the House of Assembly. On the following morning, when Mr. Phipps was sob—or rather more relieved from a headache contracted by his rather rough voyage, he requested that I should not mention any names, or he might lose his position). Decision to issue two stamps, ½d. and 1d. values only, in order to secure the confidence of those eccentric people who collect stamps.

"July 1900. The Secretary reports that the sales have been enormous, and that a portion of the profits are to go to reduce the tariffs

on goods imported from England. Further proposed to issue more values, but leave this until next meeting.

"Feb. 1901. News of the death of Queen Victoria just arrived. Resolved to have a new set illustrating the King's Head.

"June 1901. Finally agreed to issue a set of five values, $\frac{1}{4}$ d., 1d., $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 6d. and 1/-.

"August 1901. Decided to permit the use of these new stamps to frank letters, instead of the Jamaican stamps.

"December 1901. New set arrived, together with thousands of orders.

"March 1902. More orders arriving. Taxes on English Manufactured Goods reduced by 60%.

"June 1903. Postal staff augmented.

"June 1904. Cable from printers to say that they are so busy that they have no time to centre watermark, so are in future printing on multiple watermarked paper.

"January 1904. Resolved to build new Post Office.

"January 1906. All English goods allowed to land free of duty.

"January 1907. Proposed to issue more values, 4d. and 5/-, and change colours of 6d. and 1/-. Carried.

"July 1907. Every inhabitant presented with three acres and a cow.

"October 1907. Mr. — proposed that a surcharged stamp be issued. Carried.

"November 1907. All communications with outer world cut off owing to the fusing of the cable wires, caused by the friction of the large number of dealers' orders.

"December, 1907. Secretary reports falling off of the sales of the new 5/- value, and is resolved to surcharge the stock of this value into $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and 1d. Mr. — added the rider, that the Postmaster should inform the press that only a few sheets would be overprinted—but tell every correspondent that he was filling his order as a favour. Mr. — moved that we issue more new values, but leave final settlement to next meeting."

Mr. Phipps wishes me to add that he has sheets of all the surcharges inverted, and containing more varieties than hitherto chronicled, and will be pleased to supply collectors direct. In the meanwhile he is still taking the waters (half-and-half) of our Island.

The Scottish Philatelic Society

JUNIOR BRANCH.

THE Monthly Meeting of the Society was held in Dowell's Rooms, Edinburgh, on Saturday, 4th April, at 7 p.m. Mr. N. M. Berrie, the President, in the Chair. There was an attendance of over 20 Members. Three new Members were admitted.

After a general exchange of duplicates the

minutes of last Meeting, were read, approved and signed.

The Hon. Sec. (Mr. Chalmers) reported the sales from the Exchange Packets in circulation, which were considered very satisfactory.

The Chairman drew attention to the Auction Sale which was to be held under the auspices of the Junior Branch, in the Bible Society's Rooms, St. Andrew Square, on Saturday 11th inst., at 6.30 p.m. He stated that nearly 400 lots had been received and that the sale promised to be one of the best that had been held in Edinburgh.

The meeting then had an opportunity of examining a choice selection of the stamps of the Cape, by Mr. J. L. Sievwright, including a complete representation of the Perkins, Bacon and Co. and De la Rue triangulars, both in mint and superb used condition. Great speculation took place as to one stamp in the collection, the 6d. violet ordinary, Hope seated on Anchor stamp surcharged 3, in used condition. Mr. Sievwright could not, however, give much information regarding it, although he pointed out that the surcharge was under the cancellation and the stamp had every appearance of having been genuinely used.

Mr. Ernest Heginbottom, F.R.P.S., Lond., Rochdale, also sent a very fine used selection of the stamps of Barbados, Jamaica, Grenada, and Leeward Islands, and a special feature of his display was the fine selection of the 1d. surcharged on half of the old 5/- stamp of the Barbados. The range of Leeward Islands stamps with the cancellations of the various Islands in that group, including Nevis, St. Kitts, and others, was also a feature of the display.

A very hearty vote of thanks was, on the motion of the Chairman, awarded to Mr. Sievwright and Mr. Heginbottom, for their kindness, and for the great treat they had provided.

Hon. Secretary, FRANK CHALMERS, 24, Bruntsfield Gardens, Edinburgh.

Early N. Americans.

It is not strange that the stamps of British Columbia and Vancouver's Island are scarce, as in 1861, when the first stamps were issued, British Columbia was almost an unknown land. We have read that fifty years ago, with the exception of the Hudson Bay Company agents, located at stations far from each other, there was not a white man on the mainland of British Columbia. At the same time, in 1857, there were probably not more than three hundred white persons on Vancouver Island. It was in 1866 that Vancouver Island was incorporated with British Columbia, and the colony was admitted into the Dominion of Canada in 1871.—*Meekel's Weekly*.



April, 1908, Report.

List of Officers and Committee, 1908.

Hon. President: HIS HONOUR JUDGE PHILBRICK, K.C.

Hon. Vice-Presidents:
VERNON ROBERTS. W. DORNING BECKTON. H. L. HAYMAN.

President: H. R. OLDFIELD.

Vice-Presidents:
W. SCHWABACHER L. W. FULCHER. W. SCHWARTE.

Committee:
P. P. BROWN. A. B. KAY. P. L. PEMBERTON.
W. J. BOVILL. W. S. KING. F. REICHENHEIM.
W. HADLOW. MAJOR LAFFAN, R.E. J. C. SIDEBOTHAM.
J. E. JOSELIN. DR. MARX, M.A. E. W. WETHERELL.

Hon. Sec. & Treasurer: T. H. HINTON.

Hon. Exchange Superintendent: DR. E. F. MARX, M.A.

Hon. Counterfeit Detector: W. HADLOW.

Hon. Librarian: W. S. KING.

Hon. Solicitors: MESSRS. OLDFIELD, BARTRAM & OLDFIELD.

MEMBERSHIP.

Candidates for admission must be over 18 years of age, and supply at least two satisfactory references. They will then be proposed for election, and if no objection be lodged within fourteen days, be duly elected. The Entrance Fee, 2/6, and Subscription, 5/-, should accompany the application, and will be refunded in the event of the non-election of the applicant. (The Committee are empowered to elect Life Members, not exceeding ten in number, at a fee of Two Guineas.)

The following are now proposed in accordance with the above:—Lieut. A. E. Stewart, Bedford Park, W., proposed by E. W. Wetherell, seconded by T. H. Hinton; A. C. Emerson, Eastcheap, E.C., B. C. Emerson, Eastcheap, E.C. and John Cook, Glasgow, proposed by T. H. Hinton, seconded by P. L. Pemberton.

NEW MEMBERS.

Mrs. H. Jones, Dublin; J. H. Abbott, Manchester.

NOTICES.

The seventh meeting of the season took place at Essex Hall, on Thursday, April 9th, when there were present W. Schwabacher (in the chair), E. W. Wetherell, L. W. Fulcher, J. C. Sidebotham, P. P. Brown, A. B. Kay, F. F. Lamb, Capt. Perrin, Lieut. Stewart and

the Hon. Sec. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. Wetherell gave a display of his collection of Mauritius, which includes many rarities in fine condition, amongst others a reconstructed sheet of twelve of the 1d. perf. paid, pairs of the 1d. and 2d. Greek border and many other pairs, strips and blocks, and early issues on originals, the whole forming a fine and interesting lot. This was followed by a further selection of his collection of Spain, and the meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks, moved by Mr. Sidebotham and seconded by Mr. Fulcher and to the chairman.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting and election officers and committee for the ensuing year will be held at Essex Hall, on Thursday, May 14th, at 8 p.m. Displays will be given by members of the stamps of Great Britain used abroad, Chili, Victoria and Holland and all are requested to bring their collections of these countries.

Subscriptions, applications for membership, or donations to forgery collection gladly received and duly acknowledged by

THOS. H. HINTON,

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Int. Phil. Union
26, Cromford Road, East Putney, S.W.

April 10th, 1908.

Proposed Canadian Commemoratives.

AMONG other suggestions put forward as designs for the projected Canadian stamps to be issued in commemoration of the third centenary of the foundation of Quebec is one for the depiction of the portraits of Henry IV., who was King of France in 1608, and of King Edward VII., the present Sovereign of Canada. The two portraits would appear in medallions placed side by side, which would necessitate a stamp of the same size as the Jubilee stamps of the Dominion.

It is not likely that this novel idea will be adopted, and yet it is most likely that a portrait of a Frenchman, Champlain, who was the founder of Quebec, will be used. If this comes about it will be the third time that portraits of Frenchmen have appeared on the stamps of British Colonies, the other instances being the 10d. and 17 cents of Canada of 1852-59, which bear an interesting portrait of Jacques Cartier, and the 15c. Mauritius of 1899, which is adorned with a full-face picture of Admiral de Labourdonnais, Governor of Mauritius in 1734-46, which was before the island came under British rule.



APRIL 20, 1908.

Philately at Home.

The *Philatelic Record* for March contains a capital account of the recent London Exhibition. Mr. G. B. Duerst contributes a short instalment of his paper on Moroccan locals, while Mr. F. J. Melville, an old friend of our readers, is the well known philatelist. A short "Editorial," a list of "New Issues," and a few "Notes" complete a good but certainly not brilliant number of our Manchester contemporary.

The *Monthly Journal* for March contains, as is usual, several interesting philatelic contributions. Mons. L. Hanciau's instalment of his paper, "The Postal Issues of Denmark and the Danish Colonies," makes capital reading. The following excellent table of obsolete Danish stamps is given, showing the date of issue and quantity printed.

Date of Issue.	Date when Replaced or Withdrawn.	Value.	Number Printed.
April, 1851	May, 1854	2 rbs.	479,300
" "	Nov., 1853	4 "	11,788,600
Nov., 1853	(?) 1858	4 sk.	19,405,900
May, 1854	Sept., 1855	2 "	7,968,400
July, 1857	(?) 1858	8 "	1,336,600
Aug. "	June, 1863	16 "	565,100
(?) 1858	Mar. "	4 "	50,596,700
(?) "	" 1868	8 "	777,100
Mar., 1863	May, 1864	4 "	12,060,300
June "	Aug. "	16 "	100,000
May, 1864	Oct., 1870	4 "	47,742,800
Aug. "	April, 1871	16 "	1,600,000
Sept., 1865	Jan. "	2 "	7,533,600
Oct. "	" "	3 "	3,019,700
Mar., 1868	April "	8 "	2,005,000
May, 1870	Jan., 1875	48 "	402,000
Oct. "	" "	4 "	54,959,200
Jan., 1871	" "	2 "	23,167,300
" "	" "	3 "	4,534,200
April "	" "	8 "	3,858,600
" "	" "	16 "	1,989,800
Jan., 1875	Nov., 1905	3 öre	15,908,300
" "	Oct., 1904	4 "	717,994,800
" "	Mar., 1907	8 "	692,465,300
" "	" "	12 "	30,268,900
" "	" "	16 "	26,815,100
" "	Sept., 1905	25 "	5,517,400
" "	" "	50 "	3,780,400
Sept. "	June, 1882	20 "	10,051,800
Oct., 1877	Sept., 1905	100 "	1,851,800
Mar., 1879	June, 1882	5 "	2,310,500

Date of Issue.	Date when Replaced or Withdrawn.	Value.	Number Printed.
June, 1882	May, 1884	5 öre	1,716,100
" "	Nov. "	20 "	5,489,300
May, 1884	" 1905	5 "	230,505,100
Nov. "	Dec., 1904	20 "	55,208,000
Mar., 1885	Nov. "	10 "	*171,967,200
April, 1901	Mar., 1907	24 "	1,737,000
Oct., 1902	Nov., 1905	1 "	14,434,700
" "	Oct., 1904	15 "	7,900,400
" 1904	July, 1905	4 on 8 öre	3,300,000
" "	Nov. "	15 on 24 "	770,000
Nov. "	April, 1906	10 öre	54,212,900
Dec. "	Feb., 1907	20 "	9,723,500
Sept., 1905	April "	25 "	1,854,400
" "	Mar. "	50 "	361,200
" "	Feb. "	100 "	200,300
Nov. "	Mar. "	5 "	93,278,800
April, 1906	" "	10 "	41,248,600

*This number includes both the types of the 10 öre, with small and large figures in the corners.

Mr. B. W. H. Poole writes, in an interesting manner, on the stamps of St. Alland. From a perusal of his article we learn that Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. purchased the remainder of these stamps in 1866, consisting of 621 of the 1d. value, 10,514 of the 3d., 11,762 4d., 9,566 6d., and 4,329 1/- stamps. This being the case the catalogue quotations of 2/6 for the 1d., and 1/- each for the 3d. and 4d. values is somewhat astounding, if only 621 one penny stamps constituted the remainder of that value, against 11,762 of the fourpenny stamps, the former is priced very cheaply.

Another instalment of Mr. J. B. Leavy's paper on the Stamps of Salvador, a splendid New Issue list, and the usual Editorial Notes complete the March number of our contemporary.

No. 3 of the *Philatelic Adviser* is a capital production, so excellent indeed that we wonder all the more why the contents of Nos. 1 and 2 were of so sombre a nature, perhaps the "Disclaimer" published in No. 2 had a moistening effect on the Editor's spirits. The March number however is chock full of humour and wit, the Editor being indeed in better fettle than ever we remember before, and that,

when one remembers back numbers of the *P. J. of I.* and the famous "Native" paper, is praise indeed.

In these days of Philatelic Societies' reports, Exhibition programmes, and an occasional article of philatelic worth, it is a great treat to pick up a paper so skilfully and ably edited as is the *P.A.* The only regret we have concerning our contemporary is, that should Mr. Wetherell be called from us, to return to Tigerland, he will leave so big a halo behind that nobody will be found brave enough to try and wear it.

Beginning with a clever little skit on the stamps of Southern Nigeria, the *P.A.* goes on to tell about the discovery of Bremen stamps on chalky paper! A short and sensible report of the recent Stamp Exhibition; a capital New Issue list, and a reprinted article from the *P.R.*, bring us to a capital page headed "Topicalities," wherein Tancred dispenses some rich gems of wit.

The following is as good as it is typical.

G.S.W. states that a Glasgow paper includes "Wanted rd. black English, Chili, and Sarawak" under the heading "Live Stock Wanted." This reminds us of the well-known case of "tenders for the purchase of an out-of-date battleship" accidentally getting into the "Personal" column of a certain paper, sandwiched in between such other announcements as "Will Duckie meet Darling 7 p.m., usual place, all is forgiven" and "Lost a white mouse answering to the name of "Dinizulu."

One could have a lot of fun out of live stock stamps. One might see pedigree and other announcements thus:—

"Belgian Parcel Post, 4 years, 14 hands, by 'Plate Number' out of 'Syllabic Character.'"

"Sets of Seebecks—good milkers."

"Woodblock Cape—quiet to ride and drive, good manners, will carry a lady," etc., etc.

The first person who starts a stud farm for philatelic sundries, and breeds his own 2c. Hawaii, should do well. I shall be down that way in the lambing season without fail.

A reprinted paper from the *P.J.G.B.* and a copious and well selected budget of Notes and News complete a splendid number of our contemporary. Bravo, *P.A.*, may your shadow never grow less.

The *London Philatelist* for March contains some capital reports of recent stamp exhibitions, notably of course the recent London Exhibition at Caxton Hall. Mr. Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg's paper on "The Stamps of British India," read before the Royal Society last November, is printed. The recent publication of Mr. Hausburg's superb Indian handbook however robs this article of its chief charms. For the benefit of those of our readers who may not happen to be the lucky possessors

of a copy of the Indian handbook, we make the following short extract:—

Soon afterwards it was found necessary to have a stamp of the value of four annas, and this had to be made at the Survey Office, as it was to be in two colours, and lithography was the easiest and quickest process for this kind of printing.

In the case of this value there were, as is well known, three very distinct settings. In the first setting the stamps were very widely spaced, being about 18mm. apart horizontally and 11mm. vertically, and separated by blue dividing lines. In this setting there were only twelve stamps on each sheet, and it was soon found that it would be quite as easy and much less expensive to print a larger number. Accordingly in the next printing there were twenty-four stamps on each sheet, 5mm. apart horizontally and 4mm. vertically. This was also not quite satisfactory, as it often happened that the corner stamps missed the watermark altogether. A third arrangement was then tried, still with twenty-four stamps to the sheet, but with the stamps closer together, about 2½mm. horizontally and 2mm. vertically.

As in the case of the half and one anna values, there was a re-engraving of the die, the chignon being redrawn, and this took place after there had been two printings of the first setting (there were three altogether). It is therefore possible to distinguish single specimens of the two earliest printings of the wide setting from the third printing of the same setting and from the two subsequent settings. There were several retouches to the stone, especially in the case of the second setting, though at present there are a certain number of retouches which cannot be definitely assigned to any particular setting.

All the numbers of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* before us contain a lot of interesting matter, so much so, that it is hard to individualize any one number for review. In the copy dated April 4th, we find the following "tip."

THE 12C. PHILIPPINES 1906.

This should be a good stamp, since only 20,000 are said to have been issued. Bad copies are numerous; a heavy percentage having straight edges or are badly centred. When the number of these wasters, and the badly cancelled, are deducted, not many perfect copies should be left, possibly not 5,000. America boasts that her collectors readily absorb an issue of 10,000 and they all collect Philippines over there.

Yet another stamp paper, this time a little fellow called *The British Philatelist*, published by C. Nissen & Co. Although the *B.P.* is only about the size of ten Djibouti's and a bittock, it contains the best philatelic article that it has been our pleasure to read for some months. The article in question—or rather the first instalment—deals with the process of producing line-engraved stamps. The author, who writes anonymously, knows his subject and we should very much have liked to make copious extracts—unfortunately lack of space forbids. We wish our new cousin every success; may *B.P.* grow better and larger every month.

The *Postage Stamp*, like *Punch*, always contains something good. Only lack of

space prevents us from making extracts. In the copy dated April 4th, we find the following somewhat curious list of countries given, as desirable countries to collect. Mr. O. Reginald Gum, whom we believe is a full cousin to Cornelius Wrinkle, says:—

The best countries to put money into are more or less neglected countries with a probable future (nothing said about a murky past.—ED. *P.J.G.B.*)

My own choice of a few would be West Indian Colonies, because they have by no means yet recovered from the slump that sent them down to zero a few years ago and of these I should select Jamaica, Bahamas and Bermuda.

In Europe, Crete, Bavaria and Norway. In Australia, current make-shift issues. In Africa, Egypt, Sudan, Southern Nigeria and British South Africa. In America, Canal Zone.

What a curious choice Reggie.

We have received a review copy of a new monthly, called *The Bibliophile*. This magazine is to be published in the interests of the "Collector, Student and General Reader." No. 1 contains three pages devoted to Philately, being a short and somewhat elementary resumé of stamps and their collection from 1840 to date. Although *The Bibliophile* is not at present likely to interest collectors from a philatelic point of view, the paper is one that will appeal to all lovers of books, prints, etc., and is well worth the modest sum of 6d.

Philately in the Colonies and Elsewhere.

The *Philatelic Journal of India* for March is a splendid number, containing as it does two contributions of real philatelic value.

The first, a paper by Mr. C. S. F. Crofton, entitled "New South Wales Perforations," is a learned dissertation on the perforations to be found on N.S.W. stamps from their inauguration in 1860 to the present day.

The following list of N.S.W. perforating machines is given:—

No.	Date.	Gauge.	Converted.	Into.
1	1860	12	1883-4	Comb 1 (a)
2	1862	13	1883-4	" 1 (b)
3	186-	12½ (?)	1883-4 (?)	" 2 (a)
4	1881	10	1895	" 2 (b)
5	1884	11	—	—
6	1884	12	—	—
7	1884-6	12	1902	O.S.N.S.W.
8	189-	11½ (?)	1902	OS
9	1897	Comb 3	—	—

Nos. 1 and 2 were made in England, No. 9 in Adelaide, and the rest in Sydney. The other philatelic article is the conclu-

sion of Sir D. P. Masson's and Mr. B. G. Gordon Jones' paper on the stamps of Afghanistan.

These notes will, we believe, be shortly published in book form, as such they should have a good sale amongst collectors of Afghanistan stamps.

The usual excellent budget of "Notes and Extracts" and "Review of the Philatelic Press" are very good features.

In the former, however, we find a most ridiculous statement, namely, that the *P.J.G.B.* obviously is, in its own estimation superior to the *Monthly Journal*. That anybody not a Babu should arrive at so assinine a conclusion is startling evidence of the humidity of the Indian climate. The *P.J.G.B.* has ever been the first to award the pride of place to the *M.J.* Would that there was another philatelic paper that contained half as much *original* matter.

Copies of the *Australian Philatelist* for January and February have come safely to hand. In each number there is a lot of readable matter, most of which however is of more interest to Australian readers, than to those at home, as it relates mostly to Commonwealth postal transactions.

In the February number there are some *very* pleasing remarks apropos the King Edward VII. Land labels. We make the following extracts:—

We cannot say who originated the idea of overprinting the stamps and appointing Lieutenant Shackleton as postmaster of an uninhabited part of the globe, but whoever it was he must have a "kink" in his brain so far as postage stamps are concerned. Lieut. Shackleton has proved himself such a good stage manager that we should not be surprised to learn he suggested the scheme and applied for the appointment. We wish the exhibition every success, but such clap-trap advertising is contemptible, and we are at a loss to know why philatelists are singled out in this manner as "good marks" for spoilation.

We must express our profound regret that the New Zealand postal authorities have of late "kicked over the traces" frequently. It is very bad policy which, while bringing the Dominion more prominently under the eyes of the world for the time being, leaves an impression of pettiness and grasping at straws, which is highly undesirable in any country having respect for its dignity.

Philatelists do not seek such things, speculators may; but such practices as those indulged in by the New Zealand authorities, if tolerated and encouraged, will eventually without doubt bring about the downfall of philately.

It cannot be urged that the N.Z. authorities will derive much financial benefit from the scheme, as 100 sheets only represent 12,000 stamps, value £50. Query—what is going to become of these stamps? Will they all be sold by Lieutenant Sackleton at face value—when and to whom? Will anything extra be charged for postmarking the stamps, if so, who will pocket the money? There is nothing genuine about the whole affair, it is make-believe from start to finish, and it is

a mockery of Philately. Like the "South Sea Bubble" of old, the whole enterprise, so far as the stamps are concerned, is bogus, and when the bubble bursts, as it assuredly will do, the New Zealand authorities, Lieutenant Shackleton and Professor David will be sorry they had anything to do with it.

The idea of sending a small brass canister, about four inches in length and an inch in diameter, containing specimens of all the current issues of New Zealand stamps, is too farcical to call for further comment. It is on a par with the other proceedings.

If we could use stronger words in condemnation of this latest injustice to Philately, we would.

Well done, Cornstalk cousin. As to the brass canister business, we suppose that is just an outbreak of patriotism in opposition to the well-known legend about what will be found at the North Pole when that is re-discovered!

We are sorry that our Australian friends cannot find stronger condemnatory words to use. May we suggest a visit to Paddy's Market, or a stroll along lower George Street on Saturday night. Perhaps the editor of the *Australian Philatelist* has never heard of that great Australian word that begins with a B. Shakespeare used it at least once in connection with a certain "business." We should like to echo his words, when Antaitic stamps are in question.

Philately Abroad.

Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung. March 1908.

This journal gives a long account of the stamps of Abyssinia, based upon the investigation of a correspondent who had access to official information. The article is well illustrated with types of surcharge, etc., and gives a good resumé of this country, which the recent forged libel (purporting to be issued by a French Society, and declaiming the whole issues of the country to be bogus) has brought into some prominence. A note by Dr. Kalckhoff requires that the name "Ethiopia" should be substituted for that of Abyssinia, under which the region has so long been known. Specialists in search of a minor country might do worse than examine the stamps of this one; the issues are few, and the surcharges offer some scope. It is worthy of notice that several of these, generally accepted and given in various catalogues, are forged.

Berliner Briefmarken-Zeitung. 1st April, 1908.

This number is an excellent one. The translation of M. Hanciau's elaborate study of the stamps of Finland is continued, and the first portion of an article on the stamps of Sicily appears, to which we hope to refer on its completion, as it gives a concise account of these interesting stamps based largely upon the researches of Dr. Diena.

Particulars are given of remainders of the Servian issues of 1901, 1903 and 1904, which the Government, by an ordinance of 2nd January last, has decided to sell, in quantities of 100 sets of each series. Stamps in excess of the quantities so required, as well as all damaged and faulty sheets, and all used stamps from telegrams, etc., have been destroyed, and the plates from which the stamps were printed have been defaced. The following is a list of the stamps offered:

1901 Issue.	Price per 100 sets.
300,000 sets: 1 to 50 paras	.. 40 francs.
100,000 sets: 1 para to 1 dinar	.. 70 francs.
5,000 sets: 1 para to 5 dinars	.. 500 francs.
1903 Issue.	
5,000 sets: 1 para to 1 dinar	.. 200 francs.
35,000 sets: 1 para to 5 dinars	.. 800 francs.
50,000 sets: 3 and 5 dinars	.. 600 francs.
1904 (Jubilee) Issue.	
130,000 sets: 1 para to 50 paras	.. 80 francs.
73,000 sets: 5 paras to 5 dinars	.. 900 francs.

"When" all these are sold the State will have acquired an accession to its exchequer of 1,566,000 francs. The quotation marks to the first word are those of our contemporary; we endorse the doubt expressed, and as long as the Servian Government sit down and wait for applications for this stock we shall feel satisfied that collectors will be spared the nauseating flood of obsolete rubbish which a general clearance sale would engender.

Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste. April, 1908.

The gentle art of collecting has, in these latter days of its development, given rise to a species whose ingenuity is equalled only by his audacity—the forger. On all forms of connoisseurism he fastens parasitically, and the collector who is landed with a piece of false antique of whatever genre can sympathise with the philatelist who labours under disabilities of the kind of such a nature as almost to banish certainty. To what extent this is so is well brought out by a volume by M. Paul Eudel, "Trucs et Truquers," recently published, and reviewed, as far as it concerns philately, in the current number of this journal. M. Eudel, after citing the eminence to which stamp collecting has risen, turns to the particular phase of which his book deals, the art of the forger, and treats of the early examples, which are almost as old as stamp collecting itself, soon to give place to the results of more refined methods, which have increased *pari passu* with the scientific investigation to which they have been subjected by those who would escape them.

But the most interesting part of this sketch of ability nefariously applied is the account, given in extenso, of a visit to the late M. Maury in search of information on the subject, which, one may be sure, was not made in vain. He found the well known dealer actually examining a collection which did not lack examples of his subject, and the interview is of much interest as a summary of modern

means of forging stamps, and we give a free rendering in some detail of the reported conversation. Indicating the 25 mils. Spain, 1867, inverted head, M. Maury remarks :

This is most ingenious. The stamp is in two colours, the design blue the centre rose. The forger has simply exposed the stamp to sunlight, covering up all but the centre; the colour of this being discharged, the inverted head is printed upon the plain space by means of photogravure. . . Here is a 1fr. of the French Empire, which looks peculiar. Ah, I thought so; it is patchwork. It has been made from the 80c. carmine, upon which has been imposed the lower label of the 1fr. of the Republic. . . .

Of cancellations I am always suspicious. The thing is so easy. Down comes the hand-stamp and there you are. Just pass your finger over these high values of South Australia. Do you feel a slight depression? I thought so. They had the word *reprint* or *specimen*, which has been erased and the place it occupied covered with a postmark. . . .

And I will describe to you the imitation of laid lines and watermarks. The stamp is placed faced downwards upon a small copper plate, upon which the design of the watermark stands in relief, and the back of the paper is rubbed with pumice-stone to thin it; or the watermark is printed upon the paper, by means of a wooden block of the required design, using oil as the medium, and varying, where necessary, the impression for plain or indistinct watermarks. I have seen imitations which would make the Director of the Bank of France shudder. . . .

I have said nothing of false surcharges. This is quite an every day resort, not without its profits, however, for the vendor of stamps of Gwalior, Azores, Gaboon, and Madeira. . . .

Here are Ceylon with the perforations removed, to do which has not strained the inventiveness of the forger; but here is something much more clever. Look at this Queensland 2d. blue 1860. It is simply a stamp of the same value of the 1862 issue, with the perforations removed, and a new margin of paper similar to that of the stamp, has been put on round it, with such skill that it is almost impossible to see the join. It will resist separation by immersion in water, as the adhesive used has alcohol or ether for its solution. . . .

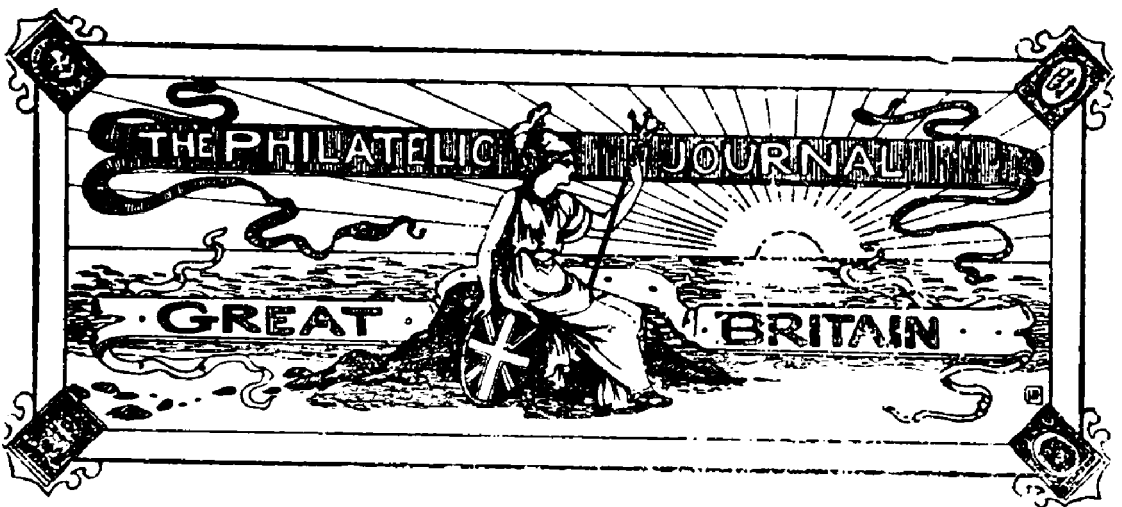
And when you remember that in examining such a collection we can neither detach the stamps, nor soak them in alcohol, nor use any other of similar operation which I could enumerate, you will see that we are at a great disadvan-

tage. Happily perfection in imitation is almost impossible. The joins of stamps treated as above often break away slightly in handling; one is struck with the minute differences of postmarks and cancellations; forged perforations do not entirely resemble real ones. There is always some trifling detail which makes one suspicious. What is most difficult is to convince the collector that he has been deceived.

In this number are recorded for the first time, as far as we know, the new high values of Japan, 5 and 10 yen. The design is very effective, and bears a portrait of the Empress Jingo, full face, within a broken circle, in the upper part of which appears in Japanese "Post of the Empire of Japan," and in the lower 5 yen, in Roman characters with the value in Japanese numerals at the side. Above the circle are the chrysanthemum and paulownia, and below two lamp-like ornaments. The whole design shows, as far as we can tell from the illustration given, that the Japanese at least have not yet lost the art of producing a handsome postage stamp. These stamps were issued in February.

U.S.A. Pony Express Stamps.

THE Pony Express days are full of fascinating suggestion to stamp collectors. The locals with picture of flying rider made a deep impression on the susceptible, sentimental minds of collectors, and in the days when United States locals were venerated, the Pony Express stamps were reigning favourites, not alone in this country but in Europe as well. Romance and reality were often blended in accounts of this remarkable enterprise, but fiction did not need to be invoked to invest the annals with intense human interest. Under date of March 2nd, 1861, the U.S. Government directed the Postmaster-General "to run a Pony Express from New York to San Francisco, in ten days for eight months, and twelve days for four months, carrying for the Government free of charge, five pounds of mail matter, with the privilege of issuing postage stamps, and charging the public one dollar per half-ounce letter; the contractors shall receive \$20,000 per annum, and the contract shall expire July 1st, 1864." Under this authority, the line was formed by two companies, viz: Wells, Fargo & Co. and the Pioneer Stage Company. "By the provisions of the legislature, the contractors were to run a daily express from St. Louis to San Francisco for the Government service, with a stage-coach service, three times a week, carrying twelve passengers and newspaper matter."—*Mekeel's Weekly*.



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EDITORIAL.

IT is with great regret we learn that Mr. C. J. Phillips has decided to discontinue the publication of the *Monthly Journal* and sincerely hope, ere it is too late, that he may be persuaded to reconsider his decision. The *Monthly Journal* dates back

The Passing of the "Monthly Journal"

while it has, almost from the very commencement undoubtedly held the premier place of honour in the philatelic publishing world.

To a great number of collectors the news of the coming dissolution of the *M.J.* will be sad news, for, although *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* will, to a certain extent take its place, there will still be a feeling with many old time philatelists that no substitute however good, can quite fill the void that the withdrawal of so important a publication will create.

We are told that the *Weekly* will be enlarged, while Major Evans is to edit one number every month, the number under his supervision to only contain serious articles of intrinsic philatelic worth and the inevitable new issue list.

To a certain extent therefore we do not altogether lose the *M.J.* as it will appear in a modified form; nevertheless, we are too conservative but to deplore the decision Mr. Phillips has arrived at. It is not that we do not appreciate the *Weekly*, far from it; as a philatelic home magazine for the

young collector it provides excellent reading, at the same time we see something incongruous in grafting the *M.J.* on to so youthful a stem; if the *M.J.* had to go we would rather that it sank with all hands at their stations, if Major Evans will excuse so nautical a metaphor, than that it should be incorporated with another publication, which, although excellent, is not, in our opinion, worthy of upholding, at least at present, the time honoured traditions of the *Monthly Journal*.

The only bright feature of the pending change is that Major Evans will not retire from the field of philatelic journalism. Not only will he be solely responsible for every fourth number of the *Weekly*, but he will doubtless slightly supervise the editing of the other three; in this knowledge we must find our consolation for the loss of the *M.J.*

In these days, when most collectors subscribe to all, or nearly all, the leading papers, there is little need to refresh their memories with a list of well-known philatelists who have contributed to the *M.J.* during recent years, and, perhaps, it is almost as unnecessary to enumerate the names of those who contributed to the earlier volumes of our contemporary. The names of Napier, Tamsen, Thornhill, Gilbert Harrison, Donald King, are but a few chosen at random.

We have yet the May and June numbers of the *M.J.* to look forward to, but the knowledge that the end is so near will tinge their arrival with sorrowful shades of mournfulness.

New Issues and Varieties.

(We shall be glad to receive any new issues or new varieties from our readers for description in this column. Letters should be addressed to THE EDITOR OF THE PHILATELIC JOURNAL OF GREAT BRITAIN, c/o MESSRS. P. L. PEMBERTON & Co., 84, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.)

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Australian Commonwealth. The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles the two following novelties.

Postage Dues.
Wmk. Crown and Single A, perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11$.
6d. pale green.
Wmk. Crown and N.S.W., perf. 11.
5/- pale green.

Bermuda. The *Monthly Journal*, on the authority of a French exchange, chronicles a "specimen" copy of the 4d. stamp, Arms type, with centre in blue and frame in violet-brown, adding that it may be some time before it is required for use.

As far back as October, 1906, we mentioned on the authority of a Continental exchange, that "specimen" copies of the 4d. Arms type had been seen, in orange-brown and blue.

As we believe the Island has still a goodly supply of the 4d. orange-brown C.A. 14; stamps (Queen's Head) we should not be surprised if the 4d. Arms type was not issued to the public for another twelve months. It is obviously almost futile chronicling new issues from "specimen" copies, and in future we will only formally chronicle them when they have actually been placed on sale.

The *Colonial Office Journal* says that the current $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d. and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps will all shortly be issued in Postal Union colours.

British Guiana. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*, on the authority of a French exchange, chronicles the 7c. in new colours. It is not said whether this stamp is on ordinary or chalky paper, probably the latter.

Adhesive. 7c. violet and blue.

British Honduras. *Mekeel's Weekly* chronicles the 2c. and 5c. stamps printed in Postal Union colours. We listed these stamps some months ago, from "specimen" copies.

Adhesives.
2c. red.
5c. blue.

Brunei. The *Colonial Office Journal* says: "It has been decided to adopt the Postal Union colours for the 1 cent, 3 cents and 8 cents. This will involve the following alterations:—

1 cent.	All green.
2 cents.	Border chocolate, centre black.
3	All red.
5	Border yellow, centre black.
8	All blue.

Of these, only the 1, 3 and 5 cents values are at present on order."

Canada. The *Metropolitan Philatelist* states that the proposed set of commemorative gumpaps will consist of 14 values, namely, $\frac{1}{2}$ c., 1c., 2c., 3c., 5c., 7c., 8c., 10c., 13c., 20c., 50c., \$1, \$2 and \$3 denominations.

Cayman Islands. The *Colonial Office Journal* says that $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., 4d., 1/-, 5/- and 10/- stamps of the "Postage & Revenue" design have been despatched. They are printed in accordance with the new colour scheme and (with the exception of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. value) on surfaced paper. The numbers of 1/- and 10/- stamps are 6,000 and 3,000 respectively.

Ewen's Weekly Stamp News say the colours and watermarks are as follows:

Adhesives.

Wmk. Crown CA., chalky paper.
1/- black on green.
10/- green and carmine on green.
Wmk. Crown and C.A. multiple, ordinary paper.
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. ultramarine.
Wmk. Crown and C.A. multiple, chalky paper.
3d. brown on yellow.
4d. black and carmine on yellow.
5/- grey-green and carmine on yellow

Ceylon. The *Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift* chronicles "specimen" copies of the new 5c. and 6c. stamps with value inserted at foot in numerals.

Dominica. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the 2/-, $2\frac{1}{6}$ and 5/- stamps on multiple C.A. chalky paper.

Adhesives. Multiple Crown and C.A., chalky.
2/- purple and black.
 $2\frac{1}{6}$ orange and green.
5/- brown and black.

Mauritius. The *Philatelic Adviser* chronicles the 50c. stamp on multiple, surfaced paper.

Adhesive. Multiple, chalky paper.
50c. green and dark green on yellow.

Montserrat. The *Colonial Office Journal* chronicles the 3d., 6d., 1/-, 2/- and $2\frac{1}{6}$ stamps on multiple chalky paper.

Adhesives.

Multiple wmk. chalky paper.
3d. orange and purple.
6d. lilac and olive-brown.
1/- green and mauve.
2/- " " dull orange.
 $2\frac{1}{6}$ " " and black.

Natal. The *Colonial Office Journal* states that the 2d., 5d. and 30/- stamps (in new colours) have now been supplied on ordinary multiple paper.

Adhesives. King's Head, multiple ordinary paper.
2d. red and olive-green.
5d. black and orange.
30/- purple and brown.

Gibbons Weekly chronicles the 30/- stamp on chalky paper and states that the colours are orange and lilac. Which description is, we wonder, correct.

New South Wales. — Our publishers have shown us the current 9d. Commonwealth stamp in a new shade.

Adhesive. New shade. Crown and A.
9d. yellow-brown.

Nyasaland Protectorate. We quote as follows from the *Colonial Office Journal*:

"BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE. — The name of this Protectorate having been changed to Nyasaland Protectorate, it has been necessary to make a corresponding alteration in the stamps of the Protectorate. They will in future be printed from the two new Universal key-plates and will be the first stamps to be so printed. The stamps will not be despatched until April, and their colours will follow the Universal colour scheme [see page 95]. There will be one new value, *i.e.*, ½d.; the other values ordered being 1d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d., 4s., 10s., £1 and £10. The new colour scheme will be followed throughout, and the 1s. stamps, of which 60,000 are being supplied, are on single watermark green paper. The last four values are of the large size, and have, in our opinion, a very fine appearance."

St. Helena. The *Colonial Office Journal* says that this Colony will shortly issue 2½d., 4d., 6d. and 10/- Postage and Revenue stamps, printed from the old Universal key plate. The 10/- stamps, of which 3,000 are being supplied, are on single watermark green paper, and all four stamps follow the new colour scheme.

St. Vincent. The *Colonial Office Journal* chronicles the 2d. value printed (copper plate issue) in yellow.

Adhesive. 1907 type.
2d. yellow.

South Australia. The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles the 5d. stamp on Crown and A paper.

Adhesive. Wmk. Crown and A., perf. 12 × 11½.
5d. dull purple.

Tasmania. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles the 1/- on Crown and A paper, perf 11.

Adhesive. Wmk. Crown and A. Perf. 11.
1/- rose and green.

Turk's and Caicos Islands. — The following paragraph is from the *Colonial Office Journal*:—

"Turks Islands have ordered 3d. stamps

for the first time. They will be of the existing design and printed in brown on yellow paper. This is the first occasion on which coloured paper has been used for copper plate stamps."

Ewen's Weekly Stamp News says the stamps were issued on March 20th.

Adhesives. Wmk. multiple C.A. Ordinary paper.
3d. brown on yellow paper.

Victoria. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the 2½d. stamp on Crown and A paper.

Adhesive. Crown and A. Perf. ?
2½d. blue.

Zanzibar. The *Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift* chronicles, from specimen stamps, a complete new set of stamps with value expressed in cents and rupees. The values our contemporary lists are the 3c., 6c., 12c., 15c., 25c., 50c., 1r., 2r., 3r., 4r., 5r., 10r., 20r., 30r., 40r., 50r., 100r., 200r. We cannot but think that there must be a mistake somewhere, surely a 200 rupees stamp is a little "high."

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Argentine. Two values of what evidently is to be an entirely new set from the ¼c. to 20p. have made their appearance.

The two stamps are similar in design bearing the portrait of San Martino, an Argentine general, in an oval, with the word "centavos" and numerals at the bottom.

Adhesive. 1908. Perf. 13, 13½. Wmk. "Large Sun."
2c. chocolate.
5c. dull carmine.

Austria. We learn from *Gibbons Weekly* that a new set of Postage Due stamps has been issued, consisting of nine values. The new stamps are surface printed on slightly chalk-surfaced paper and, judging from an illustration are remarkable ugly.

Postage Due.	Perf.
1h. rose carmine.	12½.
2h. "	"
4h. "	"
6h. "	"
10h. "	"
20h. "	"
30h. "	"
50h. "	"
100h. "	"

Belgium. The higher values are appearing with the re-drawn type of label at foot. The *Philatelic Adviser* chronicles the following:

Adhesives. New type of label.
20c. olive green.
35c. chocolate.
2f. violet.

The *Monthly Circular*, on the authority of a Continental exchange, chronicles the Postage Due stamp in a new shade.

Postage Due.
5c. yellow green.

Belgium. *F.P.O.* In the March number of this journal, we chronicled, on the authority of an exchange, four of the current Belgian

stamps overprinted "Chine" for use in China. The *Monthly Journal* has been informed by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., "that no such stamps have been, or are intended to be issued." Bravo.

Curacao. Two new values have to be added to the 1903-4 set. The 7½c. grey in the numeral design and the 22½c. bearing a portrait of Queen Wilhelmina.

Adhesives. Perf. 12½.
7½c. grey.
22½c. brown.

Dutch Indies. G.S.W. on the authority of *Champion's Bulletin* chronicles a new value, uniform with the medium values of the 1902 set.

Adhesive. Perf. 12½.
22½c. olive and brown.

France. The *Monthly Journal*, on the authority of *Le Timbre Post*, says imperforate sheets of some of the current stamps are being offered for sale. Their origin appears to be doubtful, but it is said to be certain that they were not issued by the Post Office.

Offices in Morocco. We learn from the *Monthly Journal* that the low values recently overprinted for use in these offices are of the type with "MAROC" at foot, not ordinary French stamps, as we were given to understand last month. The 1c. is surcharged in red and the other values in black. The same paper, quoting *L'Echo de la T.*, says one stamp in each sheet of the 3c. and 4c. is surcharged "CENTIMOS" for "CENTIMOS."

French Guinea. The *Monthly Journal* on the authority of *L'Echo de la T.* says, that the solitary 20c. Postage Due Stamp, Type 52 (1906), has now been joined by the remaining values of the series, 5c., 10c., 15c., 30c., 50c., 60c. and 1fr., in the same colours as the sets published for other parts of French West Africa.

Hayti. Several of our contemporaries chronicle three new surcharges, similar to those listed by us in January, but with black overprint.

Adhesives.
1c. in black on 5c. deep blue.
1c. " " 10c. orange brown.
2c. " " 20c. orange.

Italy. *Offices in Crete.* *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* chronicles the current Italian 5c. green stamp with the La Canea overprint *inverted*. It is stated that only about 200 copies were issued.

Japan. Although we last month referred to the two new Japanese high values, we omitted to formally chronicle them.

Adhesives.
5y. green.
10y. purple.

Mexico. *Mekeel's Weekly* chronicles three new postage due stamps, describing them as

follows:—"The size is the same as the current postage stamps, the design showing a small colourless oval, with a large '10' in the upper part, with 'Centavos' in very small capitals, in a curved line below. At the top, in the same small Gothic capitals, appears 'Timbre' in a straight line in the edge of the frame, and below 'Complementario' is arranged in a curve in the same small type, just above the oval. At the bottom 'Correos' and 'Mexico' appear in curved lines at the left and right, while the balance of the frame is filled with lathe work."

Gibbons Stamp Weekly also lists another value, namely, the 5c.

Postage Dues.
2c. blue. 5c. blue.
4c. blue. 10c. blue.

Norway. The *Philatelic Adviser* chronicles the 4sk. of 1872, both shades, surcharged for use as a provisional.

Surcharged on 1872-5 issue.
15 öre on 4 sk. pale mauve.
15 öre " mauve.

Paraguay. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles a peso stamp (pictorial design) in new colours.

Adhesive. Lithographed.
1 peso grey and black.

The same journal, on the authority of a German exchange says: "Each value (of the '1904' dated issue) was printed in six different colours and as soon as the supply of a value in one colour is used up, the stock in a new colour is drawn upon. Several values have now reached the third colour, not counting the official stamps in the same design, which are also being made use of as postage stamps by being overprinted 'Habilitado.'" Bravo Paraguay! But what's the matter with a baker's dozen.

Persia. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles seven new stamps in a new design, describing them as follows:—"The stamps are fine specimens of *taille douce* (line engraving) and are produced in sheets of 100, composed of 10 horizontal rows of 10 stamps each. The perforating is done with a single-line machine, and gauges from 11 to 11½. The design is apparently the same as the 50c. stamp of the 1882-84 issue.

Adhesives. No wmk. Perf. 11-11½.
13 chahis indigo blue.
26 " orange-brown.
1 kr. vermilion.
2 " deep grey green.
3 " light blue.
4 " yellow.
5 " deep grey brown.

Portugal. Stamps bearing the portrait of King Manuel II. are said to be already in circulation, but we have not yet seen them.

Surinam. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, on the authority of a Continental exchange, chronicles a new value, namely, the 22½c. Design, as chronicled under Dutch Indies.

Adhesive.
22c. olive and brown.

Turkey. To the list of new Turkish stamps given in our April number, have to be added the 10, 25, and 50 piastre stamps, also some of the values overprinted.

Adhesives.
10 pias. dull red.
25 .. deep myrtle green.
50 .. brown.

Same type overprinted with Turkish character.
10 par. green.
20 .. rose carmine.
1 pias. ultramarine.
2 .. black.

Same type overprinted for Printed Matter, similar to the 1901 type.
5 par. brown.
10 .. green.
20 .. rose carmine.
1 pias. ultramarine.
2 .. black.
5 .. purple slate.

New Colour Scheme for Colonial Stamps.

THE *Colonial Office Journal* for April contains the following short article, which will prove interesting to our readers:—

“ COLONIAL STAMPS.

“ In our last issue we stated that we hoped to be in a position to discuss definite schemes for rendering impossible the manipulation of the values of stamps.

“ One method would be for all the Colonies which employ the Universal key-plate system to purchase a new set of duty plates for use with a new Universal key-plate, which has been made and which shows only the head of His Majesty the King in an oval frame, somewhat similar to the Transvaal key-plate. The cost of this change, however, would have been very great. The following alternative plan which is on the point of being submitted to the various Colonial Governments would involve no expenditure except in very few cases. We may be able to announce the decisions arrived at in our next issue. The scheme, which will allow of the existing plates being retained, is the adoption of single singly-fugitive colours for all stamps of less value than 3d., stamps of the value of 3d. and upwards being each printed partly in doubly fugitive ink on the following coloured papers, *i.e.*, red, yellow, blue or green. It would occupy too much space to detail the varieties thus obtainable, but it would be essential for all Colonies to agree upon the same colour for the same, or approximately the same, values. The colours chosen will be seen as the issue of stamps of the different values is announced from time to time.

“ Of the four coloured papers mentioned above, red, yellow and blue have been fairly frequently used in the past, but it so happens that green paper has only been used for the 25 cents stamp of Mauritius.

“ We may mention that a fifth kind of paper of a buff colour has hitherto been used in the case of the five and eight cents stamps of Mauritius, and the 4d. stamp of Trinidad, but in all probability no more of this paper will be made.

“ The only Colonies whose stamps so far have been, or are being, printed in accordance with this new colour scheme are Grenada, Cayman Islands, St. Helena, and the Nyasaland Protectorate, the issues of each of them being of a description to a greater or less degree new. The details of these issues will be found below, and it will be noticed that green paper is used in the case of the 1s. and 2s. values.

“ Now, as green paper has been so little used, no fresh supply has been required since the introduction of the new multiple watermark, so that the paper given out for the 1s. and 2s. stamps of the above four Colonies, was of the old single watermark kind, except in the case of the 10s. stamp of the Nyasaland Protectorate, which is of a large size. It was the necessity for paper with the new watermark for this stamp which called the attention of the authorities to the fact that the other stamps were all on the old paper, which will not be used again for the printing of stamps.

“ Thus, the watermark of the paper will show the first ‘ Editions ’ of the various stamps. The number issued of each kind of stamp will be duly announced.”

Ewen's Weekly Stamp News, in referring to the above, says: “ Briefly, the present bi-coloured system of colouring is to be abandoned and in future values under 3d. will be uni-coloured, whilst those of 3d. and over will be printed on coloured papers—red, yellow, blue or green. There is a small remaining stock of the green paper still on hand with single Crown CA watermark, so that the first printings under the new scheme on this paper may become rare.

Correspondence.

39, Eastcheap, London, E.C.

The Editor *P. J. G. B.*

NEW BRUNSWICK CANCELLATIONS.

DEAR SIR,

We notice you give a list of the numbered cancellations found on New Brunswick stamps in the April *P. J. G. B.* We have in our stock, an entire No. 6, postmarked Edmunston, May 6th, 1865, also Grands Falls, May May 6th, 1865, addressed to Revere-du-Loup-en-Bas, May 8th, 1865. We have also an entire we believe to be No. 20, but the first figure is indistinct, this was posted to Carleton from W. O. Upper Wicklow. Also No. 35, but impossible to say what the postmark is.

Yours faithfully,

EMERSON & SON.

Notes on the Unsurcharged Stamps of St. Christopher and their Postmarks.

By F. F. L.

THE unsurcharged stamps of St. Christopher, like most early normal West Indians, are a very interesting lot of stamps, and medium specialists, tired of new issues unlimited, in search of fresh pastures, would not do ill to consider the claims of the Saints.

The island of St. Christopher or St. Kitts might be described as all length and no beam, as it boasts a length of 23 miles with only a width of 5 miles.

One of the Leeward group, the island, with a population of about 60,000 (of whom only a very few are Europeans), is principally known for its exports of sugar, rum, tobacco and molasses.

All the stamps of St. Christopher have been engraved and printed by Messrs. De la Rue and Co., from one die and are only known perforated 12½ and 14. There are no appreciable varieties of paper, and only two watermarks, viz., the well known Crown and C.C. and Crown and C.A. types.

Early in 1870, the first consignment of stamps was sent out to the island, consisting of two values, the 1d. and 6d. These stamps were printed from one die, in fact only one die was ever used for St. Christopher stamps, the different values being printed in at a second operation, consequently we frequently find the colour of the letters in the value tablet of a different shade from that used for the rest of the stamp.

I do not propose giving a chronological list of dates of these stamps as issued, so the only remarks of interest regarding these stamps will be found in reference to their cancellations.

St. Christopher possesses, or possessed, a postmark quite different from any other I have seen. It consists of a most elementary bar or numeral "1" enclosed in a circle, as illustrated below.



The thickness of this circle varies very considerably, but as it was struck from a rubber stamp, this no doubt is easily accounted for. The island, like all the other West Indian Islands, had a postmark of its very own, in use long before a special issue of stamps was found necessary. This cancellation is the well

known A12. Unlike Tobago, Antigua and most of the other islands, this type of postmark was seldom used for postmarking the early stamps, consequently any of the C.C. stamps are rare with the A12 obliteration. Besides the postmark already described, there are two others, usually to be found on the C.C. stamps, both being circular, in one, the name St. Kitts is curved and in the other is straight. As doubtless my readers know, English stamps of the then current issues were used at St. Christopher from April, 1858 to early in 1860, to prepay correspondence. The cancellation illustrated below was in use during that period, but I have never seen it used to deface the stamp itself, nor was it apparently used after the regular St. Christopher stamps came into use.



The two values comprising the first issue, namely the 1d. and 6d., are to be found in many shades, five of which, as given in the catalogue, are very noticeable. The stamps were perforated 12½.

The same two stamps, perforated 14, are not found in such a profusion of shades, the 1d., usually, being a deep or pale lilac-rose, and the 6d. in two or three slightly marked shades of green.

In October, 1879, two new values were sent out to the island, consisting of the 2½d. red-brown and the 4d. blue, both stamps being printed from the original die of the 1d. value. The *Philatelic Record* for December, 1879, in describing these stamps, is rather sceptical as to what use a 2½d. stamp could be possibly put!

In the early eighties the use of half a penny stamp was evidently permitted, as the half of the 1d. lilac-rose is known to have done postal duty. In the Tapling collection there is an entire franked with a 2½d. red-brown, a 1d. lilac-rose and the half of a 1d. lilac-rose, postmarked St. Kitts, Feb. 25/83, the half stamp nestles so comfortably between the two whole stamps that it looks almost as if it had been purposely placed there to make certain of its getting postmarked!

The *P.R.* for September, 1882, chronicles a pair of 1d. stamps and the half of a penny as having done duty as 2½d.

The same paper in its number dated April, 1883, says:—

"In consequence of a temporary dearth of three-halfpenny cards the authorities have issued the one penny card with half of a penny adhesive added to it."

From the foregoing statements it is fairly obvious that the use of this split stamp was officially admitted.

In the Tapling collection there is also, I notice, another curiosity, namely, a fine used pair of the 6d., C.C. 14, imperf. vertically.

The first of the C.A. stamps to appear was the $\frac{1}{4}$ d. green, in June, 1882, which was followed by the $\frac{2}{4}$ d. and 4d. values, issued a month later; the 1d. lilac-rose towards the end of 1883, and the 1d. rose six months later, together with the $\frac{2}{4}$ d. blue. The 4d. grey made its appearance late in 1884; the 1/- early in 1887; and the last value, the 6d., not being sent out until April, 1890.

In the British Museum collection of St. Christopher stamps, there is a notice to the effect that some of these stamps may be found on paper that has the appearance of laid. I cannot say I have noticed much of a laid appearance about these stamps, although, like many of the De la Rue's, there is sometimes a faint trace of ribbing.

For specialists in gum the latter stamps of the Island open up a small field of research, as most, if not all the values are to be found with two marked shades, brown and white.

Every collector of St. Christopher stamps should try and secure a complete pane of 20, the $\frac{1}{4}$ d., 1d., $\frac{2}{4}$ d., and 4d. values being fairly easy to thus procure, each pane of twenty contains two plate numbers, one above the fifth stamp in the top row, and one below the sixteenth in the bottom. As before mentioned, the usual cancellation on the C.A. values is the "A12" postmark.

In the *P.F.G.B.* for April I described that scarce St. Christopher provisional, namely the Antigua 1d. C.A. borrowed from Antigua during February, 1890, and readers sufficiently interested to refer, will find it illustrated there.

Although not wildly exciting, I am sure any collector tired of current unecessaries will find the uncharged stamps of St. Christopher and their cancellations an interesting little study. There are no high values, and, great advantage, no howling varieties.

Antigua "Pictorials" on Thick Paper.

It may have been observed that some stamps are printed on thicker paper than others. This is only supposed to apply to stamps printed by the steel or copper-plate process, as it has been found that the wetting necessary in printing by this process tries the thinner paper too much. The paper referred to is about 25 per cent. thicker than the ordinary paper, and it has been inadvertently used for printing the last two issues of the large Antigua stamps.—*Colonial Office Journal.*

Transvaal War Stamps.

MISS G. KILLICK, an old member of the I.P.U., and well known as a stamp dealer in Johannesburg, kindly sends us the following Government notice:—

GOVERNMENT NOTICE No. 328 OF 1908.

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

Discontinuance of the Use of Postage and Revenue Stamps and Stamped Postal Material of the late South African Republic Overprinted V.R.I. and E.R.I.

It is hereby notified for general information that, under and by virtue of the powers conferred by Law 18 of 1898, the Government have decided that, on the 31st December, 1908, the use of Postage and Revenue Stamps and Stamped Postal Material of the late South African Republic overprinted V.R.I. and E.R.I. shall be discontinued, and the said Stamps and Stamped Material withdrawn from circulation. From and after that date all Postage and Revenue Stamps and Stamped Postal Material of the late South African Republic overprinted V.R.I. and E.R.I. will be regarded as valueless for the purposes for which they were intended and under no circumstances will they be accepted by the Postmaster-General or other Government official unless for purposes of exchange for Stamps or Stamped Material of the current issue as hereinafter provided.

2. Holders of such Postage Stamps, Revenue Stamps or Stamped Material as are in this Notice dealt with may apply to the Postmaster-General, Johannesburg, for their holdings to be exchanged for similar stamps or Stamped Material of the current issue; provided that no such applications will be entertained unless lodged with the Postmaster-General before the 30th day of June, 1909.

3. Forms for making application may be obtained from any Post Office or Postal Agency throughout the Colony or direct from the Postmaster-General, General Post Office, Johannesburg. The overprinted Stamps or Stamped Material which it is desired to exchange must in every case accompany the application form, otherwise the application will not be dealt with.

4. On receipt of the application forms and enclosures the Postmaster-General will issue a provisional receipt to the applicant. The Postmaster-General will thereafter cause the application to be examined, and if he be satisfied that the Stamps and Stamped Material are genuine and were lawfully acquired by the applicant, he will cause stamps and material of current issue and equivalent face value to be issued to the applicant. For the purpose of satisfying himself that Stamps and Stamped Material

offered for exchange in terms hereof were lawfully acquired, the Postmaster-General may require applicants to furnish such evidence as, in the circumstances, may seem to him to be necessary.

5. Finally, it is notified for general information that the Government have reason to believe that a considerable quantity of counterfeit Stamps and Stamped Material purporting to be genuine issues of the late South African Republic, and to be genuinely overprinted V.R.I. and E.R.I., is in circulation. In the course of the investigation that in terms hereof will precede all exchanges of South African Republic overprinted Stamps or Stamped Material for Stamps or Stamped Material of current issue a special examination will be conducted with a view to the detection of overprinted Stamps or Material of illegal manufacture. In this connection the attention of all concerned is invited to section *ninety-four* of Law 18 of 1898 which admits of a sentence of *imprisonment with hard labour for a period not exceeding seven years* being passed upon any person found guilty of offences against the law in regard to the manufacture, use, and uttering of Stamps or Stamped Material.

JAMES R. LEISK,
Secretary to the Treasurer.

The Treasury,
Pretoria, 31st March, 1908.

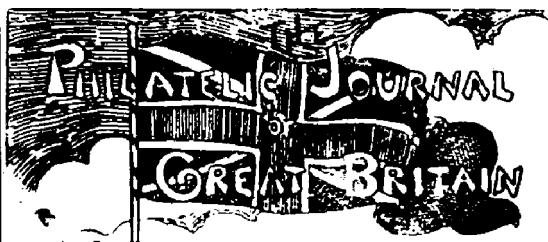
Manchester Exhibition.

Just as we are going to press, we learn that the Manchester Branch of the Junior Philatelic Society has decided to hold an Exhibition, in Manchester, early next year.

Mr. I. J. Bernstein has been elected Exhibition President, Mr. J. R. M. Albrecht Secretary and Treasurer, with an influential Committee to assist them, so we may confidently look forward to another successful stamp show.

The Exhibition will be opened on February 18th next, and will remain open for three days, a number of prominent dealers having already promised to take stalls.

POSTAGE STAMPS valued at upwards of \$100,000, forming a consignment in process of shipment from New York to Newfoundland, have been washed ashore at the island of Cuttyhunk from the wreck of the steamer *Sylvia*. The stamps are of the current Newfoundland issue and were being shipped by the American Bank Note Co. of New York to the Newfoundland government. They are in two and five cent denominations; one woman is said to have possession of all the five cent stamps, alone valued at many thousands of dollars.—*Mekeel's Weekly*.



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Publishers' Note.

WE would like to draw our readers' attention to the fact that a large number of our priced approval books have recently been re-made up, consequently it will pay any specialist or general collector to write and let us know which country or countries he is particularly interested in.

Amongst the books fully re-made, we would like to particularly mention those containing the stamps of Spain, German Empire, Great Britain (3 vols.), South Australia, Western Australia, Baden and Bavaria, Queensland, New Zealand (2 vols.) and Barbados and Bahamas; all these books contain fine selections of stamps, very moderately priced, and philatelists interested in any of these countries should inspect them before they are picked over.

Well-known Philatelists.

NO. 100.—MR. FRANCIS RANSOME.

THOSE of our readers who were visitors at the recent London Stamp Exhibition will remember the superb collection of Trinidad stamps exhibited by Mr. Ransome, in fact, so much interest was evinced over these stamps that we determined, if possible, to secure their owner as our well-known philatelist for an early number of this journal.

Mr. Ransome very kindly acquiesced to our request, so we have much pleasure in giving our readers the following brief particulars of his philatelic career.

Born at Hitchin in 1859, Mr. Ransome commenced to collect stamps at a very early date, since when he has never once looked back, with the result that he possesses very fine specialized collections of Trinidad and Gt. Britain, and a general collection of all stamps issued prior to 1885.

In choosing the year 1885 as the one to limit his stamps to, we think Mr. Ransome has made a very happy choice, as, with few exceptions, all stamps issued prior to that date can be considered as legitimate postal issues. Would that the same could be said of many of the 1905 gumpaps.

Two exceptions however are made to this rule, namely Trinidad and Great Britain, the stamps of both countries being collected right up to date. It is, perhaps, needless to tell our readers that Mr.

Ransome is exceptionally strong in the stamps of the former country, not only were they much admired when on view at Caxton Hall during March last, but they also won a silver medal at the London Exhibition of 1897 and a bronze medal at Manchester in 1899.

Trinidad, however, is not the only country he has exhibited, as we find on reference that he won honours for his Cuba, Porto Rico and Fernando Poo exhibits at the London Exhibition of 1897.

A member of the Royal Philatelic Society, also of the Herts Philatelic Society, Mr. Ransome's views concerning the future of philately will be found very interesting. He says:—

"I consider that Philately is now on as firm a basis as Numismatics. It is, obviously becoming impossible for collectors to embrace all countries and all periods. Personally I

prefer to confine my attention to one or two countries in particular and to one period for the remainder. The earlier issues of most countries appear to me of much greater interest than recent productions, so many of which are not required for legitimate use. I regret that so little attention is now paid to so-called postal stationery. Postcards, entire envelopes and newspaper wrappers appear to me to be of far more importance than surcharged officials, railway stamps and British stamps posted abroad. I consider that the ordinary postal issues of Great Britain are the safest investments."

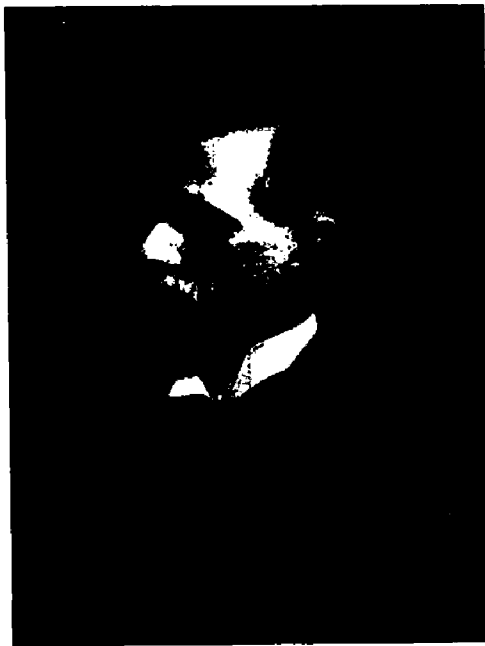
Mr. Ransome writes in such an interesting manner about some of his stamp reminiscences, that we feel we cannot again do better than quote his words. Many collectors, on reading the following, will doubtless wish that they too had had the foresight to buy "Anchors" at face value.

"I purchased the 10/- and 20/-, Anchor watermark, at the local post office when they were first issued, and should be well satisfied if all other investments had increased in value in the same proportion. Amongst the specimens in my collection, which I particularly value, is the 12d. black Canada, on wove paper, used. I am aware that this stamp is regarded with disfavour by some authorities, but, personally, I consider it of more value, on account of its greater rarity, than the laid paper. Other undoubted used specimens exist in America, and I think there can be little doubt that a limited

number was issued to the public for postal use.

"I have a fair collection of old German entire envelopes and consider it a pity that they now receive so little attention in this country. In my early days of collecting I well remember cutting out the stamps from some of the rarest Prussian envelopes in order to make them fit into the spaces provided in the albums of those days. I consider that the compilers of such albums are morally responsible for much of the unfortunate mutilation of early envelopes."

We feel sure that all our readers will agree with us that Mr. Ransome holds exceptionally strong and reliable philatelic tenets; did all collectors conform to so sound a philatelic regime, we should hear little or nothing of that "tired feeling" that overtakes so many collectors of the present day.



Mostly About Early Watermarks.

By "RIP."

ALTHOUGH doubtless much has been written on the subject of watermarks by more or less competent scribblers, I cannot remember having read such an article. In the possibility that there may be others, like myself, I will venture to jot down a little watermarkology as it occurs to me.

I do not propose to give a learned dissertation on the subject, because, frankly, I am not capable, but I will do my best to write a short and, I hope, interesting paper.

Watermarks have done more for the popularity of stamp collecting than all the varieties of paper, perforation and shade put together; while the collector, who has not yet had the pleasure of discovering a Gold Coast, rd. blue, C.A., or the hundred and one other scarce watermark varieties of otherwise common stamps, has not yet experienced the real charm of stamp collecting.

The old adage that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing is amply verified when watermarks are in question, as one frequently sees collectors puzzling over stamps that are known with only one variety of wmk., to wit, certain shades of the 6d. blue, Victoria 1867-71, many West Australians and Queenslanders, and indeed stamps of nearly every Colony.

With the exception of recent Australian Crown and A and Crown and V watermarks, which are found upside down and sideways almost as frequently as they are found in a normal position, the watermarks of the early Australian stamps form a most interesting group, especially where errors are concerned.

Victoria leads with over a couple of dozen errors of watermark, by which I mean that watermarked paper, intended for a certain value, has been utilized for printing an entirely different denomination on. Consequently we find 2d. stamps watermarked "Threepence," 6d. stamps watermarked "Threepence," "Fourpence" and "Sixpence," and a lot of other anomalies. New South Wales, a prolific sinner, follows close on Victoria's heels, the varieties of watermark being in nearly every case due to similar causes. This colony, however, was partial to double-lined figures, so the mistakes, as for instance a 6d. stamp wmk. "12" are not quite so bad as a Victorian 4d. rose, wmkd. "Five Shillings." New South Wales possess a type, or rather two types of watermark that puzzle many collectors, but there is really very little difficulty in distinguishing between them when the two great questions of paper and shade are considered in conjunction.

The Crown of the first type of Crown and N.S.W. is really very different from type 2. Perhaps the most distinct feature is the cross on top, when this is very large there is no

doubt that the watermark is type 1. Nearly all the stamps found with No. 2 wmk. are printed on stouter and softer paper, consequently the watermark is less distinct, while the shades of the later printings are generally brighter and deeper.

Tasmania illustrates in her stamps the curious procedure of borrowing watermarked paper from another stamp producing Colony. In 1870, on the arrival of the new De la Rue dies from London, the Tasmanian authorities found themselves without watermarked paper of suitable size to print the new stamps on; this was easily remedied by borrowing—or rather purchasing—from the N.S.W. Government printers at Sydney, a supply sufficient for a short time, consequently we find the 1d., 2d., 4d. and 10d. stamps of 1870 printed on paper used for the 1862 stamps of New South Wales.

The single-lined "10" watermark of N.S.W. was resurrected in 1892, and used for the 3d. value of that Colony. Why, I know not, as there could have been no shortage of Crown and N.S.W. paper. The price of this stamp jumped up in the last catalogue, and will probably again rise next year.

Although scarce varieties of watermark are well known to most dealers, it not infrequently happens that through inadvertence scarce varieties slip into their books and get priced as common types. For instance, it is not many years ago since one of our leading authorities on Australian stamps fished out a 1d. Tasmania, perf. 12, WMKD. DOUBLE-LINED TWO, priced at a few pence, from the approval book of a London dealer. I won't mention names, but the firm is well known as being (amongst other things, of course) the publishers of "The Connoisseur" Albums.

As before mentioned, perforations, paper and shades have all to be considered when watermarks are in question, otherwise we should have collectors diligently benzining 12½ St. Helena's to find out if they were C.C.'s or C.A.'s; in fact I must confess, in my early days, to searching for C.A.'s on every stamp, perf. 12½ or otherwise, that I could find.

When it is remembered that watermarked paper is hand fed to the printing machines, it is really wonderful how scarce inverted or sideways watermarks are. The 1d. black of Great Britain, for instance, to be freely purchased at about 40/- the 100, is worth quite half that amount for a single copy with inverted Crown.

Nearly all the stamps of Great Britain are known with inverted watermarks, in fact some are quite common, to wit the current 1d., which was purposely thus printed for selling in little booklets.

As far as I can remember there is only one other instance of British stamps having been purposely issued with inverted watermarks, namely, the 1883 issue of Grenada, when, as alternate rows of the dies of the stamps were reversed it naturally followed that each

alternate row of stamps is found with inverted wmk.

The early Perkins Bacon small type of Star wmk. is frequently found sideways, notably in some of the stamps of Grenada and Antigua, of course it would be impossible to distinguish an inverted Star from one in the normal position, but printed sideways they are worth looking for.

In a few instances some stamps were purposely sent out with the wmk. sideways, notably Gambia, and Sierra Leone, both, of course, De la Rue printings, as a matter of fact many of this firm's stamps, especially those on C.C. 12½ paper are to be found with the wmk. sideways. This is not generally known and indeed some are fairly scarce, I have not seen very many, principally some Lagos, Trinidad, and Barbados stamps.

The Crown and C.A. watermark, the best-known type of all, is very frequently found inverted, in fact I have found stamps of nearly every Colony printed thus, notably Jamaica, where for some reason or other inverts are fairly common. The C.A. type of wmk., with, I think, the exception of some of the stamps of Gambia, Falkland Islands and Labuan is not, owing to the size of the De la Rue sheets, found sideways (except in the case of a few postal fiscals).

I do not include in these notes the recent pictorial labels, most of which, owing to their size, are printed on Crown and C.C. paper, wmk. sideways, or the earlier larger sized stamps, such as the long South Australian labels of 1887, where usually two watermarks appear.

Very frequently, stamps are wrongly described as being on watermarked paper, when they show a portion of one or more letters forming part of the paper maker's name, or a dividing line. Literally speaking of course, they are on watermarked paper, but from a philatelic point of view, they are not. As a well-known instance of this, I may mention the 1868 stamps of Canada; while an issue that sometimes causes confusion, is the 1856 issue of India, on unwatermarked paper, as these stamps sometimes show traces of a dividing line, which however, although a watermark, is not the elephant's head of 1865.

Current Chatter.

BY ANGUS MCTAVISH.

As I sit penning these notes, the dreary howl of the wind, the persistent drip, drip, of the descending rain [usually does descend, Ed.] and the swirling blasts of the driving snow blizzard makes me cudgel my brains to think of a philatelic expression suitable for use

when the English climate is under discussion* I can't think of anything bad enough, so will ask my readers a conundrum, one Mac made up all by his little self. Why is an English spring like a sparsely filled album? Because it is very blanky.

Another new stamp paper. I hear that the J.P.S. intends to publish a monthly to be called *The Stamp Lover*, in fact the first number is billed to appear this month. Manager Johnson tells me he anticipates another huge success. With F. J. Melville, as Editor, H. F. Johnson as Manager, and the 700 odd members of the J.P.S. as contributors, *The Stamp Lover* will be a paper to subscribe to. McTavish wishes the new paper all that its promoters wish for it. I wonder who chose the title *Stamp Lover*, a bachelor I guess.

Who's for the Manchester Exhibition? I hear that the Junior Manchester Society is considering holding a big Exhibition, to beat the Caxton Hall show. If they can do that, they will do wonderfully well.

A London dealer, of my acquaintance, had a real treat a few days ago. I happened, by a strange coincidence, to be in one of the lions dens, when an old lady appeared with an ancient Oppen album. She wanted an offer. The lion looked through the first few pages and I, hearing his mouth audibly watering, looked over his shoulder and saw visions of rare Europeans and German States galore. The dealer chap offered £60, which the dear old lady refused. She didn't want to sell, you know, only to find out what it was worth, as she was going to give it to her grandson, if it was really valuable. Dear old soul.

Writing of bachelors, reminds me that Miss Cupid has been exceptionally busy lately amongst the stamp men, no fewer than three happy events having taken place within the last three weeks. McTavish sends felicitations—many of 'em.

I heard it rumoured that there is likely to be a boom in new issues in the near future.

By the bye, before I forget it, it was McTavish who discovered that Cupid was a girl, not a boy as is so popularly supposed and pictured. For this research I believe I am to be decorated with a S.C.F. medal.

Stamp mounts are not appreciated in every country village, as McTouall, up for the Cup Tie, told me, and as he buys a lot of stamps from London dealers he ought to know. Buy mounts indeed! Why the stamps "maistly coom with 'em on."

Gibbons list of shades for the 1899 set of Philippines on U.S.A. is very poor, the 10c. alone existing in three marked differences, in

* We must apologise to our readers for the first paragraph or two, Angus has evidently been looking on the ginger-beer bottle or else he has sent us some "copy" intended for Aunt Nellie's corner in *The Little Chick's Monthly*.—Ed.

fact the 10c. yellow-brown is quite as prominent a variety as the 2c. scarlet. Quite a number of the U.S.A. Philippines and Cubas are getting scarce, while as to Guams they are already rare, who, by the bye, has seen a used Guam stamp?

From the April number of the *Philatelic Adviser* I learn that Chief Jester Tonald has had to go on sick leave.

Poor Tonald of Tigerland has really been in pain, With physis, tonsillitis and many sheets of Spain. Feeling better now, he says, the finest cure in all the land. Is a diet of the famous mounts of Holborn and the Strand.

With humble apologies to my printers, Tancred, Silas Wegg, my readers, and myself.

The latest move in the Cayman Island joke is that the remainders, consisting of the following stamps, have been sold *en bloc*.

(1) Queen's Head. Single watermark.		Duty.		Sheets of 120.		Odd Stamps.	
1d.	..	279	..	118			
(2) King's Head. Multiple Watermark.		Duty.		Sheets of 120.		Odd Stamps.	
½d.	..	81	..	—			
1d.	..	16	..	88			
2½d.	..	87	..	99			
6d.	..	40	..	81			
1s.	..	45	..	73			

In *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* I see that the face value of this little lot amounted to £674 odd, also that a purchaser was immediately forthcoming.

I suppose in a few years time the fortunate buyer will have realized a profit big enough to enable him to purchase a yacht, a motor car, and become a subscriber to a new issue service.

Are you in want of a really cheap stamp? If so, try New Zealand, Gibbons No. 296a, which at 4d., unused, is really worth half-catalogue; in fact, I wouldn't mind buying a cwt. or two, at full Gibbons. I do not know whether the 4d. is the used price or a misprint for 4/-, but it is remarkable how hard this stamp is to find, even in a pair.

The stamp sale held at Plumridge's on May 14th and 15th was an eye-opener to those dealers and collectors who cry stinking fish immediately the April showers shower and the sweet May flowers flower (isn't mine a poetic temperament?). Prices were very stiff and most of the lots were keenly contested, in one or two cases, to my certain knowledge, several mixed used European lots realised considerably over half catalogue.

Not including the philatelic deadheads who always turn up at auction sales (time being no object they usually bag a good seat) and the few strays to whom a cup of tea is the *raison d'être* for their appearance, there was an attendance of over fifty active bidders and buyers, almost a record I should think for so late a sale.



May, 1908, Report.

List of Officers and Committee, 1908-9.

Hon. President: HIS HONOUR JUDGE PHILBRICK, K.C.

Hon. Vice-Presidents:
W. DORNING BECKTON. H. L. HAYMAN. H. R. OLDFIELD.
VERNON ROBERTS.

President: J. C. SIDEBOTHAM.

Vice-Presidents:
W. SCHWABACHER. L. W. FULCHER. W. SCHWARTZ.

Committee:
P. P. BROWN. A. B. KAY. W. E. LINCOLN.
W. J. BOVILL. W. S. KING. DR. MARK, M.A.
W. HADLOW. MAJOR LAFFAN, R.E. F. H. OLIVER.
J. E. JOSELIN. F. F. LAMB. E. W. WETHERELL.

Hon. Sec. & Treasurer: T. H. HINTON.

Hon. Exchange Superintendent: DR. E. F. MARK, M.A.

Hon. Counterfeit Detector: W. HADLOW.

Hon. Librarian: W. S. KING.

Hon. Solicitors: MESSRS. OLDFIELD, BARTRAM & OLDFIELD.

MEMBERSHIP.

Candidates for admission must be over 18 years of age, and supply at least two satisfactory references. They will then be proposed for election, and if no objection be lodged within fourteen days, be duly elected. The Entrance Fee, 2/6, and Subscription, 5/-, should accompany the application, and will be refunded in the event of the non-election of the applicant. (The Committee are empowered to elect Life Members, not exceeding ten in number, at a fee of Two Guineas.)

NEW MEMBERS.

Messrs. A. C. Emerson, B. C. Emerson, London; John Cook, Glasgow.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting took place at Essex Hall, on Thursday evening, May 14th, when there were present W. Schwartze (in the chair, followed by Mr. L. W. Fulcher, J. E. Joselin, W. S. King, P. L. Pemberton, J. C. Sidebotham, P. P. Brown, E. W. Wetherell, A. B. Kay, F. F. Lamb, and the Hon Sec.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed the Hon. Sec. presented the Annual Report and Balance sheet for the year 1907, which showed 103 members on the roll at January 1st, 1908, since which date six have joined, making 109, including five life and one honorary member. The Hon. Sec. then commented on the work of the past season, already reported month by

month. On the motion of Mr. Joselin, seconded by Mr. Fulcher, the balance sheet was received and adopted subject to audit and will be published in next report. In the unavoidable absence of Dr. Marx, the Hon. Sec. read the report of the Exchange packet section and moved that a cordial vote of thanks be accorded to Dr. Marx for his services which was seconded by Mr. Sidebotham and carried unanimously. Mr. King then reported on the Library and with a view of interesting members in it. In thanking Mr. King for his report it was resolved that a typewritten list should be prepared and laid on the table at meetings. The Hon. Sec. then read a letter from Mr. H. R. Oldfield resigning the position of President, which was received with regret, and it was moved by the Hon. Sec., seconded by Mr. Sidebotham and carried unanimously that the best thanks of the Union be tendered to Mr. Oldfield for his valuable services as President during the past ten years, and that he be elected a honorary Vice-President, and be requested to continue his services as honorary Solicitor to the Society. On the proposal of Mr. King, seconded by Mr. Wetherell, Mr. J. C. Sidebotham was unanimously elected President for the ensuing year. The Officers and Committee as per list at the head of this report were then elected, and it was decided that the new Committee meet in September next to make arrangements for next season, it being decided to continue the monthly meetings at Essex Hall from November to May, opening the season with a Smoking Concert in October. On the conclusion of the formal business, displays of English stamps used abroad were given by Mr. J. C. Sidebotham and the Hon. Sec., and the evening terminated with votes of thanks to the Chairman and Exhibitors.

Subscriptions and any donations to the Forgery Collection gladly received and promptly acknowledged by—

THOS. H. HINTON,

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Int. Phil. Union
26, Cromford Road, East Putney, S.W.

May 15th, 1908.

The Scottish Philatelic Society JUNIOR BRANCH.

A SPECIAL meeting of this Society took place on Saturday, 11th April, at 6.30 p.m., and took the form of a stamp auction.

There was a good attendance of members and others, and Mr. Berrie, the President, in a few introductory remarks, explained that the auction was more or less of an experiment, and that it remained with those present to make it a success, by bidding freely. He also took the opportunity of asking the meeting

to award a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Falconer, Auctioneer, for the kind assistance he had so willingly given, and to Mr. Burt and his assistant for officiating.

The sale then commenced. There were about 400 lots in the catalogue, and an interesting evening was spent until 9.30, when the sale terminated.

The catalogue included many first-rate stamps, and was conspicuous for the great variety of the lots, there being something to suit every purse and taste. The sales were good, and the Society is to be congratulated on the result of its first venture and the enterprise shown. The arrangements were in the capable hands of Mr. Douglas Small, the Assistant Secretary, and Mr. R. M. Stewart, and everything went without a hitch.

FRANK CHALMERS, Hon. Sec., 24, Bruntsfield Gardens, Edinburgh.

Death of M. Moens.

WITH great regret we have to announce the death of M. Moens, who died, after a short illness, at Brussels, on April 29th last, in his 75th year. Most of our readers do not need to be told that M. Moens was the oldest and best known stamp dealer on the continent, combining with his keen business instincts a knowledge of stamps which few could equal. His retirement from business only took place a few years ago; he has not lived long to enjoy that rest which his long and busy commercial life had entitled him to.

M. J. B. Moens was born at Tournai, Belgium, on the 27th May, 1833. He was one of the very first stamp collectors, and started dealing in 1852. His first publication was the "Manuel du collectionneur de timbres-poste," which, however, had been preceded by a similar work of Potiquet. About the same date he published an album. In the following year he started the *Timbre-poste*, a monthly periodical which was continued without interruption until his retirement.

Through the medium of the *Timbre-poste* M. Moens gave to the philatelic world the results of his researches which were written with the deepest insight and no little erudition. Perhaps the most important article from his pen was the monograph on the stamps of Heligoland which will always hold its place as the standard work on this subject.

The fact that has contributed in the greatest degree to the important position which M. Moens has always held in the philatelic world is that, from the first, he imported new issues from all parts of the world. In this branch of the business he was years ahead of any other dealer and, but for him, many stamps of the period from 1850 to 1860 would now be practically non-existent unused.



MAY 20, 1908.

Philately at Home.

The *London Philatelist* for April contains the excellent paper entitled "Notes on some of the Issues of Barbados," read before the Royal Philatelic Society on March 5th.

Mr. Tilleard's article is most interesting and instructive and we make fairly copious extracts.

The roughly perforated stamps on unwatermarked paper having for the most part enjoyed a life of nine years, show, as might be expected, a wide range of shades in all the values except the 1s. In some cases the classification is very difficult, and I think the list given by Messrs. Bacon and Napier might in a few instances be slightly extended or varied. Thus to the ½d. stamps, which are described as dark blue-green (slight shades), yellow-green (numerous shades), and grass-green, I would add light blue-green, as well as dark green and light green, in tones quite distinct from the true yellow-green stamps, which themselves run through a variety of shades. To the 4d. values I would add rose, and I find a bright rose-red, as well as the dull rose-red given in the handbook. The 6d. stamps I would myself classify as rose, rose-red, vermilion, bright orange-vermilion, orange-vermilion, and orange.

The 1s. value of 1863 has an extremely interesting history, on which collectors were first enlightened by Messrs. Bacon and Napier. This stamp was previously issued, imperforate, in a brownish black colour, but, as explained in the handbook, the contractors sent out the first supply (50,000 in number) of the perforated issue printed in blue, in the shade used for the 1d. stamps. This supply was not used, although there was at first a suggestion that they should be employed and that the 1d. value should be changed, and the authors of the handbook, in referring to them, say "it is an interesting problem what became of them; they must, we think, have either been destroyed in the Colony or are still in existence there."

Thanks again to Mr. Gregory, I think it is fairly clear that, with the exception of a few copies, stated by the Colonial Secretary in his letter to Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. of 25 September, 1863, to have since been "disposed of for a Postage Label Album," they were all destroyed.

So far as Mr. Gregory could ascertain, only one copy of the 1s. blue remained in Barbados, in the collection of Mr. Daniels. Thinking that some might remain at the Post Office, he made inquiries from the Postmaster, Mr. Trimmingham, who succeeded Mr. Tinning, and received a reply in the following terms:—

"Dear Sir,
 "General Post Office, Barbados,
 "20 July, 1898.
 "In reply to your letter of yesterday's date, I beg leave to inform you that there is no record in this office of the one shilling stamps that were sent out by

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. in 1863, improperly printed in blue, as none of them were ever issued to this office. I have, however, reason to believe that they were all destroyed by order of the Governor at the time.

"I am, dear Sir,
 "Your obedient servant,
 "(Signed) WM. TRIMMINGHAM,
 "Fred Gregory, Esq., "Colonial Postmaster.
 "Hon. Secretary, Philatelic Society,
 "Bridgetown."

In regard to the stamps printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. from the plates taken over from Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., it is only necessary to call attention to the 4d. value on the Crown CC paper with compound perforation 14 by 12½. Very few copies are known, and no information is forthcoming in regard to the stamp; but, so far as I am aware, it has never been seen used, and I should imagine it was never sent out to the Colony.

The surface-printed issue of 1882-6 does not present any matter of special interest except in the 1s. stamp, which I have seen with the value omitted, as in the case of the 10c. (carmine) of Gibraltar, of 1889. Unlike that stamp, which I believe to have been sent to the Colony, the Barbados 1s. without value never, I imagine, went further than Downing Street, even if it ever actually reached the office of the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

The overprinting of the ½d. value on the 4d. stamp in 1892 was, as in the case of the 1d. on 5s., entrusted to Mr. Fraser, and executed in the West Indian Press.

From the information given by him, it appears that the colour of the overprint was ordered by the Colonial Postmaster to be "red." A trial sheet (pane) in this colour was struck off and was sent to the Postmaster, who considered that the colour was not sufficiently conspicuous, and accordingly returned the pane to Mr. Fraser with instructions to print off in "black" instead of "red." The pane returned was placed with the others, and so went through the press again, and as Mr. Fraser had to account for every one at its full face value of £1, he was careful to return them all.

The pane overprinted in the two colours was sold in the ordinary way with others, and it is quite certain, from Mr. Fraser's account, that there was but one.

The books of the West Indian Press show that some four or five weeks after the first printing a second small lot of 240 panes, or 14,400 stamps, were overprinted in black, and these can be distinguished by the heavier printing.

We wish we had space to reprint still more of Mr. Tilleard's paper, as it is seldom so instructive and interesting a collection of "notes" appears in the philatelic press.

Barbados is a most interesting country to specialise in and one where even yet discoveries can be made.

The rest of the *L. P.* is filled with the usual monthly features.

The *Philatelic Record* for April contains a further instalment of Mr. G. B. Duerst's article on the local stamps of Morocco, also the first half of an interesting paper entitled "The Earliest Catalogues of Postage Stamps," contributed by Mr. B. T. K. Smith.

Mr. O. K. Trechmann, a recent *P.J.G.B.* "well knower," is the notable philatelist, while a short extract from the *Colonial Office Journal*, a new issue list and an admirable budget of "notes" complete the current number of our northern contemporary.

The *Monthly Journal* for April contains a capital Editorial, in which Major Evans makes a spirited attack on the "Great Unnecessary." We cull a few brief, but highly appreciated, extracts.

We know of numerous little spots on the surface of the globe which certainly would never have gone to the expense of getting special stamps printed if it were not for the fact that the expense was likely to be more than covered by sales to stamp collectors. One rather peculiar case is only too well known, that of certain British dependencies in the West Indies, which possess a uniform series of stamps for the whole group and, in addition, five separate sets for as many of its component parts, of stamps which are absolutely unnecessary except for drawing revenue from collectors. It seems extraordinary that anybody should be foolish enough to collect stamps issued in this bare-faced manner, but as people do collect them we cannot blame the colonies concerned for issuing them; and as people are so improvident as to purchase rubbish of this unnecessary but comparatively harmless nature, they can hardly be surprised if enterprising persons provide them with other little curiosities, which are far more profitable to their promoters.

The philatelist must not forget that he really has the matter in his own hands; if he refuses to buy these things, their manufacture will cease. It is ridiculous for him to say the dealers sell them, the compilers of catalogues add them to their lists, we must buy them. You can buy or abstain from buying whatever you choose. The dealer keeps in stock what his customers will buy, and the great majority of the dealers would gladly be relieved of the necessity for stocking rubbish of this kind.

Referring to the proposed commemorative issue for Canada, the Major says:—

In nobler times medals were struck to commemorate great events; in these sordid days a set of stamps is thought more suitable, because the expenses of manufacture can be covered by the sales, and the commemoration done "on the cheap," at the cost of the philanthropic philatelist.

Mr. C. J. Phillips contributes a few notes on the Provisional issues of Montenegro of 1905 and 1906—being really a continuation of his Paper on Montenegrin stamps published a year ago.

Mr. J. Bornefeld at last concludes his

admirable paper on "The Electrotyped Postage Stamps of Queensland, 1879-1906." The last instalment dealing with the stamps issued since 1889. This series of articles has been most interesting and instructive, and we tender to Mr. Bornefeld our appreciation of his labours.

Mr. J. B. Leavy contributes a lengthy instalment of his paper on "The Stamps of Salvador." Although the first issues of this country are of great interest to philatelists, the later stream of decorative gumpaps has been most nauseous, and we think the space devoted to their description has been valuable space wasted.

The usual excellent list of New Issues and some "Notes" complete an excellent number of our confrere.

In the "Notes" we find it announced that the *Monthly Journal* will not be published after June next, which statement will we are sure be read with general regret by all philatelists. The *M.J.* is the best of all English philatelic journals, and, although it will be merged into *Gibbons Weekly*, and not totally lost, we feel sure many of our readers, like ourselves, are too conservative not to sincerely regret Mr. Phillips' decision.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly arrives regularly on time every week, containing a great amount of really interesting matter.

The number dated April 25th is perhaps one of the best numbers now before us.

Mr. Barnsdall, always pegging along with his admirable "Countries of the World," has reached the French Consular Offices and he gives us an interesting instalment, dealing with the China Post Offices.

Mr. C. J. Phillips contributes some chatty little notes relating to his recent holiday in Spain, evidently he had a very enjoyable time.

Regarding the status of philately in Spain he says:—

Spain, as far as I gathered, is fairly strong in small collectors, but there are very few important collections.

A capital little article on Liberia, contributed by "W. W.," wherein the writer relates some interesting little postal yarns and anecdotes apropos the "Black Republic." The following is a brief extract:—

The first postal arrangements of the Interior came into the hands of David Moore, a one-time Mississippi slave, then the Treasurer of the Republic.

The initial issue of labels, to signify prepayment of postage, did not make its appearance until about 1859 or 1860. They were of very crude design printed from litho stones. The design itself was rather unique, for

it is an improved (save the mark!) drawing of Britannia, to fall in with the requirements of republicanism, a Liberty-cap having been perched upon her head. By comparison with the old Britannia stamps of Trinidad, Mauritius, etc., it will be noticed that the spear, full-rigged schooner, shield, etc., are all similar to those shown upon the first Liberians. Three values only were issued. A 6 cents for a local rate, 12 cents for towns at a distance and the neighbouring British colony, Sierra Leone. The 24 cents was for letters to the States, but in a majority of cases the United States postal authorities surcharged them for extra postage. The weight for a communication was limited to a quarter of an ounce for a single rate.

Mr. J. W. H. Heslop contributes a humorously written little article entitled "Bad Copies."

We make a short extract and hope none of our readers will need to take Mr. Heslop's remarks to heart.

Every one who collects stamps knows what a heap of bad copies there are about. The other day I saw a South African stamp on a club sheet which looked as if it had been through the Boer war—its postmark was contemporaneous with that event. It had been doubled up, and had got slit along the crease, a corner had got torn off, and then—well, it might have been placed in a shell and fired from the Boer lines. There does not seem to be a Cripples' Home for stamps anywhere, otherwise it might have been an acceptable specimen in such an institution; its destiny was a club sheet, where it was valued at 6d.

Some collectors there are to whom three-fourths of a stamp is better than no stamp at all. I have seen the album of a man who collects on this principle; he says he has got the £1 British King, and he turns up the page proudly. But only about half the stamp is there—the other half may be doing duty in some other collection. But it satisfies him—it represents the stamp it is intended for, and it fills up a gap. And so on, all through his collection. Where he has got a perfect copy it is by chance, and he thinks no more of the perfect than the imperfect. He is a good customer, for he takes little pleasing. "Condition cranks!" he exclaims, in response to an apposite remark of mine. "What are they?" He really thought the expression had something to do with bicycles. I envy this man's mood; there must be something intensely restful in being freed from care as to condition, and in having no motive in rejecting the least shred or fragment of a stamp.

Even now we have not exhausted our April 25th copy of *G.S.W.*, for it still contains a capital "South American Letter" written by Mr. A. H. Davis, and the usual exhaustive New Issue list. Bravo, "Weekly." The house of Gibbons still leads!

The *Philatelic Adviser* for April contains a good deal of humorous writing. From the editorial note we learn that the Editor is down with acute tonsillitis. Needless to say we are very sorry. Fortunately, however, the *P.A.* has not suffered. The following plan, for forming a small "group" collection is interesting:—

A very interesting little collection may be made up consisting of all the stamps printed by Messrs. De la

Rue in two operations. In looking over some of my Sierra Leone, Gold Coast and Dominica stamps, the variation was extremely noticeable, and even among later stamps, such as the 1c. green of British Guiana, the difference in the shades between the body of the stamps and the value label was very clear. Of course, in the case of the ordinary key plates, "Postage Postage" and "Postage Revenue," in such general use (unfortunately) the colour of the tablet inscription is usually of a totally different colour to the stamp itself, but in the cases under discussion the value is supposed to be in the same colour—which is a very different matter.

I have succeeded in getting together a representative little lot of these varieties of De la Rue prints, and hope to give a note about them in a future number; very few of them are listed as separate varieties, and a more or less virgin field is open to the ordinary collector. They are of real interest, as these are points connected with the history of the stamps themselves, and not of such minor importance as a dot or a dash inserted or omitted in some overprint, set up by an "8-anna-a-day coolie" in Asia or Africa. No doubt these have an interest in showing the number of times a particular overprint was set up, but, in my humble opinion, matters of this sort cannot compare with those which are inherent to the stamps themselves.

The *West End Philatelist* for April contains a good deal of interesting reading. We cull the following short paragraph:—

Lt.-Col. F. E. Wiggins has shown me an interesting cover on which the postage stamp is cancelled in a curious manner. The envelope, addressed to a well-known firm of bankers in London, is franked by a 1d. Northern Nigeria Queen's head stamp, which is cancelled, in manuscript, in red ink, "Post Office—Jebba—10/5/01." Apparently when this letter was posted the usual post office obliterating stamp was lost or mislaid, and thus the postal clerks had to laboriously cancel the stamps in the manner indicated above.

We have quite a number of Nigeria's similarly cancelled, but not on entires. It would be very interesting to make a collection of "provisional" postmarks, including those old Perkins Bacon, and other stamps (not used for fiscal purposes) that have been pen cancelled instead of postmarked.

The *British Philatelist* for April contains a second instalment of an excellent article on the line engraved stamps of Great Britain. We make a short extract, as follows:—

The design of the One Penny Stamp is so well known that it is almost superfluous to describe it—a diademed profile, to left, of Queen Victoria on a background, and within a frame, of ornamental lathe-work, executed by Mr. Frederick Heath from a drawing made by Mr. Henry Corbould. Above is a tablet inscribed "POSTAGE," and below another bearing the indication of value, "ONE PENNY," both in uncoloured Roman capitals. Towards the end of 1854, as the consequence of the increasing number of weak impressions, a reproduction of the original die was made, and this new die was put into the hands of Mr. William Humphrys, with instructions to deepen the lines of the engraving. This was most successfully done, and it is not difficult, in most cases, to decide from which die any particular stamp was printed.

The principal points are:—

Eye lid: almost unshaded in Die I.; shaded with eight lines in Die II.

Nostril: more curved in Die II. than in Die I.

Band round hair has in Die II. a thick line forming its lower edge; this is absent from Die I.

The plates constructed from Die I. were numbered from 1 to 204, with six "reserve" plates. With Die II. a new series of plate numbers was begun—from 1 to 225 (except 69, 70, 75, 126, and 128) and certain reserve plates—and the number now appeared, not only in the margins of the plate, but (on and after No. 71) at both sides of the stamp, being cut on the roller made for each plate. With plate 71 the check-lettering was extended to the upper corners, the letters being similar to those in the lower angles, but in reversed order.

The *B.P.* is only a little chap, but we fancy, in months to come, he will expand and be a power in the land. Anyway, we wish the little'un luck.

A good number of the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* before us is dated April 4th, it contains a good deal of original and other matter of an interesting nature. "A Calculating Collector" writes as follows:

Every collector is necessarily interested, to a greater or less extent, in stamps that are usually described as "common." It is a department by no means to be despised. Common stamps are necessary as forming the basis and groundwork of a collection, and even to the investor (who, maybe, gathers them in bundles of 100) they are worth attention. It is not always easy to get them in clean condition; time after time one looks through the Club sheets in search of some low value that shall be perfect in appearance, and dozens of specimens are passed by before a presentable copy turns up. An immaculate 2.25c. Seychelles suffers considerably if it be preceded on the page by a train of second-rate specimens of the lower values.

Some common stamps are harder to get than most people imagine; e.g., the current 30c. French—which ought to cost no more than 1d. when it turns up, but nobody seems to have any. The few copies I have seen (the colour being yellow) were heavily cancelled, and at any moment it may appear in a "redrawn" type, following the example of the 35c. Of the 35c., type I., the writer bought 500 copies, and a week afterwards their price was exactly doubled. The 10c. Military stamp seems also to be among the invisibles for the time being, and the 10c. "avec terre" (No. 289) is hard to find in clean condition—out of 100 copies recently seen only a dozen were anything like clean; yet this stamp is only cat. 1d., and should be well worth it.

Austria 1904 in the new catalogue reads like a sensation. In the "shiny bars" section, common stamps like the 35, 40 and 50 heller are cat. 6d. each; while the same denominations with plain surface are as high as 3d. or 4d. The common stamp gatherer has been lucky if he secured 100 of each before the 1908 pictorials appeared; prices were lower then.

Discrimination, of course, in this sphere as in the case of better stamps, has to be exercised; for example, 80 pf. Bavaria, though a desirable stamp, stands no prospect of any rise whatever, since it is quoted for on the Continent by the 10,000. No current common German stamps seem to have any prospect, nor Swiss, nor Belgium, but Portugal 15, 20, 75 80 reis and above, are likely to be interesting presently. Spanish 1901 is hard to get well centred, the percentage of good copies being only about 12 or 15 out of every 100; the 30, 40c. and 1 peseta are worth putting by if in good order. Argentine 1900, 3, 4, 6, 12, 16, 20 and 24c. are not to be despised; the multiplicity of the other denominations only serves to accentuate the comparative scarcity of the values above enumerated. Though regarded everywhere as

common stamps, it is surprising how difficult it is to get together any save a few odd copies. 4 and 15 Austria Unpaid seldom come one's way—they are among the "uncommon commons." Belgium Parcel Post are common enough to be sold in Belgium by the pound weight, all the varieties mixed. Bulgaria 1907, I am told, will never be worth less than face value, used.

Really, when one considers condition of paramount importance, as of course it should be, it is astonishing how hard it is to procure many stamps with only a catalogue value of 1d.

The *Monthly Report* of the Herts Philatelic Society for April contains some capital reading. The most important contribution is a continuation of Mr. R. B. Yardley's paper, entitled "Collectible Varieties and Curiosities." The following rather lengthy extract is of great interest:

Another interesting and very important group to which I may shortly refer, comprises the stamps printed in 1862 and 1863 by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., from plates made by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., who had previously printed from them. The plates of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. so handed over were steel line engraved plates, and although Messrs. De la Rue had produced many finely-executed stamps long before 1862—e.g., the surface printed stamps of Great Britain, India, Malta and Sierra Leone—yet they had used only their own surface-printing plates, which were of a nature quite different from those made by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., and required different manipulation in printing. Down to 1862 Messrs. De la Rue had not undertaken the perforation of their stamps, all of which so far had been perforated by the Government with the comb machines at Somerset House. The sheets printed from the plates handed over by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. were not really suitable for the Government comb machines at Somerset House, so Messrs. De la Rue supplied some stamps at first in an imperforate condition (e.g. St. Helena), but they began their own experiments in perforation. First they employed, but only for a short time, two single line machines, one gauging 13 almost exactly and the other cutting large holes and gauging 11½ to 12. The latter perforation somewhat resembles that of Messrs. Perkins and Bacon's "B" machine, but it is much more regular and the gauge never exceeds 12, and until the true history of the machines of the two firms was understood these two perforations were mistaken for one and the same. This confusion will be observed in perusing some of the earlier works and articles on the stamps of the West Indies, Ceylon, etc. The two machines of Messrs. De la Rue were in 1863 superseded by another single line machine fairly regular, gauging 12½ approximately. The latter machine was employed by Messrs. De la Rue during some 14 or 15 years, not only for the stamps printed from Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.'s plates but also for the surface-printed stamps struck from their own plates; its perforations are familiar to all collectors, while the stamps perforated by the two earlier machines were naturally very few in number. One or both varieties of the earlier perforations occur in the following Colonies: Bahamas, Ceylon, Natal, Trinidad, Western Australia, and, with one or two exceptions, of great rarity, found in the stamps of Ceylon, the stamps so perforated were printed on a very thick dense hard paper. It is obvious that this small group of stamps perforated by either of these two short-lived machines, is of great interest, and, what is more, it is possible that new

varieties may be discovered. Some of them have only been found within the last six or seven years, namely, the Nine Pence of Ceylon, on paper water-marked Crown CC, perforated 13. Other interesting groups of perforated stamps are numerous. I may mention the locally perforated stamps of New South Wales, but it is not possible in the scope of this paper to describe them. Now, while these varieties of perforation are highly appreciated by the more advanced collectors, it must be confessed that the fact that all or most of the known varieties of this class are listed in the standard English Catalogues and reference lists as of equal rank with more pronounced varieties, must be somewhat bewildering to a beginner. Some dealers, perceiving a danger in the multiplication of varieties, have provided catalogues and albums on a simplified basis, returning, in effect, to the standard of the old catalogues and ignoring perforations and watermarks altogether. This, no doubt, is a perfectly logical attitude, but it is open to question whether it will appeal to any but novices, for the simple reason that it leaves out the very matters which are of the greatest interest to advanced collectors and students who wish to understand the origin and history of the stamps and mode of producing them. Nevertheless, I think that a scientific reference collection might be made on those simplified lines—comprising a single specimen of each distinct type, preferably of each value—and also one or more specimens of the different perforations, watermarks, postmarks, and the dated specimens which occur in connection with the various types, regardless of the values or designs.

Philately Abroad.

L'Annonce Timbrologique. March 1908.

A circular letter is reproduced from *La Revue Postale* which, for cool assurance, would seem to break new ground in the machinations of stamp forgers. We, like our contemporary, reproduce it entire in translation, chiefly as an instance of the openness with which these modern harpies work, though as two of the stamps to which attention is specially given may find their way into the English market, it may serve also to put collectors on their guard.

Givet,

Date of postmark.

Dear Sir,—Having seen from your advertisement that you exchange stamps, I take the opportunity of laying before you something likely to interest you. You have doubtless heard of Fournier, Oneglia, Christmann, etc., etc., who issue "fac-similes" of obsolete stamps. Some of these are very well done, and only a specialist could detect them. This is a very satisfactory result, but I have gone still further; my attention has been devoted to three kinds of stamps only, no great number perhaps, but it is better to attain perfection in three kinds than to make any quantity of imperfect ones. The proof that no one can detect them is that after most careful examination, experts and dealers have bought them. The large number of different obliterations (22) allow of selling several copies of each to dealers, collectors, etc.

The following are what I offer:—

1 pound green, Transvaal: 3 francs each, 20 francs per 10.

5 shillings green, Orange River Colony: 2 francs each, 15 francs per 10.

50 and 100 lire, Italy, 1906: 5 francs the pair, 30 francs per 10 pairs.

Cash with order.

This offer is a very advantageous one for members of exchange clubs, since no one can contest the genuineness of my stamps, and all annoyance due to return is avoided. If this offer should not interest you, be good enough to hand this circular to your friends, but take care that it does not fall into bad hands, so that these stamps may always be held genuine, which is to the interest of those exchanging.

I have no doubt that you will favour me with a sample order, and I am sure you will follow this with an order for 25 or 30 of a kind.

Awaiting your reply,
I am, etc.,

The author of this circular, which would be naive if it were not pernicious, evidently had some qualms as to its general reception, for he gives his address as fixed only up to 15th March. It would be delightful to know that a subsequent residence had been provided for him without putting him to the trouble of selecting it, and that he is likely to occupy it for some time to come.

Le Timbre-Poste. April 1908.

Some interesting statistics of stamps issued during 1907 are given in this journal. The total number of postage and telegraph stamps, omitting all varieties of watermark, perforation, etc., is given as 889, distributed as follows: Portugal 13, Great Britain 165, Spain 68, United States 11, Netherlands 31, Russia 2, France 281, various 318, under the countries their colonies being of course reckoned; and under the last heading appear Denmark 36, Luxemburg 19, Montenegro 17, Brazil 36, Paraguay 18, Salvador 23.

Comparing with former years from 1898 the number is above the average, three years only being in excess of this figure, and the total for the ten years is given as 8012. Accompanying these and other statistics is a diagram shewing the annual issues of stamps since 1840. For the first 20 years the rise was very gradual, as was also that for the next 20; during the eighties there were considerable fluctuations, but it is to the nineties and to the twentieth century that is to be assigned the extravagant production of new stamps, in one year, 1903, amounting to 1183, the preceding year, 1902, running it very closely with 1017 stamps.

Le Journal des Philatélistes. 30th April, 1908.

It was said of a celebrity, who, at some function, amid a crowd of others decorated with orders and insignia, appeared without such decoration, that his distinction was a lack of distinctions. It is possible that there may exist some tract or waste which may claim a similar distinction in the world as not being possessed of an issue of postage stamps. Until the perusal of this journal we should have felt fairly certain that Labrador might be so reckoned, but we learn that it is not to be. An American exploration company, having obtained a charter for certain purposes, has issued three stamps, for 5 and 25 cents and 1 dollar. The first shows a seal on

ice floe, the second a native with spear and double oar, the third a map of Eastern Canada with Labrador and Newfoundland in white. On each is the value and Labrador, and further, U.S.A. Post Office. These stamps have been received *used*. The 5 cents is printed in green and black, the 25 in blue and black, and the 1 dollar green, red, rose and black, this last stamp is reserved for registered letters and parcels, and is fixed by the company's officials only.

Of the standing of these labels we know nothing, beyond what appears on the stamps themselves, together with the scanty details contained in a circular reproduced by another French journal, *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-poste*, wherein it is stated that the "American Labrador company has obtained a charter from the Newfoundland and Canadian governments for the exploitation of mineral and industrial rights, on condition that a postal service is assured between the various places in Labrador during the navigating season," and that the company "has the right to issue stamps to frank letters and other postal matter between Labrador, the Dominion of Canada and the United States."

The circular contains nothing about the exploitation of stamp collectors, which evidently has not escaped the company, and which will probably be found as lucrative as the mines and minerals.

Some further confirmation of this issue is required, and it would be interesting to know how stamps, bearing the legend U.S.A. Post Office, should come to be issued within British dominions. If this land of desolation required stamps, how is it that the possibilities of the surcharge (for a provisional issue during preparation of the regular) have been overlooked?

Friedl's Illustriertes Briefmarken-Offertenblatt.
March-April, 1908.

The antiquities of any science are valuable as showing its development from small origins, and this applies even when its beginning is not remote. Anything bearing upon the early history of stamp collecting must be interesting to collectors of the present day, and an article in the current number of Herr Friedl's journal, "How our Grandfathers Collected Stamps," is based upon a philatelic document of exceptional interest—a collection of an early date comprising an unusual range of stamps. This collection which Herr Friedl describes is in three volumes, the first containing 1300 stamps, in an album of French origin published by Lintello in 1863. The countries are given seriatim, and the mere catalogue of the rarer stamps is of interest, and we give a resumé of the description.

In France, which commences the album, a good used copy of the 1f. orange-vermilion, but no copy of the 1fr. of the Empire. Great Britain occupies the second place,

and the embossed series are shown cut round to fit the printed design in the album. Austria has a number of better varieties unused, with a complete set of the envelopes, valueless through being cut round. Austrian Italy is better represented, with a complete unused set of first issue, and the second and third issue used and unused, the envelopes again being cut round. The following German States, only the first issues of which were provided for in the album, are complete: Thurn and Taxis, Baden, Bavaria, Bremen, Hamburg, Bergedorf (½sch. a forgery), Brunswick (¼gr. a forgery), Hanover, Lubeck, Mecklemburg, Oldenburg (1858, ¼ and 2gr. forgeries), Saxony, Schleswig, Wurtemberg, including several superb unused.

In Spain several of the first issue unused, very fine used copies of the 2 reales of 1851 and 1853, the 3 quartos cut close; the 1 quarto and the 2 reales 1851 both forgeries. The Roman States, Greece, Modena, Parma, all complete; Tuscany wanting the 3 lire; Naples, a fine Trinacria, with a forgery of the Cross. Portugal 1853, 100 reis, a superb unused copy. Switzerland a very good lot, but the double Geneva and two Zurich forgeries; a number of Cantonals in fine unused condition. For Moldavia, space is given for the 54, 58 (*sic*) and 108 and the earliest falsification appear, cut round.

In Asia, Ceylon has a fine appearance, the complete issues 1857-8 being represented in fine condition, but the octagonals are all cut to shape.

In Africa, Cape of Good Hope, all fine unused copies, except the red woodblock, which is fine used, and the blue woodblock which is wanting. The first issue of Natal is represented by a fine shilling and a sixpence both unused, but four other of this issue are forgeries; Mauritius Post Paid, 2d. blue first impression, 1859 2d. blue and 1858-9 issue, in very fine state.

Australia is a fine lot, all in finest state. South and West Australia, New South Wales, Tasmania, Hawaii including several rare numerals, but there are a dozen forgeries, chiefly the Sydney Views; the Philippine Islands are very fine, and include the 1854-61 issue, unused, in finest condition.

America terminates the volume, and there may be mentioned Brazil, 180 and 300 reis; New Brunswick, 1851, all forgeries, but a fine Connell unused, Nova Scotia, superb; Buenos Ayres, nearly all forgeries; worthy of special mention, a fine series of Newfoundland orange and vermilion together, all in used condition, and there are many fine copies of unused English colonials.

All the stamps in this volume are, of course, fastened down, but in the other two volumes the stamps are fastened lightly by the upper edge only. The value of this collection Herr Friedl estimates at a moderate computation to be not less than £250.

Philately in the Colonies and Elsewhere.

The *Philatelic Journal of India* for April was an early and welcome visitor, arriving in fact before the majority of its English contemporaries. Mr. C. S. F. Crofton contributes no fewer than three short articles—The "King of Portugal" Essay, "The De la Rue Perf. 12 of 1882-83," and "Notes on the De la Rue Plates of New South Wales," all being of real philatelic interest and value.

The rest of the paper is filled with a goodly budget of "Notes and News," and a short *resumé* of the English Philatelic Press.

The *Australian Philatelist* for April is a bright little paper, containing some chatty news paragraphs mostly relating to Australian stamps. We extract the following:—

Mr. Donne sends us an extract from the Melbourne *Argus* of 16/3/'08 to the effect that a slot stamp machine is to be installed at the G.P.O. for public trial. It that is successful similar machines will be attached to pillar-boxes and stationed in hotels and clubs and every part of the city, so that a stamp may be obtained at any hour by anybody provided with a penny.

The machine is most simple in mechanism, and at the same time most ingenious. It has three slots. Into one a penny is placed. If the penny is a good one the machine gurgles and clicks for an instant, and a penny stamp is protruded through a second slot. If the penny is a bad one, or a foreign one, or an imitation coin, if, in fact, the coin placed in the slot is anything except a British penny, there is a rattling sound, and it is shot out of a third slot on to the ground. The internal mechanism of the machine is capable of detecting the most minute differences in coins. Florins, sovereigns, foreign pennies are all promptly rejected; but the British penny brings forth a stamp every time.

Several numbers of *Mekeel's Weekly* are before us—the latest copy being dated April 25th. This number is a grand German special and contains a long and interesting article on the German Empire contributed by that indefatigable writer, Mr. C. A. Howes. Writing of the Alsace and Lorraine stamps he says:—

The next turn of the wheel presents the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, in which all Germany took part under the leadership of Prussia. Beginning in July, the rapid and unvarying successes of the Germans soon gave them French territory to administer. With rare tact for the Teuton, they did not bring their Confederation stamps with them to impose on the subjugated French population, but prepared a special set of war stamps, with values in French currency and in denominations corresponding to the French stamps up to 25 centimes. These are commonly termed the "Alsace and Lorraine" issue

but this is a misnomer since they were used in all the French territory occupied by the Germany army, as well as in the two provinces which were the prize of war. Their preparation is interesting, for it seems they were the making visible of the invisible, so to speak. The issues of the North German Confederation, then in use, bore a network on the face printed in invisible ink; if placed in a solution of sulphuretted hydrogen, however, the network will immediately appear in brown. It was the plates for printing this network which were used to print the back-ground of loops that we find on the war stamps. The issue was gazetted on September 6th, 1870, and was in use until the fall of 1873.

All the numbers of *Mekeel's* contain much interesting matter, while those collectors interested in dealers' advertisements will always find themselves well catered for.

The Connoisseur Album.

WE have received from our publishers a copy of their new loose leaf album—containing 100 movable leaves contained in a well-made and bound spring back cover. As we have already mounted a collection of Antigua and New Zealand stamps in one of these books, we feel we are competent to criticise this new departure in the album world—on the part of our publishers.

The "Connoisseur" blank album is a book likely to appeal to all medium and advanced collectors—it is well bound—well gotten up and altogether is a real serviceable book, containing 100 leaves, each of which will hold—if necessary—eight rows of seven stamps, the holding capacity of these books is very great; each leaf is ruled with a faint quadrille back ground with five guide marks to enable the collector to "centre" his stamps.

If there is a fault to be found with the "Connoisseur" it is the fact that the leaves are too well glazed making it difficult to remove a stamp hinge without slightly disturbing the surface of the album leaf. This fault, however, is common to most loose leaf albums, while it is counterbalanced by the fact that the glazed surface make the pages far more attractive—after all there should be little need to transfer a stamp once it is placed in its permanent home.

We have no hesitation in saying that the "Connoisseur" is the album of the future—combining as it does, durability, elegance, cheapness and general usefulness.

BINDING CASES

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No. 210. VOL. XVIII.

JUNE 20, 1908.

[PRICE 2D.]

EDITORIAL.

ELSEWHERE we publish a letter, wherein the writer suggests that certain countries, too prone to speculate, should be black listed by the philatelic press. The idea, although by no means original, is admirable and one we would gladly see carried out; but is it possible? Who is to be the judge to whom we are to appeal, as to which stamps are speculative, and which are not? We are afraid that collectors will have to rely on their own individual likes and dislikes when it comes a question of the collectability of certain stamps.

There is, however, a more serious menace to our hobby than commemoratives (if that be possible) and that is the growing practise of postmarking whole sheets, or half sheets of stamps to order.

In many cases this is done by the P.O. authorities themselves, or by their agents with the direct object of selling otherwise unsaleable rubbish. In other cases it is done "to oblige" by postal clerks at the request of some petty speculator, while thirdly, unused stamps, usually of a very low denomination, are postmarked with a bogus cancellation.

It is not many weeks since we saw the stock of a dealer from Iceland, part of which consisted of many complete sheets of the new Iceland "1 eyr" value all of which were minus gum and plus a neat (but genuine) obliteration. In another place we have listed a few of the colonial

stamps which we have personally seen in complete sheets, or panes with cancelled to order postmarks, in most cases these stamps have full gum.

The status of a postmarked to order stamp is, in our opinion, even more questionable than that of a genuine commemorative, as the latter frequently does postal duty. The same date stamp that is used for cancelling stamps or letters is frequently used by the too obliging post office clerk to cancel whole sheets, for some speculative friend, consequently it is impossible to detect these frauds once the sheets have been broken up.

As is to be expected it is usually "commemorative," or low value stamps from some out of the way country, or colony that are postmarked to order, as there is and always will be, we suppose, a big class of collectors who, because a stamp is postmarked, necessarily think that it must be genuine, and have done genuine postal duty. The stamps, usually remainders, of the Labuan, North Borneo and St. Helena class, that have been obliterated to order are usually well known, and those collectors who are strong minded enough to know what they collect and what they do not, can steer clear of such atrocities.

The only dangerous stamps (surely many collectors will agree with us that it is not nice to discover that some of our most treasured possessions have been nicely cancelled, to pander to our liking for used copies) are those with "done to order" postmarks. We are quite con-

fidant that it is the absurd desire to immediately possess all new issues that keeps the ball of commemorating and postmarking to order still rolling.

If there is a legitimate issue of a certain new value, collectors can rest assured that before long, with the world's great postal communications, it will become fairly common.

New Leaves to Cut.

EARLY FRENCH DEALERS AND CATALOGUES.

Mahé (Pierre) Marchands de Timbre-postes d'autrefois et leurs Catalogues, facsimiles. 1903. Amiens: Yvert et Tellier. Price 5 francs.

One of the most interesting volumes which we have had the pleasure of noticing, is this valuable monograph, which takes us back to the earliest days of philately, and reveals in characteristic touches personalities which "assisted," in French phrasing, at the development of its commercial side, and whose very names are unknown to all but those who are acquainted with their publications. Himself almost the last of those who participated in the genesis of stamp dealing, M. Mahé is especially fitted to tell us of his contemporaries of nearly fifty years ago, and those who have read his own discursive autobiographical sketches in the original, or translation, will not be disappointed with the short biographies which he gives in his latest volume. Every scrap of information which can be obtained of the period is of value, for we have so little; most of these early dealers were men of commercial and intellectual ability, and viewed in the collector's eyes had that peculiar glamour which philately bestows upon those who lived in the days of great opportunity. M. Mahé's book is, however, more than a collective biography, and he deserves the warmest thanks of those who concern themselves with the historical details of collecting for bringing together, in an excellent and thorough manner, many instructive and critical particulars of some of the earliest philatelic publications issued.

The dealers to which reference is made are de Laplante, Baillieu, Thirifocq, Valette, Mme. Nicolas and Roussin, all of whom, with the exception of the last, died or retired from stamp dealing long before the present generation. M. Mahé gives a short biography of each, and then gives an analytical account of the catalogues published by each, with specimen covers and pages reproduced in excellent facsimile, and with "general observations" upon the contents, which are most useful when the absolute unattainability of the originals is taken into account. Furthermore, the Potiquet Catalogue, one of the rarest of all

publications relating to philately, is similarly treated to the other catalogues. An occasional photograph and some shorter chapters completes a volume which is welcome equally from the point of view of source and execution.

As we feel that some account of these early dealers and their works cannot fail to interest philatelists, we are tempted to draw upon this book rather liberally, and give a brief resumé of each chapter, with the hope that all collectors of literature, at least, will not rest satisfied until they have acquired it and its contents.

Edard de Laplante was born in 1820; he was first an engraver and afterwards a police official, with a strong *penchant* for numismatics, and it was while searching for coins that he purchased, for 30 francs, a sheet of the 20c. black of the French Republic, 1849, and "from that time," says his biographer, "commenced his dealing in stamps," abandoning in 1861 his official position to devote himself entirely to this occupation. M. Mahé recounts with evident gusto, the first meeting with de Laplante, which has already been given to his memoirs; they became good friends, although de Laplante seems to have been somewhat difficult in his manner. He possessed from his relations with foreign correspondents an excellent stock of stamps; in 1869 he sold his business to M. Georg, of Basle, and became a wine-grower in Algeria, where he died in 1881. Of his Catalogue, which appeared in 1862, only one edition was issued; it listed 1083 stamps and essays, and 150 envelopes, without prices, the countries being grouped together in a geographical arrangement.

François Valette was a man of considerable erudition, the proprietor and editor of a German journal, and his scientific attainments probably will account for the peculiar nature of his catalogue, which contained, besides the tabulated information of issue, colour, etc., a tripartite specimen classification in three forms—genealogical, heraldic and systematic, showing chronological, heraldic and colour arrangements on the basis formerly adopted for delineating a "family tree," as suggestions for album arrangement, in conformity with a little treatise appended. This gives much quaint information and directions, some of which, as instructions with regard to trimming the margins of the stamps preparatory to mounting them in the album, are about as pleasing to read as an account of a surgical operation. One edition of this catalogue also was issued, listing 925 stamps and envelopes, a number of which (as was generally the case with these early catalogues) later research showed to be unissued, proofs or essays.

Alexander Baillieu was born in 1842 and was at first a bookbinder. He afterwards entered the business of his father, a bookseller of standing, and soon saw the commercial possibilities of the stamp "mania," and became one of the leading dealers of Paris. Being already a collector himself, he owed his trade

interest to the suggestion of his father, and his first essay was to offer his own collection for sale. "On the first day," says M. Mahé, "stamps to the value of 27 francs were sold and he had crossed the Rubicon." The whole family of four gave their attention to commerce in stamps; business relations with Moens aided in the possession of a good stock, and the idea of communicating with foreign consuls of English Colonies and America, sending remittances for stamps of the country of their location, bore excellent results, so that the house became noted for its constant supply of new and current issues. Baillieu himself acquired a wide knowledge of stamps and his shop a wide popularity. To him M. Mahé indirectly attributes his own entry into stamp dealing. The first edition of his catalogue, issued in 1863, was also the first to have the stamps priced, and in the later editions prices of stamps, both used and unused, were given as far as possible. Three editions were published: The first of 88 pages, giving 1057 stamps and 128 envelopes; the second in 1864, 132 pages, 1788 stamps and 211 envelopes; the third in 1865, 136 pages, 1881 stamps and 263 envelopes.

Madame Nicolas was the proprietress of a small library, and the addition of stamps to books is attributed to the interest of a well-known Parisian collector of the day. Her library became the centre of philatelic Paris, where the leading collectors used to congregate, among whom were Dr. Legrand and M. Herpin. She was the type of the French business woman, the mistress of her place, and after the introduction of the stamp business, left to her husband the management of the library, and devoted her energies to the requirements of her stamp collecting clients. The venture succeeded so well that they retired to a country property, leaving the business to another lady who, however, failed to achieve the same success. Madame Nicolas has acquired a particular celebrity in the annals of stamp collecting as being the dealer through whose hands the majority of Post Office Mauritius passed. Her catalogue, issued in 1865, is notable as being the first making special reference to watermarks; it consisted of 72 pages, giving 2350 stamps and 347 envelopes, with prices for unused and used specimens.

Of E. Thirifocq, whom he first met in 1866, M. Mahé is able to give little information. His catalogue appeared in 1866, one edition only of 24 pages, listing 1645 stamps and 277 envelopes.

Charles Roussin was born in 1842, and commenced business as a stamp dealer in 1863, at first in a very small way, and he carried it on until his death in 1902. M. Mahé instances his great capacity for work, and this is borne out by the constant publication of his great catalogue which ran in his periodical *L'Ami des Timbres*, the first number of which appeared in January, 1874, and the

last in July, 1902. His knowledge of stamps and personal probity gave him a position high up among the dealers of the world; he sold both postage and fiscal stamps, and was most particular as to their condition. Of his great catalogue six editions appeared, a seventh being uncompleted at the time of his death. His son abandoning the intention of continuing the business, the stock came into the hands of an English firm.

Not the least important chapter of M. Mahé's book is that in which he describes the first catalogue of postage stamps ever issued. Published on 21st December, 1861, it consisted of 43 pages, giving 1080 stamps and 132 envelopes, and a second edition had 48 pages, with 1088 stamps and 165 envelopes. In the second edition the author complained of the imitations which had been issued of his work (those of Moens and de Laplante), without much justice, as is seen from the preface which Moens gave in the second edition of his Manual. The Potiquet catalogues are among the rarest printed books of the world, and it is not possible to look upon one without feelings approaching reverence for this progenitor of a long line of literature, and considering the difficulty and possibility of error in obtaining the information necessary, this little book is testimony to the advancement to which stamp collecting had reached at the time of its appearance.

M. Mahé's book terminates with a short reference to J. W. Elb, another early dealer (whose stock at his death was sold by auction, probably the first auction sale of postage stamps), a chapter on the "open-air" dealers of the time, who sold stamps on the quais just as do the booksellers of to-day, and a final one on philatelic libraries.

We express our gratitude to M. Mahé for his most entertaining volume, which revives for a later generation his own knowledge of one which has long passed away.

Penny Post to Morocco.

THE Post Office has issued the following:

"The postage on letters for places in Morocco, where the British Post Office maintains an agency, will be reduced, on and from the 15th inst., to 1d. the ounce."

Concurrently the postage on letters for the United Kingdom and British Colonies and Protectorates and for Egypt posted at these agencies will be reduced to 10 centimos per 20 grammes.

The British Post Office maintains agencies at the following places in Morocco: Alcazar, Casa Blanca, Fez, Larache, Mazagan, Mequinez, Mogador, Rabah, Saffi, Tangier, and Teutan.—*Daily Telegraph*.

Papers for Moderate Specialists.

BY P. L. PEMBERTON.

X.—JAMAICA.

THE first adhesive stamps issued in Jamaica were the 1d., 4d. and 6d. of Great Britain and their issue was proclaimed by an official notice published at the Kingston Post Office, May 8th, 1858. These stamps can only be distinguished by the post marks which were numbered "AO1" for Kingston, the capital, and "A27," "A28," "A29," and so on, inclusive of every number up to "A83" for other post offices in the Colony. The 4d. and 6d. are those of the 1856-57 issue of Great Britain, the former having the large garter watermark and both being without letters in the corners. The 1d. is the lake-red stamp of 1858, on white paper, with stars in the upper corners. The "AO1" postmark is not very scarce, but the numbers from "A27" to "A83" are rare, some of them excessively so, as some of the districts which the post offices served were very thinly populated. Of the three values the 1d. is the scarcest, followed by the 4d. and 6d., in the order named.

ISSUE OF 1860-63, WMK. PINE-APPLE.

This, the first issue proper for Jamaica, consisted of six values, from 1d. to 1/-, each of which was in a separate design. They were



printed on stout glazed paper watermarked pine-apple, which is not infrequently found inverted. The stamps were produced by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., who, having, at that date, no perforating machines of their own, made use of the Somerset House machine which is of the "comb" type and which produced those philatelic eye-sores, stamps with extended margins on one side, such stamps being



from the vertical rows on either side of the sheet.

All the values are found in several shades though the 3d. shews only trivial variations from its normal colour. The 6d. and 1/- are the most prolific in this respect. Among the best things to look for in this issue are the 2d. and 4d. in the deepest colours and the 1/- yellow-brown, in mint condition. The highly



surfaced paper on which they were printed causes the faces of the stamps to rub and so become indistinct, consequently, while unused stamps of a sort are plentiful enough, really mint copies are rapidly becoming scarce.

It is very curious that no halfpenny stamp was issued until 1872, as that was the local rate for circulars and newspapers. This gave rise to the expedient of bisecting the one penny stamps, generally diagonally, and using the halves for the half-penny rate. Though similar devices have been resorted to in various parts of the world, this is the only known case in a British Colony where the practice was not only permitted but authorized by a special post office Notice, the date of which was Nov. 20, 1861. Covers bearing the half stamps are still to be had, but they have greatly appreciated in the eyes of collectors during the past few years, and collectors who have not secured one are advised to repair the omission at the earliest opportunity.

ISSUE OF 1871-72, WMK. CROWN CC.

The same values as before, and in the same designs appeared during 1871 and 1872 on paper watermarked *Crown and CC*. They continued to be perforated 14 by the Somerset House comb machine. For some months the 1d. CC was used in halves, but Gibbons' catalogue does not include them. The halfpenny stamp was not issued until Oct. 29th, 1872, and by a decree of the same date the use of half stamps was prohibited. The stamps of this issue are not found in so many varieties of shade as those of the earlier issue, though a nice series can be got together.

THE 2/- AND 5/- WMK. CROWN CC.

These two new values were issued in August, 1875, but there does not seem to have been much call for them as the stocks remained on hand for over twenty years. As they were perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ it is very unlikely that more than one printing of each value was made during that period and consequently there are practically no variations in shade. The 2/- seems to be scarce in blocks, but the 5/- though rarer in singles, can be readily obtained in pairs and blocks.

ISSUE OF 1883-86, WMK. CROWN CA.

In 1883, the three values 1d., 2d. and 4d. were issued on CA paper and the colours remained as before. This first printing of the 4d. is exactly like the CC stamps and by this means collectors may recognise it. It is by no means common unused and is well worth hunting for. Between 1883 and 1886 the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. appeared with the new watermark and in a new colour, namely, green. The 1d. was changed to rose, the 2d. to grey, and the 4d. to a different shade of orange-brown. The 3d. also came out with the new wmk., and the shade was changed from green to olive-green. In succeeding years all those values went through many gradations of shade, and a magnificent series can be collected. The 1d rose, particularly, presents many variations ranging from pale or deep rose to bright carmine, but collectors should beware of a curious claret shade which is sometimes found and which is an unnatural tint which many stamps printed in a certain shade of carmine at about that period assume, and which is no doubt the effect of atmospheric conditions akin to that phenomenon erroneously known to philatelists as oxidation.

THE 1D. AND 2D. OF 1889.

These two stamps were printed from the same head plate, while the tablets containing the value were printed at a second operation. In the one penny the tablet is lilac, which varied considerably in shade in different printings, but as lilac is a colour very susceptible to extraneous influences, collectors must be on their guard against accidental shades of pink and pale blue or green, none of which was so issued. The 2d. is also found in several legitimate shades, but those due to the action of damp are more numerous still.

THE TWO PENCE HALF-PENNY SURCHARGE.

The need for a $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. value arose before the stamps ordered from London were delivered in the island. The four pence stamp was selected to receive the inevitable surcharge, which was done locally, with the usual results. Besides lesser varieties the following important errors of spelling, or of setting, exist :—

PFNNY for PENNY.

PFNNK " "

PFNNF " "

It will be seen that the third variety reveals an attempt to correct the second variety, the lower limb of the "K" being broken off thus forming a mis-shapen "Y."

Varieties are also found with the surcharge upside down and also twice or thrice printed. In some of the double surcharges the two printings are almost on the top of one another and in others one surcharge is in its normal position and the superfluous one at the top of the stamp.

THE 1890-97 ISSUE.

To describe the heterogeneous varieties that come under this heading as one "issue" is a convenient but arbitrary arrangement, suggested by Gibbons' catalogue.

The stamps included are the permanent type of $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. and the 6d., 1/-, 2/- and 5/- with the CA watermark. The first mentioned was printed from the head-plate used for the 1d. and 2d., with the value-tablet printed in blue. The colour of the 6d. was changed to yellow, which in later printings became rather an orange-yellow. Though the two shades are recognised, there is in reality very little difference between them. The 2/- and 5/- now appeared in the same colours as before, but printed on *Crown CA* paper and perforated 14. The higher value is likely to improve in value and should be procured at once.

THE PICTORIAL 1D. OF 1900-01.

This stamp, which is almost double the size of the ordinary stamps, was printed in red on paper watermarked *Crown CC*, as in the case of all other stamps of similar size produced, up to that date, by Messrs. De la Rue & Co. The design shows a view of Llandovery Falls at St. Ann, but the effect is not very pleasing. As originally issued, the whole stamp was printed in red, but after being in use for about a year fresh plates were prepared from which the stamps were printed with the central view in black and the frame in the original red colour. The alteration was hardly an improvement. This stamp superseded the 1d. of 1889, which was withdrawn.

THE ARMS TYPE.

On the death of the late Queen preparations were made for a new general issue, and though the Head of the King was depicted on some of the postal stationery it was decided to dispense with the Sovereign's portrait on



the adhesives in favour of an illustration of the Arms of the Colony. Accordingly, in November, 1903, $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and $2\frac{1}{4}$ d. stamps were issued in the new design, in which the Arms were printed in black and the frame in green in the case of the lower value, and in ultramarine in the $2\frac{1}{4}$ d. The motto on the scroll is *Indus Uterque Serviet Uni*, and in one stamp on each sheet of 240, namely, the second stamp in the fourth row of the upper left-hand pane, the letters V and I in the third word are very defective, being represented by two dots. Early in 1904 the 1d. and 5d. appeared in the same design, the former having a red border and the 5d. a yellow one, the centre being black in each case. The variety described above is reproduced on both, and of these the 5d. is one of the rarities of Jamaica.

In November, 1905, the 5/- was issued in the Arms type, printed in violet and black on "chalky" paper with multiple wmk. This has been followed, at intervals, by the $\frac{1}{4}$ d., 1d., $2\frac{1}{4}$ d. and 5d on the same paper. All these are said to exist with the variety SER . . ET but I have only seen the $\frac{1}{4}$ d. If the others exist at all they must be of excessive rarity.

In 1906 the $\frac{1}{4}$ d. appeared entirely in green, and the 1d. in red. They were both from new plates in which the words POSTAGE AND REVENUE appeared at the sides, whereas, in the former type this inscription was in very small letters below the frame containing the Arms.

THE OFFICIAL STAMPS.

The half-penny green was overprinted for official use in 1890. The first type was printed locally, the word OFFICIAL being in tall thin capitals and the measurement of the surcharge varied from 15, $15\frac{1}{2}$, 16, 17 to $17\frac{1}{2}$ mm. on different parts of the sheet. This overprint is found inverted, double and also double with one inverted. Varieties are known in which the letters "1" have failed to print, reading "OFF C AL."

In 1890 the 1d. and 2d. of the 1889 issue were specially printed, the former all in rose and the latter in grey and overprinted OFFICIAL by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., and



in the following year the $\frac{1}{4}$ d. was also supplied from London with the new type of overprint, which was formed of thicker letters than the local one. In this type there are no varieties worth noting.

FISCALS USED FOR POSTAGE.

Many Jamaican fiscals have been pressed into the postal service at various times. Of these, the commonest is the 1d. rose, with wmk. Crown CA. This stamp has the watermark sideways, extending over two stamps. This stamp was first issued in 1873. Since the stamps of this type were permitted to be used for postal duty, it is not surprising to find that the 1d. with the pine wmk. (1865) and with the CC wmk. (1871) are also found with postal obliterations, but the former is exceedingly scarce.

The following stamps, issued primarily for Documentary duty, are also found used postally:—

1857. *No wmk. Highly glazed paper. Perf. 14.*
 $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. blue on blue.
 $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. " white.
 3d. violet on blue.
 3d. " white.
1874. *Wmk. Crown CC.*
 3d. purple on white.
 3d. violet "

Besides these, two of the Judicial stamps of 1858 are known with postal cancellations, viz.: 1/- rose on bleuté and 5/- lilac on bleuté, but these are of great rarity.

Correspondence.

Hongkong,

April 25th, 1908.

The Editor *P.J.G.B.*

DEAR SIR,

"GUMPAP BLACK LIST."

I have just read with interest the Editorial in the March number of the *P.J. of G.B. re* speculation in Caymans, and the quotation from the *P.R.* of February, *re* "Speculatives."

Would it not be a good plan for the journals that are against these speculative issues, to publish a "Black List" of countries to be avoided on this account and keep it always before the eyes of their readers? This would be a help to beginners. And general collectors could combine and boycott these countries, such as Nicaragua, Honduras, Salvador and many others, and I would add Cayman Islands. Also a list of special commemorative sets of countries otherwise of interest to the general collector, as Portugal, Spain and U.S.A.

This might stop the continual flow of unnecessary new issues.

Yours faithfully,

W. E. ORMSBY.

Surgeon R.N.

Well-known Philatelists.

No. 101.—MR. J. BAEZA.

BORN in British Guiana in 1843, Mr. Baeza, the subject of our present sketch, has lived most of his life in the West Indies; Barbados, his present address, having been his headquarters for the past forty years. During the whole of this time Mr. Baeza has been an active collector, a record that must be extremely difficult to beat. Having been a collector for so many years, it is perhaps almost unnecessary for us to tell our readers that his collection contains a great number of very desirable stamps, which, by the bye, are housed in no fewer than sixteen 10x8in. blank albums.

A true philatelist of the old school, Mr. Baeza collects everything issued up to the end of the last century, with the exception of the stamps of Great Britain, U.S.A., France and the West Indies, in which countries he takes everything as issued. Travelling about a good deal, principally to the places enumerated above, doubtless explains the reason why Mr. Baeza collects these countries up to date.

Having no real favourite country in which to specialise, Mr. Baeza has been able to pay uniform attention to all countries, with the result that he has gathered together a very fine lot of stamps, forming a collection, that, in these days of specialism, is a great pleasure to inspect.

When we interviewed Mr. Baeza, on behalf of our readers, we thought that as he was practically the only stamp enthusiast in Barbados he would be able to tell us of wondrous finds of old Trinidads, Barbados, and other rare old West Indians. Unfortunately this was not the case, the historic Barbados fire of 1860, made such a clean sweep of most of the business houses that all old hoards of correspondence were most effectually swept away.

Fortunately Mr. Baeza makes frequent trips home, otherwise, being the only philatelist of any note on the Island he would in all likelihood lose interest in our hobby.

A general collector of all stamps, with one or two exceptions, issued prior to 1900, he voices the general sentiments expressed by all serious philatelists, namely, that stamp collecting is in danger of being killed by the multiplicity of new issues.

When in London last summer, we tried to obtain his idea of the then recently issued Jamaica "Relief Fund" stamps, together with the commemorative rubbish then, and still, being issued in Barbados. Unfortunately he refused to be "drawn." Otherwise we think our list of condemnatory phrases would have been enlarged.

The only thing he would tell us about the "Relief" stamps was that, when one sheet was inadvertently issued with inverted surcharge, the Postmaster promptly had others printed, which was a nasty blow to the speculator who had cornered sheet No. 1 and was asking £1 per stamp.

We think our readers will appreciate the views regarding the future of our hobby, held by Mr. Baeza, coming as they do from so seasoned a philatelist.

He says: "The future of philately in the West Indies is not very bright and will never gain in strength, such as is the case in the United Kingdom, and other places, the multiplicity of new issues tending to its drawback."

We are sorry to hear these views regarding Philately in the Islands.

Perhaps on his visit home this year, Mr. Baeza will be infused with fresh philatelic energy; so much so that he will be able to radiate philately on his return to his West Indian home.



Big Stamp Auction in Paris.

THE superb collection formed by M. G. Koch was sold by auction in Paris, on June 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th, and some of the lots produced phenomenal prices. Among them we notice Great Britain, a used block of six of the 2d. blue without white lines, £11 18s.; 2/- brown, £4 11s.; Finland, 1866, 1 mark brown, a used block of four, £20 12s.; Tuscany, 3 lire, £68 15s.; Moldavia, 27 paras, £43 1s., 54 paras, £16 15s., 81 paras, £231, 108 paras, £46 15s.

New Issues and Varieties.

(We shall be glad to receive any new issues or new varieties from our readers for description in this column. Letters should be addressed to THE EDITOR OF THE PHILATELIC JOURNAL OF GREAT BRITAIN, c/o MESSRS. P. L. PEMBERTON & Co., 84, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.)

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Australian Commonwealth. The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles the 2d. Postage Due on Crown and A paper, perf. $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$.

Postage Due. Wmkd. Crown and A, perf. $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$.
2d. pale green.

Bermuda. *Mekeel's Weekly* chronicles the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. stamps, Arms type, in single colours.

Adhesives. Multiple CA. Perf. 14.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. green.
1d. carmine.

British South Africa. The *Philatelic Adviser* says that the 3d., 3/-, 10/- and £2 values, uniform with the other stamps of the 1898 issue, are now on sale.

Gibraltar. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the 6d. stamp on chalky paper.

Adhesive. King's Head. Multiple. Chalky.
6d. lilac.

Gold Coast. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* on the authority of a German exchange chronicles "specimen" copies of a new 1d. stamp, describing it as follows.

"New design, with value in each lower corner on a triangular shield; 1d. all rose."

Grenada. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles the 3d. stamp, Ship design, on multiple chalky paper. They say: "Mr. Orr Ewing has very kindly lent us a copy of the first value to appear of the new design, which we illustrate below." We do not quite understand whether the old Ship design of 1905 has been redrawn, or whether the 3d. value is the first to appear on chalky paper.

Adhesive. Ship design. Multiple chalky paper.
3d. purple-brown on yellow.

Leeward Islands. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the 3d. stamp on multiple chalky.

Adhesive. King's head, multiple C.A., chalky paper.
3d. lilac and black.

Natal. Last month we chronicled, on the authority of the Colonial Office Journal, the 30/- stamp, purple and brown on ordinary paper. Several of our contemporaries now chronicle this stamp on chalky paper in orange and lilac colours. We believe the latter description to be correct.

Adhesives.
5/- carmine and lilac.
10/- brown and lilac.
£1 blue and lilac.
£1 10s. orange and lilac.
£5 black and green.
£10 brown and green.

New South Wales. The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles the 10/- duty stamp, surcharged "Postage," perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11$.

Adhesive. Wmk. N.S.W., perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11$.
10/- rosine violet and blue.

New Zealand. Mr. Leon has very kindly shown us a used copy of the 4d. pictorial, watermarked, with compound perfs. Our informant was fortunate enough to purchase this stamp for a few pence, and we congratulate him on his good fortune.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly chronicles the £1 rose postal fiscal, overprinted "Official." There is, and can be, no earthly use for this absurdity.

Adhesive. Perf. 11×14 , wmkd. N.Z. and Star.
4d. brown and blue.

Official Stamp. Postal Fiscal overprinted in black.
£1 rose.

Ewen's Weekly Stamp News chronicles the current 6d. stamp perforated $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

Adhesive. Perf. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.
6d. rose.

Nyasaland Protectorate. Specimen stamps, of the set we chronicled in the May number of this Journal, have already made their appearance on the Continent.

South Australia. The *Philatelic Adviser* chronicles the 10d. stamp on Crown and A paper. The colour is described as orange, but should it not be buff?

Adhesive. Wmk. Crown and A. P. 12.
10d. orange-buff.

Tasmania. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the 6d. pictorial on Crown and A paper.

Adhesive. Wmk. Crown and A. Perf. 11.
6d. rose-red.

The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles the 1d. (a pair) pictorial, Crown and A paper, imperf. all round.

Zanzibar. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the lower values of the new 3c. to 200r. set.

Adhesives. Wmk. Rosettes, perf. 14.
3c. yellow-green.
6c. rose.

12c. violet.
15c. ultramarine.
25c. brown.
50c. green.
1r. yellow-green.
2r. violet.
3r. yellow-brown.
4r. carmine.
5r. blue.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Chili. We have received from a correspondent in Santiago de Chili blocks of the 12c. and 30c. stamps of the 1905-7 issue. Our informant tells us that he procured these stamps through the kindness of a friend in the Ministry, and that the 30c. stamp will not be put on sale for another two months, while the 12c. stamp will not be procurable until early in 1910. The Chilian Government has evidently a big supply of the surcharged 12c. Telegraph stamps on hand. In *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* we find the 30c. stamp of 1900-1 with surcharge chronicled with double surcharge, one inverted; also the 5c. red Telegraph stamp with double surcharge.

Adhesives. Double surcharge, one inverted.
1903. 10c. on 30c. orange red.
Double surcharge.
1904. (Type II.) 5c. red.

France. The *Monthly Journal* for May contains some most interesting information concerning the big Journal stamps of 1868. We take the liberty of culling the following:

It is probable that few of our readers, except perhaps those who specialize in the stamps of France, are aware of the fact that the large Newspaper stamps of 1868 were printed in sheets of 101, which were sold at the price of 100 stamps, the publishers being allowed one per cent. for spoilage. The sheets were in ten rows of ten, with the extra stamp at the bottom of the sheet, but the actual position of this stamp appears to have been forgotten at the present day, and indeed it seems to have varied in different plates.

In the April number of *Le Journal des Philatélistes*, there is a short article upon this question, with illustrations of two square blocks of the 2c. stamps, each showing three stamps and a blank space; one is imperforate and shows the space at the right of the stamp in the lower row, the other is perforated and shows the space to the left of the stamp; and the writer of the article suggests that all the unperforated sheets had the odd stamp at the left-hand end of the row, and all the perforated sheets had it at the right-hand end. The theory is not a very probable one, the spacing of the stamps is practically the same in both instances, so that there is no apparent reason why one setting should be used for the perforated and the other for the imperforate; and, in the absence of sufficient margins to prove that these were corner blocks (no such margins being shown in the illustrations), we

were inclined to suggest that the odd stamp might have been in the centre of the bottom row, and that both blocks might have been produced by the same plate.

However, on looking up the history of these stamps, we find that a description of one of the sheets is given in *The Stamp Collector's Magazine* for June, 1869, as follows:—

"A peculiarity worth noting about the new journal stamps is, that they are sold in sheets of 101. These sheets are made up of ten rows of ten, and an eleventh row on which is one stamp and nine blank perforated spaces; the hundred-and-first stamp occupies the left corner of this row."

This, therefore, was a *perforated* sheet corresponding with the *imperforated* block illustrated in *Le J. des Ph.* and there were plainly other sheets in which the stamp was at the *right* lower corner, and which may also have existed both perforated and imperforate. If the stamps were printed in double sheets, two panes of 101 side by side, as may very likely have been the case, it is extremely probable that the extra stamps were in the middle of the bottom row of the double sheet, at the right lower corner of the left-hand pane, and the left lower corner of the right-hand pane, so that the two clichés would give one another some support in the press.

French Post Offices in China. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles the 1907 set of Indo China stamps, overprinted with a new surcharge for each of the seven towns. This makes another 110 standard varieties! to say nothing of the errors that are bound to turn up.

Adhesives. Indo China stamps, overprinted Canton, with Chinese characters.
1c. sepia.
2c. brown.
4c. blue.
5c. pale green.
10c. scarlet.
15c. violet.
20c. violet.
25c. blue.
30c. chocolate.
35c. olive-green.
40c. brown.
50c. carmine.
75c. orange.
1fr. lake.
2fr. green.
5fr. blue.
10fr. violet.

Hoi-hao. As above.
Kouang Tcheow. Ditto.
Mungtaeu. Ditto.
Packhoi. Ditto.
Tchong King. All except the 2f. and 10f.
Yunnan Fou. Same as Canton.

In *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* they have the moral courage to omit formally chronicling the 50c. value in each set. Why? Personally, we like this stamp just as little as any of the crew. For real niceness, we fancy the 2f. and 10f. Tchong King's.

Japan. *Post Offices in Corea.* *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles the recently issued 6 sen Japanese overprinted for use in Corea.

Adhesive. Overprinted in black.
6 sen marone.

Paraguay. The *Philatelic Record* chronicles five of the Official stamps of 1904, overprinted

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CENTAVOS

Namely, the 5c. pale blue, 30c. grey-blue, 60c. chocolate, 10c. bistre, 30c. bright blue. The *London Philatelist* chronicles the same surcharge on the following stamps—30c. lilac of 1904, and the 10c. bistre, 30c. slate-blue, 30c. blue-green, 60c. red-brown, 60c. dark brown Official stamps. Hopeless trying to chronicle them, isn't it?

Persia. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles three more high values of the current set.

Adhesives.

10kr. pink.
20kr. black.
30kr. blackish-purple.

Peru. Mr. J. W. Jones has shown us the two centavos on 12c. of 1907 with a very clear double surcharge.

Roumania. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles a new issue for this country describing the stamps as follows:—"The whole issue, with the exception of the 15 bani, is said to be of the same design; the chief feature is a portrait of the head and shoulders of King Charles looking three-quarters-face to the left. The name of the country, Roumania, appears below in large capitals, and the value in figures in the lower left hand corner. The 15 bani is much the same, but the medallion head is larger."

Adhesives. Perf. 11½ or 13½ or compound.
5 bani emerald.
10 .. rose red.
15 .. violet.
25 .. deep blue.
50 .. orange.

These stamps seem to form part of the new sets we listed last December.

Siam. In the *Postage Stamp* we find the following: "Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us no less than five novelties from this country. The 2a. and 3a. have exchanged colours, the former now being in green and the latter in violet and grey. The 4a. appears in carmine and rose, so that the colour of the 5a. will doubtless have to be changed to prevent confusion, and two new values—9a. and 18a.—have been added to the set. These latter will probably displace the 12a. and 24a. altogether for they are printed in the colours of those values. These changes are apparently due to an increase in the value of the tical for 2a., 4a. and 9a. represent the ¼d., 1d. and 2¼d. postal rates now instead of 3a., 5a. and 12a. as formerly. The designs are exactly the same as before.

Adhesives. New colours.

2a. green.
3a. violet and grey.
4a. carmine and rose.

New values.

9a. blue and pale blue.
18a. deep and pale red-brown.

Uruguay. Mr. A. H. Davis, writing from Montevideo, kindly informs us that the Post Office has issued for sale to the public a new 20 cent stamp exactly similar to the 20c. of 1900. The 20c. stamp of 1904/5 issue will be withdrawn and demonetized on 22nd August next.

Wurtemberg. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles the 50pf. official stamp on water-marked paper.

Official adhesive. Wmk. Crosses and Circles.
50pf. deep marone.

Death of M. Paul Mirabaud.

PHILATELY loses one of its most eminent devotees by the death of Monsieur Paul Barthélemy Mirabaud, of Paris, on May 12th, after a short illness. As joint author, with Baron A. de Reuterskiöld, of the magnificent work on the stamps of Switzerland, M. Mirabaud is well-known to collectors; and that work will always stand as a monument to his philatelic thoroughness and industry.

Born in 1848, M. Mirabaud began to collect at the age of twelve, viz., in 1860, and, being the son of affluent parents, was able to form a very good collection for a school boy, including many stamps then current in mint condition. Among others, he himself bought a set of the Bergeudorf stamps at the post office of that town. That collection was sold for a trifle and it was not until 1887 that philately captured him once more, when, through interesting his son in stamp collecting, he was himself drawn in. From that time M. Mirabaud gradually developed into one of the most prominent collectors in France. He paid special attention to the stamps of France and Switzerland, of each of which he formed an almost matchless collection. The latter was exhibited at the Paris Exhibition in 1900 and we well remember the enormous interest it aroused, for, at that time, nothing approaching it had been seen before.

M. Mirabaud, however, continued to collect all countries, but postage stamps only, no postage dues, telegraphs, fiscals or stationery being included.

It was not only in philately that M. Mirabaud made his mark, and his position in the world of finance may easily be gathered from a mere recital of the positions he held, of which the following were the most important: Régent of the Bank of France, Director of the Suez Canal Company, and Director of the Paris and Orleans Railway.

Penny Postage to the United States.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

AN exceedingly welcome surprise was sprung upon the House of Commons by the Postmaster-General yesterday afternoon. In reply to a question put by Sir William Holland, Mr. Buxton said that on Oct. 1 penny postage would be established between Great Britain and the United States. The announcement was greeted with cheers from all quarters of a full House, which were renewed when the speaker went on to express his confident belief that this reduction of postal rates would strengthen the mutual good relations now happily existing between the two countries. Mr. Buxton will be heartily congratulated on the successful issue of negotiations, first begun many years ago, though often interrupted. The reduction of the postal rate to a penny an ounce, instead of 2½d. throughout the scale, will be equally welcome to the commercial world and to private correspondents.

—Daily Telegraph.



June, 1908, Report.

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MEMBERSHIP.

Candidates for admission must be over 18 years of age, and supply at least two satisfactory references. They will then be proposed

for election, and if no objection be lodged within fourteen days, be duly elected. The Entrance Fee, 2/6, and Subscription, 5/., should accompany the application, and will be refunded in the event of the non-election of the applicant. (The Committee are empowered to elect Life Members, not exceeding ten in number, at a fee of Two Guineas.)

NOTICES.

Subscriptions and donations to Forgery Collection will gladly received and acknowledged by the Hon. Sec., who will also be glad to hear from members willing to give displays or papers during next season.

W. King, Hon. Librarian, will be pleased to acknowledge any donations to the Library, or to reply to any queries concerning the same.

The Exchange packets will not be circulated during July and August, but will be resumed in September, when Dr. Marx will be glad to hear from all the members interested.

Appended is the Annual Balance Sheet for the year 1907.

RECEIPTS.

		£	s.	d.
1907.				
Jan. 1st.—	To Balance in hand	1	19	9
Jan.—Dec.—	„ Subscriptions and Entrance Fees	24	5	0
		£26	4	9

EXPENDITURE.

		£	s.	d.
1907.				
Jan.—Dec.—	Official Organ, 12 months	10	19	2
	Rent, Essex Hall	2	0	0
	Hall Keeper, Essex Hall	0	5	0
	Printing and Stationery	2	0	6
	Postages, Hon. Sec.	1	18	0
	Clerical Assistance, Hon. Sec.	4	4	0
	Smoking Concert	3	3	0
		£24	9	8
	Balance to 1908	1	15	1
		£26	4	9

Examined and compared with vouchers and found correct,

P. P. BROWN, }
F. F. LAMB, } Auditors.

THOS. H. HINTON,

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Int. Phil. Union,
26, Cromford Road, East Putney, S.W.

June 15th, 1908.

The Stamp Trade Protection Association.

AMONG the advertisements in this number will be found some particulars regarding this Society, whose usefulness is not, we fear, as fully understood by dealers and collectors as

it might be. A perusal of the advertisement will show what these benefits are. Though the objects of the Association are mainly in the interest of dealers, collectors should also give it their hearty support, for its efforts in tracking forgers and their work are in the interest of everybody connected with stamps.

Their success in the case of Harold Trehearne is too recent to require bringing to the minds of our readers. The energy of the S.T.P.A. in that case has been fully appreciated. Members and others can assist the cause by sending particulars of new forgeries whenever possible, but unfortunately too many people think their duty to the Association is ended when they have paid their subscriptions, and they neither assist the Secretary in his work nor make use of him in any of the ways in which he *can* be useful to a member.

In quite another category are the people who ply the Secretary with frivolous questions or trouble him with complaints, which they are unable to substantiate, against their trade rivals. Quite recently the Directors have been put to a great deal of trouble by the discovery, on the banks of the Thames, of what is likely to prove one of the finest mare's nests known to unnatural history. This class of person must be a source of constant trouble to Mr. J. S. Telfer, who so ably fills the post of secretary.

There are, unhappily, still some deft-fingered gentlemen at work in the preparation of forged stamps, and it is to be hoped that the S.T.P.A. will be able to bring these gentlemen to book, but the Brighton case proved this to be a difficult and costly job. For this reason it is to be hoped that the forces and finances of the S.T.P.A. will be strengthened by an accession of new members; no dealer or, for that matter, no collector with any considerable stake in philately, should delay making his application for membership.

Numbered Cancellations on Early West Australians.

The usual postmark to be found on the early stamps of Western Australia consists of a numeral or numerals in a circle, surrounded by bars, the whole forming a handsome and effective cancellation. This postmark is usually in black, but not infrequently is to be found in blue, and sometimes red ink. I have in my collection all numbers from 1 to 20, with the exception of 9 and 19; the former number being hard to distinguish from an inverted six, may possibly not exist, on the other hand it may be fairly common.

From the specimens I have there is little doubt that certain numbers are very considerably rarer than others. Nos. 1 and 8 being in

my experience the commonest. Several of the numbers are very rare, which is easily accounted for by their having been used in some "way-back" township.

West Australians, like early Queenslanders, are excessively hard to procure on entires, consequently it is very difficult to allot the numbers to their towns. I have in my collection only a few entires, all bearing CC 12½; and 13 no wmk. stamps, from which I can place the two following towns:—

No. 17.—Australind.

No. 18.—Bunbury.

Curiously enough one of these—No. 17—is perhaps the scarcest of the whole series.

Any readers of the *P. & G. B.* who may happen to have any old W.A. entires, bearing numbered cancellations, would confer a great favour by letting me have particulars. I want to place all the numbers if possible—also to know what the numbers actually are.

A somewhat similar postmark was used at Perth (possibly elsewhere) for many years; it is like the numbered cancellation, with the exception that "G.P.O." is substituted for the numeral. I have this postmark on stamps as early as the clean cuts of 1861, but whether it superseded the earlier type or was used concurrently I am unable to say.

The British Guiana 2c. of 1889.

PROBABLY several readers have wondered why most of the 2 cents stamps of British Guiana of the 1888-9 issue are found with an additional overprint of "2" in red. The second figure certainly seems redundant and superfluous, but "thereby hangs a tale."

In 1888 the Colony required stamps that could be used for both postal and fiscal purposes, and Messrs. De La Rue & Co., Ltd., made a provisional supply of all values by printing from the plate of 1876 and surcharging the stamps "INLAND REVENUE" and the particular value required. A set of 15 different values was produced in this way, the "cents" being printed in lilac and the dollar denominations in green. Both 2c. and 7c. were included in the series, and the printers seem to have overlooked the fact that, being printed in the same colour, it would be a comparatively easy matter for any one wishing to defraud to print a "7" before the "2," and thus convert a 2c. into a 7c. stamp! No record of any one having actually defrauded the revenue in this way exists, but the local authorities soon realised that it was possible, and the remaining stock of 2c. stamps was thereupon ordered to be further surcharged with a large "2" in red.—*West End Philatelist.*

Current Chatter.

BY ANGUS MCTAVISH.

Part I.—Sir Joseph Ward appoints Lieut. Shackleton Postmaster of King Edward's VII. Land. Shackleton, or some other person, with 'Arry's love of defacing something, from a tree to a postage stamp, has them over-printed King Edward's VII. Land.

Part II.—Messrs. Plumridge & Co. sell a used strip of three of the extremely scarce and interesting New Zealand stamps over-printed King Edward's VII. Land.

Part III.—The lucky purchaser writes out a cheque for 32/-, or ten and eightpence per stamp.

Part IV.—McTavish taken to Colney Hatch.

Hardly have I digested *The Stamp Lover*, when I hear rumours of a new monthly to be launched in a few months time, to be called the *Philatelic World*. The *P.W.* is to be the paper, don't you know, all about stamps and that sort of thing. Well, well, there is yet a little room to squeeze in a new paper, not much of course, unless the *P.W.* is a real tip-topper, and then there is heaps of room—on top.

Who said that the craze for collecting "Used Abroads" was a nineteenth century fad? Not a bit of it. Read the following hoary old extract and then ponder over other so-called new discoveries and fancies.

"ADDENDA TO MOUNT BROWN'S CATALOGUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS."

BY C. W. VINER.

Malta.—Some collectors introduce into their albums the sixpenny and others of our stamps impressed with the word Malta, as denoting their employment for postal purposes in that island.—*Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, June, 1863.

Have you been to the Franco-British yet? If not, go at once, and, amongst other exhibits, inspect that of Messrs. Waterlow & Sons. They have quite a number of proofs of stamps and entires on view.

Doubtless, many of my readers are expert pedestrians, those that are may welcome a new walk. Take train from Charing Cross to Gomshall (the 2.12 by preference) and then walk to Holmwood *via* Leith Hill. Now that the weather is behaving a little decently, I have twice made the above trip. Leaving London by the 2.12 enables one to arrive at Gomshall just before 4 p.m. The "Abinger Arms," in the quaint village of Abinger Hammer, will provide refreshment, fortifying the inner man for a six mile walk through Abinger Hatch and Abinger Common to Leith Hill. The glories of Leith Hill are too well known to need describing, so after an hour or so's rest, there will be plenty of time to drop down into the valley and catch the 10.2 home from Holmwood Station.

I can strongly recommend the above saunter; it is guaranteed to make even a pro-Cayman Isle enthusiast feel quite rational.

Last month, a well known collector of New Zealand's gave me, to look through, a book of stamps he had received from a certain provincial dealer, a dealer who, judging from his advertisements, would be one in whom you could place a certain amount of confidence. The two first stamps, namely, two 2d. blues, London print, were in their right places; at least one of them was, the other was a 2d. of 1862, not a bad copy, but priced at about nine times over full catalogue was a trifle dear (curiously enough there wasn't a single London print amongst the 1862 stamps).

The pictorials of 1898 to date were a lovely lot, especially the 2/- and 5/- values, all of which had been fiscally used and cleaned, some of the former value bearing postmarks dated nearly two years before the stamps were issued, what would you? After all, what is a postmark, and *why* shouldn't a cleaned stamp be just as nice as a postally used one? The postal fiscals, represented, if I remember rightly, by sixteen stamps, were a choice little lot, *one* was postally used, *one* I put on trial and returned the verdict of "not proven," while the other *fourteen* were found guilty of being *badly* cleaned fiscals with bogus postmarks. Personally, I consider that that approval book should have been sent to the S.T.P.A., as that excellent Association is equally for the protection of collectors, as well as dealers' interests.

I am not particularly interested in Philatelic Literature, but after perusing the editorial in the May number of the *Stamp Collector*, I am all agog with excitement. The collecting of philatelic literature must be a perfectly sweet hobby to draw such a lovely effusion.

The rumour that President Fallieres has made Senior Don Jam Wetherell, Bhdr. I.P.U., etc., etc., a member of the Legion of Honour is unfortunately greatly exaggerated, but he deserves it all the same. I derived so much pleasure from the May No. of the *Philatelic Adviser*, wherein will be found a real bonzer of an article on Cuba, that I hereby create him a Maharajah, and henceforth desire that he shall be known as the Maharajah of Mysore. I have spoken.

A young acquaintance of mine asked me the other day to give him a list of countries that were fairly free from commemorative and speculative stamps, to enable him to go thro' it and choose out half-a-dozen or so to specialize in. I think the following short list should prove as good as any: Argentine, Chili, Bulgaria, Denmark, Egypt, Holland, Norway, Sweden, Uruguay, Russia, Switzerland and France, for the foreigners, and nearly all British Colonials issued prior to 1890. The mistake many collectors make, in my opinion, is that they think they must collect everything as issued in their particular country or countries.

My plan is to only collect those issues that I consider interesting; selfish perhaps, but then I don't believe in collecting simply to win gold medals at stamp shows.

Postmarked to Order.

BELOW will be found a short list of British stamps, all of which I have seen in panes or sheets, postmarked to order. These stamps have either been cancelled by Government officials, on their own behalf, or by some obliging postal clerk on behalf of some private speculator.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.—1897, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. green.
1897-8, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. vermilion.
1901, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. blue-green.

BRITISH GUIANA.—1890, surcharged issue.
CANADA.—Postage Dues.

COOK ISLANDS.—Various issues.

GRENADA.—1898, Commemorative.

LABUAN & NORTH BORNEO.—Various issues.

ST. HELENA.—Government remainders.

ZANZIBAR.—1898 issue.

The above list is doubtless very incomplete, and I should like to have particulars of other "Postmarked to order" British stamps.

My list, needless to say from its brevity, does not include all the postmarked to order stamps that I have seen. Practically every colony can show examples of this malpractice. For example certain issues of N.S.W. and Victoria, which were postmarked to order and sold over the Post Office counter.

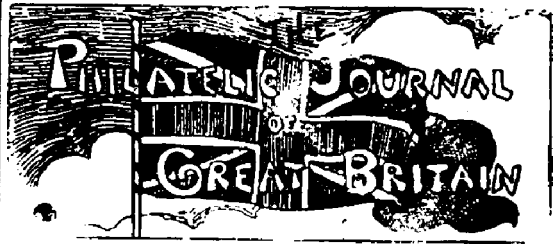
There are also dozens of instances of stamps worth a few pence unused being fairly scarce used, consequently whole sheets have been sent out to their respective countries, and through the courtesy of some obliging postal employee have been postmarked. These sheets are however invariably broken up on their return, consequently it is impossible to distinguish single copies from those stamps that have done genuine duty.

Besides the above type of cancellations there is the entirely bogus one found on stamps of the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island cents issue class of stamps; needless to say sheets of these, even granted that they are postmarked *en bloc* are always broken up.

Almost belonging to the "postmarked to order" abominations are those stamps—usually King's Head high values, that one so frequently sees on envelopes that have gone through the post—merely to be postmarked.

I have seen whole sets of the West Indian pictorials,—Papuas and so on, used on registered ounce letters!

The collector who cheerfully benefits some petty little Island Treasury to the extent of twelve or so shillings every time a new issue of unnecessary stamps comes out is indeed an Imperialist!



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Publishers' Note.

SEVERAL of our readers have recently complained that the *P.J.G.B.* does not reach them until a week, or even longer, after the date of publication. The *P.J.G.B.* is published on the 20th of each month, and all postal subscribers' copies are posted from Bournemouth on that date. Exchange copies, renewals and free list copies are, as a rule, sent out from 84, High Holborn on the 21st or 22nd, so we cannot understand how it is that any of our English readers should not get their journal until the 27th or later—the only likely explanation being that the delayed papers are ordered through a bookseller and not delivered by him as promptly as they should be.



JUNE 20, 1908.

Philately at Home.

The *London Philatelist* for May contains a capital article on the 1882-3 issues of Argentine, being a paper read before the Royal Philatelic Society by Mr. T. W. Hall, on May 7th last. This issue of stamps consists of only three values, namely—the $\frac{1}{2}$ c., 1c. and 12c. denominations. Mr. Hall is so well known as being one of our best known and most painstaking philatelists, that we are sure our readers will greatly appreciate the following extracts:—

12C. PRUSSIAN BLUE.

I noted several minute but none the less striking differences in the stamps. For instance—

Variety A. There is a diagonal line across the "ICA" of "REPUBLICA."

Variety B. The vertical line on the right side of the figure "1" is prolonged too high, and appears over the top of the figure. There appear to be two varieties of this slip—one more accentuated than the other.

Variety C. The semi-circular lines forming the face of the Sun vary greatly, and are either parallel or irregular, or even coalesce on the left-hand side.

Other slight variations are discernible, such as the Phrygian Cap on the left, the lines of shading in which do not always exactly correspond.

In addition, I show one copy with a large blue scratch right across the envelope, but this is evidently an accidental scratch on the plate itself foreign to the process of manufacture.

All these, though unimportant of themselves, appeared difficult to reconcile with the products from an engraved die, and from the look of the stamps themselves the work appears too fine to be produced either by lithography or surface printing, although, as I have stated, they do not show anything like such fine work as the latter engraved series of 1884.

The 12c. was, it appears, produced by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., and Mr. Hall gives the following particulars.

THE ENGRAVED PLATE.

In the first instance, a large design eight times the size of the issued stamp was engraved by hand on a zinc plate in negative, and then deeply bitten in by acid; a second covering plate was also engraved in zinc similar in design, and of course also in negative, to carry parts of the background and shading. This large design was then mechanically reproduced by means of a pantograph, which is an instrument for mechanically tracing a figure similar to a given figure, but enlarged or diminished in a definite ratio. The

principle of the pantograph is very ancient; indeed, it is supposed that the ancient Egyptians used an instrument acting on similar principles to trace out the ornamentation on their sarcophagi. The pantograph usually consists of four rods forming a jointed parallelogram with sides continued to convenient distances beyond the joints.

Mr. Hall goes on to further describe the working of the pantograph, which we, owing to lack of space reluctantly omit. Later on we find—

The pantograph used by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson was one of their own invention, which by means of ten diamond pointers simultaneously produced at one operation a strip of ten reproductions of the zinc design before mentioned, all reduced to the proper postage stamp size.

This operation was repeated ten times, a vertical row of the sheet being made by each operation.

Mr. Hall gives a lot more instructive and interesting information, all our readers interested in Argentine stamps should invest in a copy of the *May L. P.*

The rest of the *London Philatelist* is filled with the usual monthly features.

The *Monthly Journal* for May contains, as usual, a good deal of interesting matter. Mons. L. Hanciau contributes a further instalment of his lengthy article entitled: "The Postal Issues of Italy and the Italian Colonies." The current paper deals mostly with the correspondence that took place resultant of the discovery of forged stamps of the 1861 issue (Neapolitan Provinces). The following short Govt. extract, concerning the withdrawal of the Neapolitan stamps may interest our readers.

"Turin, August, 1862.

"From the 1st October, postage stamps bearing the value in Neapolitan currency (grana and tornese) will no longer be available for the prepayment of postage on letters and printed matter, and stamps, having the value printed in lire and centesimi will be introduced into the Neapolitan Provinces, as in all the other provinces of the Kingdom.

"All post offices within the districts of Bari, Chiete, Cosenza, and Naples are authorized to effect the exchange of the grana and tornese stamps for those in lire and centesimi, according to the following table:—

Stamps of $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese	for those of	1 centesimo.
.. $\frac{1}{2}$ grano	.. ..	2 centesimi.

Stamps of 1 grana for those of 5 centesimi.				
" 2 grana	"	"	10	"
" 5 "	"	"	20	"
" 10 "	"	"	40	"
" 20 "	"	"	80	"

"The 50 grana stamps will be exchanged for other values, that is to say, for ten 20 centesimi, or five 40 centesimi.

"Stamps will be exchanged from the 15th September until the 15th October.

"The district authorities will supply each office with a sufficient number of stamps, and will furnish all the information upon this subject for which they may be asked. During the period in question a notice will be displayed at the sale window of each post office.

"After the 15th October, grana and tornese stamps found on postal matter will be considered of no value, and such correspondence will be charged as unpaid.

"G. BARBAVARA,
"Director-General of Posts."

Mr. B. W. H. Poole completes his article on the Postage Stamps of St. Helena. Unfortunately, or perhaps we should say very fortunately, St. Helena stamps are not likely to appeal to many collectors, they are labels that the philatelic world could well have done without. Mons. L. Hanciau contributes more of his interesting reminiscences, or rather his "Old-Time Memories," while the usual capital New Issue List and Editorial Notes complete an excellent number of our contemporary.

The *Philatelic Adviser* for May is a capital number, containing some good articles of real philatelic value. The editor, Mr. Wetherell, continues his capital article on the 1870 issue of Spain, and also contributes an excellent paper on the $\frac{1}{2}$ -Rl. Plata stamp of Cuba, 1857. A perusal of this latter article proves, if indeed proof were necessary, how thorough and painstaking a philatelist Mr. Wetherell is. Starting with about 4,000 of the unwatermarked $\frac{1}{2}$ -real Plata stamps, Mr. Wetherell has, from their study, made some very interesting discoveries. We make a few extracts from his paper to show his methods of investigations, then we extract the whole of his results.

In these days, when the Great Moghuls have absorbed the "desirables" to such an extent that prices are for ever rising, and another class of collector rushes for a Cayman overprint, or waxes enthusiastic over "multiples," "chalkies," "raised stops," etc., it is refreshing to turn to a stamp whose interest depends, not on matters more or less outside itself, but to those points so dear to the heart of the student, such as difference of setting, retouches, constancy of flaws, etc.

The stamp in question in its ordinary condition is of no monetary value, it has always been quoted at 1d. in all standard catalogues, both used and unused, it is therefore "within the reach of all," and I can honestly say that this is the most interesting stamp

known to me, and I can "thoroughly recommend" it to collectors in search of a really interesting stamp, which is still procurable in quantities at an extremely low price.

When a collector wishes to study a particular stamp in its many varieties, he has three sources of information open to him as a rule:—

1. Official information.
2. Works of reference.
3. Information obtainable from the stamps themselves.

In this particular case we must dispense with the first two sources, as they do not exist; and everything which we have to learn must be sought for from the stamps themselves.

For the purposes of this article I obtained from various sources about 4,000 of the $\frac{1}{2}$ -real Plata stamps, unwatermarked; there they lay in a great heap—blues and greens and slates, greenish blues and bluish greys, greyish greens and greenish slates—on thick and thin and medium, on hard and soft, opaque and transparent, cartridge and pelure, thick prints and thin prints, clear prints and blurred prints, normal prints and flawed prints, singles, pairs and blocks, genuine stamps and forgeries, used and unused—the most heterogeneous mass imaginable, and nothing to act as a guide except certain pre-conceived ideas, every one of which was afterwards proved to have been hopelessly wrong.

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY.

1. The design for this stamp (and for the six other values of Spain and Cuba, 1855-1860) was engraved by Varrela in 1854.

2. There was only one original die for the whole series of Spain and Cuba, 1855-1860, and one secondary die for each value; therefore there can be only one genuine type of this stamp.

3. A very large number of separate movable clichés were prepared from the value die $\frac{1}{2}$ -real Plata.

4. Two hundred of these moveable clichés were set up and wedged in a frame; they were so arranged that when the stamps were printed the sheets thereof consisted of ten rows of twenty.

5. The arrangement of these clichés was altered from time to time in consequence of the elimination of certain defective clichés, and their substitution by others, and also in consequence of a general clean up of all the separate clichés, and perhaps to evenly distribute the wear. Whatever may be the reason, the fact remains—that there were several deficient settings and several deficient printings taken from each setting, and that all settings later than the first show "new clichés" which can be recognised with ease.

6. In some cases, exactly the same clichés were used for a second printing. At other times, however, certain damaged clichés were taken out, and new ones substituted. Therefore, although there are only 200 stamps on a sheet, there are more than 200 varieties distinguishable by the minute flaws and blemishes, which have been caused by careless treatment of the clichés, or to accidents while printing.

7. Specimens from new clichés can be distinguished in all printings in which they occur.

8. The stamps themselves vary greatly in appearance; some show every line of the original engraving as clearly as possible, others have the appearance of prints from much-worn clichés. When various printings are examined, it is found, however, that actual worn clichés do not exist, the very latest printings being even clearer than the first.

9. The worn appearance is, therefore, due to the lightness of the impression, and not to the loss of the fine lines of the design, and the light prints were made, as otherwise the impressions would be extremely indistinct, the clichés being very dirty.

10. The clearness of the latest printings is not due, as might easily be supposed, to deepening of the lines

in the clichés, for that would necessitate hand-work on at least 200, and variations would be found, which is not the case, the only variation being the difference between the old and the new clichés. What really took place was a thorough cleaning of all the clichés, so that very much heavier prints, showing all the fine lines, could be taken, whereas if heavy prints had been taken from dirty plates, the result would have been a more unsightly smudge than is sometimes the case.

11. Certain flaws, particularly the lack of one or more frame lines, occur in the latest printings only.

12. As over 99 per cent. of used specimens do not bear dated postmarks, it is a matter of some difficulty to correctly list the order of the printings, although the classification of the stamps into different periods is quite easy.

13. Fortunately, there are other guides to help; if, for instance, a certain flaw is found to run across two stamps, side by side, and on another setting it is found that the same two stamps occupy totally different relative positions, it is clear that the former is an earlier setting, and printings therefrom necessarily ante-date the other. Again, a stamp may show two or three flaws constant for several printings, another flaw on the stamp may manifest itself later, consequently all prints showing the extra flaw *must* be later. By these methods, and by the few dated postmarks, and by other pieces of internal evidence, it is possible to arrange the printings in an order which is at least probably correct; the only doubt I have concerns the relative order of some of the early printings among themselves, the absence of large blocks making the identification by flaws a difficult matter.

14. There are at least nine different forgeries which have deceived the postal authorities.

The usual features of the *P.A.* are all very good, notably the Topicalities page, wherein Tancred displays capabilities which in the time of the Richards would have ensured his getting a baronetage and a few counties of land, provided of course he was billed as Court Jester.

The *Monthly Report* of the Herts Philatelic Society for May contains a continuation of Mr. Yardley's admirable paper, entitled, "Collectable Varieties and Curiosities." Few philatelists are so at home with the subjects of perforations and perforating machines (or indeed any other matter pertaining to philately), that an extract will be appreciated by our readers.

Returning to the subject of compound perforations, I may say that to constitute a true compound, the stamp must have been perforated by one machine on one or more sides, and by a different machine on the same or the other sides of the stamps. I have always referred to certain examples in the stamps of Barbados, St. Vincent and Turks Island, produced by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. Again, some of the sheets of the narrow Halfpenny stamp of South Australia, of 1891, were perforated by a comb machine gauging 10 on each of the three sides of each compartment, but constructed for stamps of double the size, the spaces between each pair of the stamps being subsequently perforated by a single line machine—gauging partly 11½ and partly 12½. In this way we find these Halfpenny stamps perforated 10 at the top and bottom and on one of the sides, and 11½ or 12½ on the other side. While on the subject of compound perforation I may refer to an interesting case of

compound perforations occurring on some of the recent stamps of Tasmania. These stamps are printed and perforated in Melbourne by one or two of the single line machines, gauging 11 and 12½ respectively; but in some instances whole lines appear to have been left unperforated. The Hobart authorities, on discovering these defects, have evidently perforated the unperforated lines with their old local machine (gauging about 12), thus producing a true compound of the Melbourne 12½ or 11 gauges with the Hobart gauge 12. Somewhat similar cases may be found in which three sides of the stamp have the perforations produced by one single line machine, while the remaining side has the perforations of another distinct single line machine used in the same printing establishment; in these, of course, one or more lines have been left unperforated accidentally, and the defect has been rectified in the same establishment, but by using a different machine. Examples will be found in the Queensland issues of 1868 to 1879.

One of these days we hope to persuade Mr. Yardley to contribute a few notes to this paper, as extracts, although muchly appreciated, do not do their author full justice.

Mr. Percy Ashley contributes a paper, entitled "The Stamps of Spain," being an extract from the paper read before the H.P.S. on April 14th. The article is purely historical and extremely interesting, giving as it does the national history of Spain, contemporaneous with the stamp issues.

We shall very much miss the *Monthly Report* during the summer months, and sincerely hope that next October we shall be able to welcome No. 9.

The *Philatelic Record* for May, although not wildly exciting, is a very readable journal. Mr. G. B. Duerst contributes a further short instalment of his paper on Moroccan Locals, while Mr. B. T. R. Smith concludes his interesting article entitled, "The Earliest Catalogues of Postage Stamps." The well known philatelist is Mr. Francis Ransom, who curiously enough was the *P.J.G.B.* notable philatelist for last month, in fact we were only nine days ahead of our Manchester contemporary in publishing Mr. Ransom's biography.

Some editorial notes, a capital budget of notes and news and a new issue list complete the May No. of the *P.R.*

In *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* for June 6th we find the conclusion of D.C.G.'s article, entitled "On Postmarks." This paper, or series of notes, has proved most interesting reading, and, from a careful perusal, we have little hesitation in saying that D.C.G. (who, by the bye, is, we believe, a

F.R.P.S.) holds remarkably sound philatelic tenets. We cull a few brief extracts from his concluding remarks.

It will at once be seen that most of the postmarks which present points of interest are found only on the earlier stamps, the obliterations of all more recent issues being, as a rule, merely circular postmarks with the town name and date. This only helps to bear out the view held by most collectors of any experience, that it is the older issues which are of real philatelic interest as opposed to those of more recent date.

It is becoming more and more difficult to form a collection on original lines, and in endeavouring to do so, the question of the postmarks of a country would seem to merit consideration.

It has in the past, perhaps, been rather the fashion to sneer at the collection of postmark varieties; but it is at least questionable whether in many cases the interest attaching to the obliterations which occur on many stamps is not very considerable as throwing light on the early postal history of many countries.

We rather fancy that the collectors who sneer at postmarks have yet to learn what the meaning of philately is. It is certainly true that certain dealers discountenance the collection of postmarks mainly because they prefer a collector to a philatelist, in other words the buyer who buys to fill up his blank spaces is a more profitable customer than the man who hunts through the dealers' books in search of a scarce postmark variety, usually to be found on an otherwise common stamp.

Curiously enough in the *Postage Stamp* for June 6th, Mr. Nankivell writes as follows *apropos* postmarks.

The ideal and highest grade specialist collection is that which includes both unused and used. Considerations of expense grades collecting from this high level down to a choice between unused and used. The man who wants to collect freely but must make investment a consideration wisely takes unused, the man who cannot afford unused, or whose interest is solely philatelic, goes in for used.

Though I am a devotee of unused I have no hesitation in admitting that used stamps are more often than not of really more true philatelic interest.

We have taken the liberty of italicizing a portion of the above extract, as by so doing, we condense and emphazise one of the commandments of philately.

Several other numbers of both *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* and *The Postage Stamp* are before us, all of which contain something of interest. The former paper however, sometimes contains articles that are not always of particular interest, excellent as they may be from an anatomical, or avian point of view. We refer to the papers on "Postage stamps bearing portraits of cream coloured cockatoos," and "Postage

stamps bearing portraits of Kings and Queens who only wear monocles."

In the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* for May 16th we find an admirable suggestion, namely, that there should be a National Association of British Philatelists. Mr. Percy C. Bishop rightly maintains that there is plenty of room for such a Society—a fact which all philatelists (a title which, by the by, Mr. Bishop does not like) will endorse. We too should dearly like to see a National Association, and agree with the writer that the R.P.S., although an admirable Society, is never likely, as long as dealers (usually keen *philatelists*) are excluded and the subscription remains so high, to be a National Society. What is wanted, is that twenty or so collectors—all of whom are ready to work—should meet and discuss a workable plan. We feel sure that before many hours were passed, provided a certain amount of capital was forthcoming, we should have a British Association. Once formed, with an annual subscription of half-a-guinea, to include subscription to a really good paper or papers, we have little doubt that a membership of 500 would shortly result. There is a great number of collectors, both in the country, in India and the colonies, many of whom are members of Stamp Societies, that would welcome such an innovation, but it would be a *sine qua non* that they should have a club room, *always open*, where they could meet, write letters, read the philatelic papers, refer to the Association's library and meet other enthusiasts. The expense of such a room need not be great, nor would there be any need for a regular attendant, while perhaps in a few years time the British Association of Philatelists would be able to blossom out into regular *club* premises.

There is seldom any difficulty in getting collectors to join a really good society. What is needed, would be an energetic committee, which would have to comprise collectors who *do* and have *done* something for Philately.

The *Bibliophile* has already reached its fourth number and, as it is an excellent publication, we have but little doubt that it has a long, useful, and prosperous career before it. Published in the interests of the book lover and the student, the *Bibliophile* also contains a little about

stamps, usually in the form of a couple of pages devoted to new issues.

From a philatelic standpoint there is little chance of this new publication being of any value to the philatelist, but fortunately most stamp collectors have other loves, and those interested in books, or kindred subjects, will do well to subscribe to the *Bibliophile*, a paper that should appeal to the artistic tastes that every philatelist possesses.

The *Stamp Lover*, another new stamp paper, duly made its appearance last month. This new venture, edited by Mr. F. J. Melville, is to be the official organ of the Junior Philatelic Society, and as such should have a wide field of usefulness. No. 1 is a wonderful collection of philatelic "tit-bits," and at the price asked, namely, 2d. or 2/6 per annum post free, is a marvellous example of cheapness.

The contents of the first number are very varied; in fact, in our opinion, Editor Melville has crowded far too much matter into No. 1, making the *Stamp Lover* akin to a philatelic *Answers*, *Tit-Bits* or papers of that class, which, although doubtless very excellent, are not likely to appeal to the higher literary instincts.

The most interesting article in No. 1 of the *Stamp Lover*, namely, a paper on the Mount Brown catalogues, and an illustrated biography of their compiler, is from the pen of Mr. F. J. Melville.

It would be hard to select one, or more, of the many other contributions for review, but we notice that Mr. A. H. L. Giles contributes a few notes entitled "The Lone Stamp of Tierra del Fuego"; Mr. R. E. R. Dalwigk, a paper on the first type of the rd. Bahamas; and Mr. J. J. Darlow, a paper on Ceylon. The rest of the paper is filled with J.P.S. items (including a long account of the recent Stamp Exhibition); a paper entitled "The Penny Post of 1860"; and a lot of other matter.

The *Stamp Collector* for May contains a short paper on Rio de Oro stamps, in which the writer, translating from the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung*, says:—

It is certain no stamps of Rio de Oro have up to 17th October, 1906, been used at the Station, and even on 18th December, 1906, ordinary Spanish stamps have still been used officially, though it was then made known that Rio de Oro stamps were to be issued

on 1st January, 1907. If they really were issued on New Year's Day, 1907, we could not ascertain.

Therefore the complete issue of 1905 is only a speculation, the stamps were thrown on the philatelic market directly and solely from Madrid. Speculation likewise are also the high centesimos and all the peseta values of the 1907 issues, because Rio de Oro has absolutely no use for them and probably has not got them in stock, at least not the peseta stamps.

Some time ago we issued a warning against a provisional stamp, and now again five new provisionals have appeared. The funniest of them is a large Spanish fiscal stamp, with which, apparently, a grand result is fondly expected on account of the five lines of overprint. Every line has been printed separately, offering thereby a free hand to breed innumerable varieties of overprint.

The oval surcharge with inscription "Habilitado para 15 cens." and the latest square-framed one with the year and value in three lines are found on stamps of the issues of 1905 and 1907, the square surcharge shows the year "1907" and "1908," and "2 cens.," "10 cens." or "15 cens." respectively. The ink used is red (carmine) as well as violet.

Who can give us proof that even one of these provisionals was necessary or has been used at Rio de Oro? If such proof is forthcoming then we shall have more to say—in the meantime we declare all provisionals of Rio de Oro for an impudent swindle, because Rio de Oro has very little need of stamps at all, and a separate regular issue for it constituted already a venture upon the pockets of stamp collectors.

Every collector should think it beneath his dignity to disgrace with such scraps his postage stamp collection, and dealers should not mention them, neither in advertisements, and price list, nor in catalogues. Is a collector after all foolish enough to have a hankering after them, he can please himself.

The *Senf Catalogue* is trying to purify philately, why then does the *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* (*Senf's*) chronicle such evident rubbish? If those parasites are to disappear, then the philatelic press, catalogues, albums, dealers, collectors and societies must at last combine and make a firm and serious front against such pernicious trickery.

Bravo Germany! and many thanks to the *Stamp Collector* for its translation; the more such abominable trash is ridiculed, the better for all collectors and dealers.

Philately Abroad.

L'Annonce Timbrologique. April.

It is not always prudent, remarks our contemporary, to lead an attack against stamp forgers, and dealers in forgeries, and after instancing its own experience of some years ago (when it emerged from an action with full satisfaction as to its justification, but with a financial transfer from itself to the lawyers which amounted to a heavy tax on plain speaking), it refers to a recent judgment which inflicted great hardship on the Société Philatélique de Bâle. One of the members of this Society received a selection of stamps on approval, among which were eleven forgeries, nineteen fakes, three doubtful and thirty-seven genuine. Acting upon the Society's rules, the forgeries and fakes were marked in ink as a statement of their character, and the sender,

who held the stamps from another party, proceeded against the Society, and obtained judgment for 250 francs in consideration of the defacement of the stamps marked. The Basle Society consequently finds its coffers charged with a sum of about 500 francs, to recover which it has organised a kind of lottery.

We have heard of many drastic methods of dealing with forgeries, such as destroying them entirely, marking them as above, etc., and it is probable that the vendor would be chary of taking such a case to court in the majority of cases. The mere indication written on the paper to which the stamp may be attached does not, of course, put the forgeries *hors de combat*, as would marking them, but it certainly seems a dangerous process to depreciate the property even of forgery-mongers, as the above case shows, for besides ignorance, real or assumed, of the vendor, there may possibly be a doubt as to the genuineness of the stamps in question.

Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste announces the death, on May 13th, of M. Paul Mirabaud, the well-known collector, at Paris, in the 60th year of his age. M. Mirabaud was a banker and one of the Directors of the Bank of France, and had devoted himself to philately for upwards of 30 years. His speciality was the stamps of Switzerland, and in conjunction with M. de Reuterskiöld was the author of probably the finest philatelic work ever produced—the Stamps of Switzerland. His collection of French stamps was also very complete, and the value of his collection generally is estimated at about two million francs.

Schweizer Briefmarken-Zeitung. May.

A list of the stamps of Turkey, which the Turkish Government proposed to sell to raise money for railway construction, appears in this journal, together with the quantity of each value. This list we reprint, though with the necessary reservations, as no authority is given for its accuracy. We have not heard that the stamps, numbering altogether some sixteen millions, were sold, but there can be no doubt as to the depreciation of unused Turkish stamps, and the list was given in our contemporary from this point of view, based upon the prices given provisionally in the current edition of Messrs. Senf's Catalogue. If the stamps come upon the market it will give an opportunity, many opportunities, for the study of an interesting country at little expense, as complete sheets should be easily available. The enormous quantities of some of these stamps must come as a surprise, and many stamps hitherto difficult to obtain must become mere waste paper.

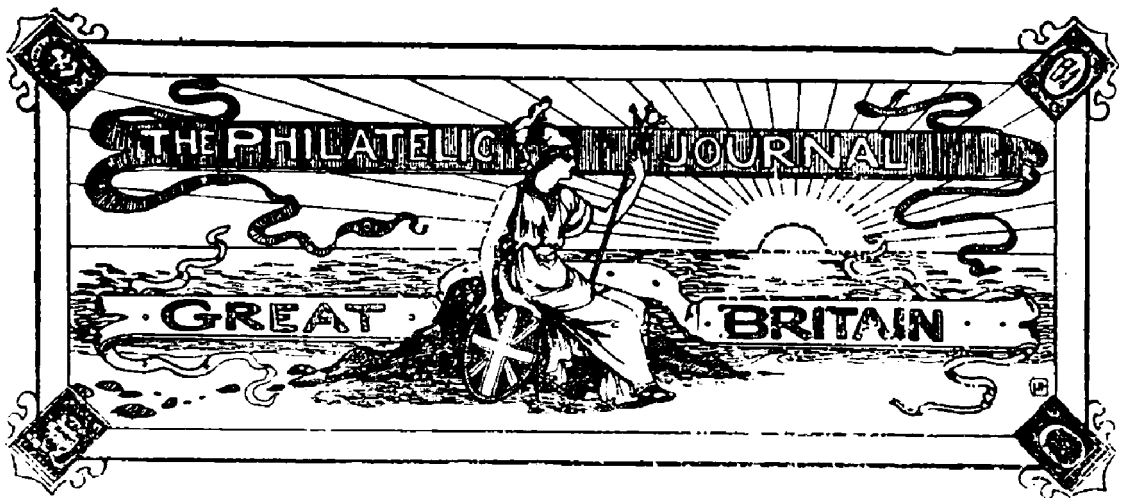
TURKEY.

1865.			
10 paras	..	..	25657
20 "	..	..	55421

1 piastre	..	..	14601
2 "	..	..	27025
5 "	..	..	92274
1869.			
20 paras	..	..	8851
1 piastre	..	..	32848
2 "	..	..	167585
5 "	(blue)	..	1942581
5 "	(grey)	..	14081
25 "	..	..	25991
1873.			
10 paras	..	..	139
2 piastres	..	..	59243
1875.			
20 paras	..	..	1514
1876.			
10 paras	..	..	456970
20 "	..	..	971064
1 piastre	..	..	1291030
½ "	..	..	116604
¼ "	..	..	42208
1½ "	..	..	521437
2 "	..	..	3228
5 "	..	..	162131
10 paras	..	..	103205
50 "	..	..	582510
2 piastres	..	..	608247
5 "	..	..	50045
25 "	..	..	20607
1880.			
20 paras	..	..	2425
1881.			
5 paras	..	..	136008
20 "	..	..	161270
2 piastres	..	..	553410
1884.			
10 paras	..	..	499500
20 "	..	..	799000
1 piastre	..	..	495000
2 "	..	..	275000
5 "	..	..	198000
1886.			
5 paras	..	..	257000
2 piastres	..	..	710000
5 "	..	..	105800
25 "	..	..	6378
1888.			
5 paras	..	..	176000
2 piastres	..	..	595000
5 "	..	..	10560
25 "	..	..	10108
1890.			
20 paras	..	..	267000
1 piastre	..	..	249000
2 "	(perf. 13½)	..	333000
2 "	(perf. 11½)	..	520650
5 "	..	..	168000

POSTAGE DUE STAMPS.

1865.			
20 paras	..	..	217453
1 piastre	..	..	276453
2 "	..	..	27146
5 "	..	..	61388
25 "	..	..	2469
1867.			
20 paras	..	..	2620
1869.			
20 paras	2820
5 piastres	206472
25 "	213
1871.			
1 piastre	335
2 "	69209
5 "	1327940
25 "	6156



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EDITORIAL.

IN these days, when blank albums are almost universally used by all serious collectors, it is interesting, for a short while, to meditatively consider the days of Lallier and Oppen.

We have before us, at the present moment, a well filled Lallier, from the fly leaf of which we find that it was the second edition, edited by Justin Lallier, a member of the Archæological Society of Orleans and of other French Societies for the preservation of antiquities, while it was published during the early weeks of 1863, by one A. Lenègre, of 35, Rue Bonaparte, Paris.

Now-a-days when practically all spaced albums have been superannuated it is pleasant to while away an idle half hour by turning over the leaves of one of these old time books. In Europe, we find that Holland, or rather the Netherlands, was completed when three spaces were filled. Norway, four.

In America, on one page there are no fewer than seven stamp-issuing countries represented, between them all they only total twenty-six stamps; Cape of Good Hope provides only spaces for the triangular stamps, while St. Helena is completed with the full issue of one!

Perhaps, however, the most incongruous heading is that of Owhyhee, placed next to Queensland, where we find spaces for no

fewer than seven stamps. In this year of grace the schoolboy, buying his set of ten, or a dozen Hawaiians, for a few pence, can, by no possible retrospection, understand the wild enthusiasm with which a Hawaii stamp was pounced upon in those bygone days.

Much has been written on the wanton mutilation that took place when stamps were ruthlessly cut to shape to fill spaces, while doubtless much, that would not be suitable for publication, has been said, even then we sometimes think that the old days, when everything, including locals and cut outs was collected, were more likely to breed true philatelists than the modern days of Brunei and Cayman.

The old order changeth, and the Lallier of the early sixties is already worthy to be collected by the self same Archæological societies of which its editor, in those days, was a member. Fortunately, many of the old-school philatelists of forty years ago, were broad-minded enough to collect in blank books of all sorts. We have had many such through our hands, ranging from a penny account book to a costly vellum, bound in morocco, while, from personal experience we have little hesitation in saying that there are many similar collections still to be discovered.

Although account books and "albums" of a similar nature allowed their owners more scope, and admitted of the possibility of a pair, or even a block of some imperf. stamp being included in the collection, they were, unless on perfectly blank

paper, almost as destructive from a condition crank's point of view as the printed albums with their cut-to-shape spaces.

The excitement of bidding and buying at auction is infinitesimal compared with the joy that appertains to the careful scrutiny of an old stamp collection, collected long before the days of perforation gauges and stamp mounts.

Current Chatter.

BY ANGUS MCTAVISH.

As the McTavish is taking a well earned holiday at present, and this month's Chatter is being written from my headquarters at Dawlish, I hope my readers will be even more lenient than they usually have to be.

* * *

I did not intend to gang awa' until the end of July, but I was at Plumridge's last sale and saw and heard a 2½d. on 4d. Cayman stamp knocked down for a five pound note. Shades of "Post Pairs" and "Views"—no wonder I gave a tax to a tipsy cab (as *Punch* puts it) to take me quickly to Paddington, *en route* for the fair shire of Devon.

* * *

Dawlish has always been noted as a resort of famous philatelists. The late E. L. Pemberton, was I believe a resident here in the early seventies—while, doubtless he was frequently visited by other well-known philatelists.—McTavish too,—the illustrious, lived here in the early eighties,—at that time he was a specialist in practically all the current ½d. and 1d. stamps that came his way. Need to mention other celebrated names?

* * *

Even in this secluded spot, far away from the madding thud of the Auctioneers hammer and the subtle seductive click of the bending stamp mount, poor wee McTavish has to read the stamp papers. Yesterday a recent copy of *Mekeel's* fetched up and I see that the Precancelled stamp club has recently passed thro' exciting times—at the yearly election—no fewer than 23 members voted, with the result that the balloting reads as follows:—

For President	·	Eagle, 18.
"	"	Duck, 8.
For Trustee	·	Duck, 11.

I have of course left a few of the Trustees names out, but evidently Duck will have to buck up for the Presidency.

* * *

In the *Philatelic Adviser* for June 25th, I notice that Mr. Wetherell bemoans the fact that many writers spell Barbados with an E—Barbadoes. It may be news to Tancred, but surely not to many other of my readers that

Barbadoes was the original, and until comparatively recent times, the only correct method of spelling. It is a rather curious coincidence that, only a few hours after I had read Tancred's remarks, I should notice a memorial tablet in Exeter Cathedral, erected to the memory of a resident who died in the Island of Barbadoes in 1770.

Amongst my collection of postal curiosities, I have a number of Barbados stamps, post-marked with the date stamp spelled Barbadoes, the most recent issues, which I possess being the ½d. and 1d. large stars of 1874.

* * *

So many mistakes are made in geographical spelling that it is not odd that one should frequently come across Tangiers; Freemantle; St. Johns, New Brunswick; and many other similar errors. In the course of my perambulations I have made lengthy stays at Tangier, St. John, N.B., and Fremantle, W.A., consequently I am prone to notice the final s in the two first instances and the troublesome e in the third. I very much doubt if any town is so frequently mis-spelled as is Tangier—even the daily papers of the *Daily Snort*, and *Evening Canard* class cling lovingly to Tangiers,—but what can you expect for two farthings—not accuracy?

* * *

The Editor of *Punch* (he is evidently a student of McTavish page!) is always on the look-out for amusing "side slips." In a recent number of his excellent paper, I find the following:—

"The Religion of the Future has unfortunately miscarried in the post."

—*The Mystic.*

We think that Mr. Sydney Buxton ought to be told about this.

"The rate of letter postage to the United States will be a penny per ounce instead of twopence-halfpenny as at present, a reduction of 150 per cent."

—*The Manchester Evening News.*

This is one of those little homely touches that makes us bitterly regret the coming abolition of the Senior Wranglership.

* * *

My little querulous complaint about the English weather—published a month or so ago has evidently had effect—as, during the two-three weeks I have been holiday making there has been a succession of brilliant days—making one think lovingly of Australian summers and "out back" townships where mailmen are monthly visitors. The English system of three or four deliveries (country) a day—a system which permits stamp papers being relentlessly sent in pursuit of poor holiday making editors)—is damnable. Fancy having to review other chaps stamp twaddle—when the sea is full of pollock, bass and mackerel, just paddling about with their mouths open, waiting for a spinning bait.

New Issues and Varieties.

(We shall be glad to receive any new issues or new varieties from our readers for description in this column. Letters should be addressed to THE EDITOR OF THE PHILATELIC JOURNAL OF GREAT BRITAIN, c/o MESSRS. P. L. PEMBERTON & Co., 68, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.)

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Australian Commonwealth. The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles the following tiresome varieties.

Postage Dues. Wmk. Crown and single A. Perf. 11½ x 11.
 1d. green.
 4d. green.
 Wmk. Crown and N.S.W. Perf. 11½ x 11.
 8d. green.

Barbados.—The following is extracted from the current issue of the *London Philatelist*:

At the meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society on Thursday, 21st May, Mr. R. B. Yardley exhibited a variety of Barbados which has not yet been recorded. It was an impression in light green from the plate of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., without value denomination, on unwatermarked paper, perforated on all four sides with small, clean-cut holes gauging 15—15½, that is to say, the perforation of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.'s "A" machine, after it had been repaired and fitted with new steel plate, guide, top plate, and pin, in June, 1862, and termed "A3" by Mr. E. D. Bacon and Lieutenant Napier in their handbooks on the postage stamps of Barbados and Grenada. The specimen is unused, has good margins on all four sides, and there can be no possible question that the perforation belongs to the "A3" class and not to the earlier clean-cut perforations of 1860 and 1861. The latter leaves only a small portion of paper between the holes, which are much larger, thus producing sharp "teeth." Moreover, the shade of the stamp is much lighter than that of the one halfpenny clean-cut perforations of 1861, or, in fact, of the stamps on star watermarked paper.

It has hitherto been accepted that from and after 1870 Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. employed only one or other of their two varieties of watermarked paper respectively known as "large star paper" and "small star paper" for the postage stamps of Barbados, and the question arises how this particular specimen of a printing on unwatermarked paper can have occurred with a perforation which obviously must have been applied to it after June, 1872. Mr. Yardley's suggestion is that it happened in the following way:—

It is known that when Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. received a requisition to supply a certain number of stamps, they frequently printed a number in excess of the order. The surplus sheets were doubtless put away in some drawer or cupboard to be used for any subsequent requisition: however, it is certain that in some cases these surplus sheets were overlooked and not discovered

until many years afterwards, but in other cases they have been discovered in time to be used up with a subsequent printing of stamps of a more or less similar description, and handed over to Miss Stewart to be perforated and sent to the Crown Agents for despatch to the colony. It is in this way that Mr. Yardley suggests that a few sheets, or possibly a single sheet, of a printing of the one halfpenny on unwatermarked paper produced prior to 1870, was mixed up with one of the printings of a date subsequent to June, 1872. Referring to the Handbook of Barbados, it will be found that on 10th July, 1872, there were despatched 33,000 of the one halfpenny, and on 28th April, 1873, there were despatched 60,000 of the same value. All of the former are believed to have been printed on the "small star" paper and perforated by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.'s "B machine," gauging 11—12½, compounded with the "A3" perforation, and the 60,000 are believed to have been all on the "large star" paper, and perforated "A3." But it is quite possible that in executing one of these orders, presumably the 60,000 of April, 1873, certain sheets may have been damaged, and recourse may therefore have been had to some of the old surplus sheets on the unwatermarked paper.

Canada. The *Monthly Circular* says that the 1c. stamp is now reported to be printed in yellow-green instead of blue-green.

Cape of Good Hope. The *London Philatelist* says:—"Mr. W. H. Tarrant sends us the ¼d. on 3d. magenta, stamp of March, 1891, with straight serif to the '2' in the fraction." This variety is not catalogued, we believe.

Cayman Islands. Mr. F. Chambers very kindly writes as follows:—

"I have official information that the recently chronicled 1d. on ¼d. surcharge was used only for revenue and fiscal purposes and none passed through the post. In May the supply of ¼d. and 1d. stamps again ran short, but instead of surcharging, the letters were dispatched marked 'paid' in the corner of the envelope."

The *Colonial Office Journal* says ¼d. stamps are to be shortly issued to prepay internal postage in Grand Cayman.

"Cayman" is now the strongest swear word in our vocabulary.

Ceylon. We have received copies of the new 5c. stamp with numerals added at bottom.

Adhesive. King's Head multiple, ordinary paper.
 5c. lilac.

East Africa and Uganda. The *Philatelic Record* for June says:—"The Postmaster of Mombasa, writing under recent date, states that the 50r. with multiple watermark is not on sale and there is no immediate prospect of its being put into use.

Federated Malay States. The *Colonial Office Journal* announces the 3c. and 8c. stamps in Postal Union colours.

Adhesives.
3c. carmine.
8c. blue.

Fiji. The *Colonial Office Journal* chronicles the 1/- value on multiple surfaced paper.

Adhesive. King's Head, multiple, surfaced paper.
1/- green and carmine.

Gibraltar. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the 4/- stamp on multiple chalky paper.

Adhesive. Multiple wmk., chalky paper.
4/- lilac and green.

India, Bhopal. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* on the authority of *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, chronicles a new stamp; no description is given but we are told that it is "handsome"!

Adhesive. Perf. 13½.
1a. green.

Jamaica. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the following novelty.

Adhesive. Multiple, ordinary.
4d. red-brown.

Leeward Islands. The *Colonial Office Journal* chronicles the 6d. and 1/- stamps on multiple surfaced paper.

Adhesives. King's Head. Multiple, chalky paper.
6d. lilac and brown.
1/- green and carmine.

Maldivé Islands. The rumour, mentioned in our March number, that these insignificant little blobs of guano covered rocks were going to have a separate issue of stamps is evidently true. The *Colonial Office Journal* for July says we may shortly expect four values, *i.e.* 2, 3, 5, and 10c. stamps.

The principal part design will be a representation of a minaret.

What a wful balderdash the whole tomfoolery of Maldivian issues is. If there is a demand for four values, there should be a demand for a dozen.

Montserrat. The *Colonial Office Journal* chronicles the 1d. and 2½d. stamps in single colours.

Adhesives. Ordinary paper, multiple wmk.
1d. rose.
2½d. blue.

New South Wales. The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles the following "better late than never's" (?).

Official Stamps. Wmk. Small Crown. Perf. 12½, 13.
3d. green, O.S. in black (say S.G. 611a).
Wmk. Large Crown. Perf. 10 x 11 with 11½, 12 on right vertical side, and 11 on left ditto.
3d. green O.S. in black.

Dreadful isn't it? no wonder the Parramatta Asylum rates are increasing. My word!

Papua. A correspondent to *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* says he has authoritative information that the numbers of unsurcharged British New Guinea stamps issued were as follows:—

Value.	Issued.	Officially destroyed.
½d.	118,115	184,025
1d.	126,918	14,902
2d.	116,200	—
2½d.	36,550	—
4d.	20,285	—
6d.	16,715	—
1/-	13,835	—
2/6	2,234	—

We take it that the numbers referred to in the first column were the stamps actually sold.

The same paper chronicles a used block of four of the 6d. value, with double surcharge (small type). We have received the 6d. value of the permanent set, making the third received; namely the ½d., 4d. and 6d. values.

Adhesive. Perf. 11. Wmk. Crown and A.
6d. black and green.

Queensland. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the following varieties on Crown and A paper.

Adhesives. Wmk. Crown and A.
3d. brown.
2/- bluish green.

St. Helena. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the new 2½d., 4d., 6d. and 10/- stamps. We referred to these stamps in our May No. and readers will find full particulars there.

Adhesives. King's Head. Multiple wmk., ordinary paper.
2½d. ultramarine.

Multiple, wmk., chalky paper.
4d. black and red on yellow.
6d. lilac and violet on white.

Single wmk., chalky paper.
10/- black on green.

St. Kitts, Nevis. The *Colonial Office Journal* chronicles the ½d. stamp, all green.

Adhesive. Multiple, ordinary paper.
½d. green.

Seychelles. Practically all of our contemporaries chronicled, a few months ago, a surcharge on the 2r. 25c. King's head. This now turns out to be, as we expected, nothing but a *canard*.

Solomon Islands Protectorate. The *Colonial Office Journal* says that a new issue consisting of the ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 5d., 6d. and 1/- values will shortly be on sale. These stamps will be printed by the steel plate process and the design similar to the existing one. The colours will follow the new colour scheme with the exception of the 5d. value, which will be in sage-green instead of purple and sage-green.

Somaliland Protectorate.—The *Colonial Office Journal* says:—"1 anna stamps will in future be printed completely in red, this and the ½ anna stamps will be on unsurfaced paper.

Sudan. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the 5 piastres stamp (multiple wmk.) overprinted "Army Service."

Official. Overprinted "Army Service." Multiple Crescent and Star wmk.
5 piastres brown and green.

Transvaal. *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* chronicles the £1 stamp on multiple paper.

Adhesive. King's Head, multiple, ordinary paper.
£1 green and violet.

Zanzibar. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* now chronicles all values of the new "cents" issue. We listed up to the 5r. last month.

Adhesives. Large design, View of Zanzibar.
10r. red-brown and green.
20r. green and black.
30r. dark brown and black.
40r. vermilion and black.
50c. violet and black.
100r. Prussian blue and black.
200r. dark slate and red brown.

We are assured, on the authority of Ewen's and others, that the high values are a *bona-fide* postal issue.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Belgium. In the May number of this journal we chronicled, on the authority of the *Philatelic Adviser*, the 20c. 35c. and 2f. stamps with the redrawn type of label at foot. We now learn that the *P.A.* was in error, and must ask our readers to delete these stamps from their new issue lists.

Chili. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles some more unnecessary inverted surcharges. There have been a lot of these unsavoury freak surcharges on the market lately and we should, instead of adding new varieties, like to see all these inverts and doubles, deleted from the catalogue.

1904. *Telegraph Stamps.* Overprinted with types 22 and 23 S.G. Overprint inverted.
3c. on 1 peso, brown (Type II.)
10c. olive green. (")

Type 24 surcharged with type 25, surcharge inverted.
3c. on 5c. red.

China. The *Monthly Circular* says that it is rumoured that a new series of stamps, with values in candarins, is to be issued.

French Colonies. In *Meckel's Weekly* for June 13th, we find the following:—

"Some doubt appears to exist about the 1fr. stamp, bronze green on straw, type II (with 'N' of 'I N V' under 'U' of 'Republic'). Though Scott lists this stamp it is not priced. Stanley Gibbons does not mention it at all, and the Official French Catalogue, which is supposed to be an authority on the stamps of France and Colonies, does not catalogue it, and the same is true of the catalogue of Yvert & Tellier,

"Hermann Focke has shown us a fine copy postally used on part of original cover, post-marked 'Hai Phong, Tonkin,' Dec. 18, 1880, and there is no question as to its genuineness. Tonkin is a province now belonging to Indo China, and formerly issued its own stamps, with surcharge of 'A & T,'—Annam and Tonquin.

"The omission of this stamp from Gibbons' and the French catalogues seem strange, in view of the fact that the former is very exact in listing all minor varieties, while the French catalogues have many varieties of shades, perforations, etc., of the stamps of the French Colonies."

We find on reference that the 1fr. (type II.) was reprinted in 1887, possibly the stamp referred to above is a reprint postally used in 1889, the tail of the figure in the date stamp being indistinct.

French Morocco. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. tell us that the 4c. stamp we chronicled in April last has been withdrawn and will not be again put on sale.

Guatemala. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., send us particulars of three new surcharges. They say "The three provisionals of which we send you specimens have been rendered necessary through the non arrival of a fresh supply of 1c., 2c., and 6c. stamps, and the Post Office will only sell them in small quantities for postal use, our correspondent could only get us 100 of each."

Adhesives. Provisional issue.
1c. in black on 10c. yellow and blue.
2c. in carmine on 12c. blue and black.
6c. in black on 20c. mauve and black.

Nicaragua. *Meckel's Weekly* chronicles the 6c. slate 1005 (American printing) surcharged "Vale 35c. in red. We suppose somebody asked in error for a 35c. stamp, and this is the result.

Adhesive. Provisional.
35c. on 6c. slate, red surcharge.

Paraguay. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the current 2c. stamp in carmine.

Adhesive.
2c. carmine.

Russia. *Offices in China.* The *Monthly Journal* says that it is reported that the 15 and 25 kopeck stamps have been overprinted in blue and red respectively for use in China.

Adhesives.
15k. pale blue and claret.
25k. lilac and dull green.

Peru. Several of our contemporaries chronicle the current 10c. stamp with overprint "Express" diagonally in black.

Spain. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles the current 5c. stamp in a new shade and on greenish paper.

Adhesive. Perf. 14.
5c. yellow green on greenish.

Well-known Philatelists.

No. 102.—MR. J. J. KNOWLES.

THE subject of our present sketch was born at Wednesbury, on May 15th, 1860, and, unlike so many of our notable philatelists, did not commence to collect stamps until he had reached manhood's estate.

Mr. Knowles, a partner in the old established firm of "John Knowles," of Wednesbury, is a very keen collector, while, not having pursued the many philatelic chimeras that often weaken the schoolboy's enthusiasm his philatelic beliefs are remarkably sound.

We cannot do better, we think, than let Mr. Knowles speak for himself, he says:—

"Nearly 20 years ago I commenced collecting postage stamps, following the example of a Clergyman friend, who gave me about 300 specimens as a start, I became at once fascinated with the hobby, which has been a source of great pleasure to me, and a comforting friend in times of trouble, I have never relaxed my exertions in finding specimens to add to my collection, and with patience and perseverance have been able to procure copies which seemed impossible for me to obtain. Beginning at the age of 28, I have not had the schoolboy's experience of obtaining a 2d. blue Mauritius, or such like rarities in exchange for a dozen marbles, which one so often reads about. This to me is regrettable.

"I collect mint copies of Great Britain and her Colonies, to the end of the reign of Queen Victoria only. My first collection was general, mint for the cheaper stamps and used for the others, the majority being Europeans. As time went on I took a fancy to mint only and at once sold my used ones.

"Then, about twelve years ago, I disposed of my mint foreigners, confining myself to mint copies of Great Britain and her Colonies, which I have assiduously adhered to, with the exception of a few of the rarities of Great Britain in superbly used condition. I am hypercritical as to condition, and have refused hundreds of copies of stamps, rather than add an inferior one to my collection. I specialize in Great Britain, Cape of Good Hope, and Ceylon."

Mr. Knowles' collection, needless to say a

valuable one, consists of about 5,000 varieties, amongst which are to be found such desirable items as Great Britain, block of four, 1d. red on Dickinson paper; strip of six, 1d. black; block of four, 3d. brown on orange; two copies of the 2d. blue, without line; single copies of the 2/- brown; 10/- Cobalt blue; 20/- brown. orbs; £5 orange; £1 green, I.R. Official. Ceylon is well represented, most of the C.C. 12½ stamps being shown in mint pairs. Cape of Good Hope is represented by 30 pairs of the Perkins, Bacon, and De la Rue triangulars, together with most of the surcharged stamps, all mint.

The above list does not by any means exhaust the list of desirable stamps in Mr. Knowles' collection, he is strong in many countries; St. Vincent, Transvaal, Western Australia, British Columbia being only a few selected at random.

We are afraid that the subject of this sketch is inclined to go in for a little speculation at times, as he pleads guilty to holding a complete sheet of the 5/- lake St. Vincent, twenty-five copies of the £1 green Great Britain, and other promising stamps.

A member of the Birmingham, the Scottish Junior, and several other societies, Mr. Knowles has little leisure time to devote to other hobbies, but when time permits, he is an ardent admirer and student of pictures, oil paintings being the favourites, an enthusiastic pianist and a great lover of standard authors novels.

As is usual, we like to elicit from our well-known philatelists their

views regarding the future of our hobby. Mr. Knowles kindly replying to our question says:

"I am of opinion that there is a great future for philately. It has pleased me to observe through the past few years an increasing tendency on the part of collectors to add only perfect copies to their collections, and at the same time to make a study of the stamps they possess, realising what a great amount of knowledge is to be obtained therefrom. Collecting stamps just for the sake of filling up an album, in my opinion, is deplorable, and certainly should not be called philately, a condition which *did* exist, not in the far past, but thanks to the many philatelic societies holding their instructive meetings and displays this evil is fast disappearing, and if the old philatelists, especially the leaders of junior societies, never lose opportunities of



inculcating into the youthful mind, the importance of condition, study, care and neatness, then I believe there is a greater future for philately than ever yet existed."

Mr. Knowles does not tell us if he has been able to purchase any great bargains, but as he has travelled about a good deal; principally on the Continent, he has doubtless picked up a few snaps. We hope so at least.

Correspondence.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., of Ipswich, kindly send us particulars of some humorous correspondence they have had with the Postmaster of Wellington. We print the two letters and their replies below.

[COPY.]

December 24th, 1907.

The Chief Postmaster,
Auckland, New Zealand.

Dear Sir,

We enclose a cutting from a London newspaper stating that the Government of New Zealand has approved the proposal for opening a post office in King Edward VII. Land, and that a "suitable" surcharged stamp will be issued. We do not quite understand the paragraph in question, as we take it that King Edward VII. Land is uninhabited, except by penguins and seals, who do not use postage stamps or write letters.

We assume that the stamps in question are to be put on letters sent home by members of the "Nimrod" Expedition to the South Pole, and that they are being issued merely as curiosities and not for bona-fide postal use.

We should be much obliged if you could give us any further information concerning these labels, and if they are really a legitimate issue, where can we obtain a supply of them.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) WHITFIELD KING & Co.

[COPY.]

O.
P.O. 08-577.
General Post Office,
Wellington,
10th February, 1908.

Gentlemen,

In reply to your letter of the 24th December last, to the Chief Postmaster, Auckland, about King Edward VII. Land postage stamps at 1d., I beg to inform you that the stamps are sold only at the King Edward VII. Land post office.

Yours obediently,

(Signed) D. ROBERTSON,
Secretary.

Messrs. Whitfield King and Company,
Postage Stamp Dealers,
Ipswich, England.

[COPY.]

March 21st, 1908.

The Secretary,
General Post Office,
Wellington, New Zealand.

Dear Sir,

We are in receipt of your letter of the 10th ultimo, informing us that King Edward VII. Land postage stamps of 1d. are sold only at the King Edward VII. Land post office. From this we can only assume that there really is a post office in King Edward VII. Land, and we shall therefore be obliged if you will inform us its exact locality, in what town it is situate, and whether, if we address a letter to the place accompanied by a remittance, we may depend upon receiving a supply of the postage stamps in due course. Also please inform us if registered letters are accepted for transmission to the place above mentioned.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) WHITFIELD KING & Co.

[COPY.]

E.
P.O. 08-577.
General Post Office,
Wellington,
6th May, 1908.

Gentlemen,

In reply to your letter of the 21st March last, No. 162356, I have to inform you that the post office at King Edward VII. Land is in the South Polar Regions, and if you address a communication to the Postmaster it will be despatched in the mail for that office by the first opportunity, which will probably be about a year hence. Registered letters are accepted for transmission to King Edward VII. Land. The Postmaster is not bound to supply stamps on requisitions by post.

Yours obediently,

(Signed) D. ROBERTSON,
Secretary.

Messrs. Whitfield King and Company,
Ipswich, England.

Stamp Machines a Success.

ACCORDING to newspaper report, Postmaster Morgan of New York, is reporting favourably on the stamp vending machines which have been placed on trial in the post office here. The machines sell 1, 2 and 5c. stamps, and, with the exception of the first few days, when the mechanism was somewhat disordered by transportation, their operation has been satisfactory. It is believed that the machines will eventually be placed quite generally in drug stores, post office sub-stations and other places convenient to the public. This is the type of machine that uses the ordinary perforated stamps.—*Scott Stamp Circular (U.S.A.)*

Countries to Specialize.

By P. L. PEMBERTON.

A COLLECTOR of my acquaintance has, for some years, been specializing the stamps of one country, and, having brought this collection as near completion as possible, with the embellishment of pairs, blocks, sheets, essays, proofs, and all the adjuncts of a modern specialized collection, is now on the look-out for another country to treat in the same manner.

Now, the selection of a country to specialize, if one is without any bias, is not an easy matter, and when my advice has been asked, as in this case, I have been quite unable to narrow my selection down to one country, for there are so many which would repay careful study. Broadly speaking, any country, whether its issues are numerous, as with Salvador, or meagre, as in the case of the Ionian Isles, will yield its pleasures to the ardent collector, who will be able, as his experience increases, to master the peculiarities, and so learn what to look for and what to reject. The knowledge thus acquired is a special knowledge, which gives the owner a tangible advantage over other collectors in the particular branch of philately which he has mastered, and often enables him to pick up things which would certainly be overlooked by the ordinary collector. My meaning will be perfectly clear to those collectors who have specialized to any extent, and who have familiarized themselves with the minute differences of shade, perforation or printing which it would be impossible to describe in words. So acute does the perception of the specialist become that he is often able to discriminate as easily between two printings, which are almost identical, as one unversed in the subject would between two different designs. That such varieties will never get into the catalogue is one of the supreme comforts of specialists.

It is true that varieties of this class sometimes are catalogued, as in Transvaal and Greece, two countries which are, philatelically speaking, the private property of specialists, but the catalogues remain perfectly unintelligible to everybody who has not made a close study of the stamps. For this reason the two countries named are, *par excellence*, the most interesting and absorbing countries to take up. Unfortunately, Transvaal is an expensive country, and hopeless from the point of view of the small buyer. Greece, on the other hand, is one of the most inexpensive countries, unless the collector must have unused specimens, which is quite another matter. In recommending Greece, I have in mind the stamps of the first and second type only; the later issues are less interesting, as they include a large number of surcharges. The stamps of the first type are specialized by many large and small

collectors, but the 1886-99 issues have not, as far as I am aware, been studied on any large scale, and should provide an interesting field for investigation.

Though no other countries quite come up to Transvaal and Greece in the possibilities of discoveries, yet there are many others, principally non colonial, which should prove very interesting. The Australian Colonies, certainly, are the most attractive of all the British Colonials but they, again, are expensive. If we are to avoid expense and at the same time seek a country with plenty of varieties or one which has been neglected by collectors for some time, it seems to me that there are only four in the British Empire section, and these are:—

Heligoland.
Prince Edward Island.
Cook Isles.
Tonga.

I can imagine the horror with which the first-named will be received by the average collector. Unfortunately reprints have almost killed this little Colony, and few have the pluck to tackle it. But the collector who takes it up will find that he has almost the entire field to himself. With the help of Moen's articles on Heligoland, which were translated into the *Monthly Journal*, Vol. VII., it should be fairly easy to master the differences between the originals and reprints. A collection of Heligoland should properly contain the various reprints as well as the originals, all properly arranged according to the dates on which they were made.

It is many years since Prince Edward Island attracted the attention of serious philatelists, and, owing partly to this neglect, and partly to the number of remainders of the "cents" issue still about, the prices are very low. It is a small country at the best, but there are numerous varieties caused by flaws in the method of making the electrotypes from which the stamps were printed, and also differences in the paper and perforation.

Cook Islands stamps were rather popular several years ago and were then carefully studied, but this is no reason why they should not be recommended as an easy and inexpensive country to specialize. Perforations and shades constitute its chief claims to consideration.

Tonga is a country of which several highly specialized collections exist and it contains far more expensive stamps than the three just mentioned. Perforations and surcharges, especially the latter, are the attractions here. I may remark that though surcharges are always open to the possibility of being well imitated, a collector who makes a special study of a country is rarely taken in, consequently surcharges add to, rather than detract from, the interest of a country.

The following is a list of other Colonies which, with the exception of a few rare stamps

here and there, are not very costly to complete:—

Bermuda.
Falkland Isles.
Gambia.
Gibraltar.
Gold Coast.
Jamaica.
Malta.
Montserrat.

All these have their interest for specialists, and though some of them seem rather bald at first sight there is plenty to look for in the way of shades, corner blocks with plate numbers, varieties of obliteration, etc. Further, they are all countries that should prove a sound investment.

Colonies which might be specialized in part, that is to say, without the expensive first issues, are:—

Newfoundland from 1861.
Canada from 1859.
Mauritius from 1854.
Cape of Good Hope from 1864.

The early issues of these Colonies have received so much attention that the later issues have been overlooked far more than they deserve. There is quite a lot of work in them all.

If the collector should wish to be a little more ambitious, any of the following four countries should tax his energies sufficiently:—

Barbados.
Grenada.
Cyprus.
Hong Kong.

That there is still a chance of finding varieties hitherto unchronicled is shewn by the recent discovery, by Mr. Yardley, of a Barbados $\frac{1}{4}$ d., of the Perkins Bacon printing, without watermark, but with a perforation of a later issue. This stamp would have been passed over by 99 per cent. of philatelists as a common stamp, but specialized knowledge shows it to be a rarity of the first water. All the Colonies above mentioned have been closely studied for many years, and even if no new standard varieties are found, there is still plenty to learn about the *minutia* of perforation, paper, surcharge or cancellation.

As I have already remarked, the finest field for specialists with moderate means lies outside the confines of the British Empire. The following four would be my first selection of inexpensive countries which have certainly not been overdone:—

Hungary.
Bulgaria.
Servia.
Crete.

The first of these presents wonderful shades, which, together with varieties of watermark and paper, should be sufficient to occupy a collector's attention for a very long time. The first issue, being lithographed, might possibly contain undreamt-of varieties — there are

always possibilities where this method of printing has been employed. A special collection of this and the engraved issue, alone, would form an interesting study. The later issues should be collected unused if possible, as the present prices are very moderate and are very likely to increase, as they have not been speculated in to anything like the extent of the issues of British Colonies during the past ten years. I should think hardly any issue in the world would present such a wide range of shades as the 1887-98 issue of Hungary, and they look very handsome if taken unused and well centred, the latter condition being very hard to obtain.

Bulgaria contains no rarities, with the exception of one error of colour and one or two surcharges. Great care should be exercised in buying the latter, as they have been well forged. The 5 stot., in black, on 30 stot. should only be purchased with a guarantee. In spite of the low prices of the first two issues, the specialist will find the greatest difficulty in obtaining blocks, unused, of many of the values; one or two unsuspected stumbling blocks will be met with among the later issues.

A nice collection of Servia will prove to be rather more pretentious than either of the others just mentioned, but, if necessary, the more expensive issues might be left alone. The 1866 and 1869-78 issues present great opportunities for collectors, who will be surprised to find how difficult it is to get fine copies. Some of the perforation varieties of the 1894-98 issue are exceedingly scarce and well worth looking for. The sale of the remainders of the 1901-3 and the 1904 Coronation issue have brought the prices of these stamps down considerably, of which fact collectors should take note.

Crete is the fourth country on my little list. If the collector intends to include the stamps of the Russian Administration, he must be prepared to buy a number of stamps at rather stiff prices which have little chance of ever becoming more valuable; but as these are found with numerous varieties of control marks, the interest of the hunt may prove sufficient compensation. The stamps issued since the settlement of the Government under the present Administration, in 1900, have a very different character; they are beautifully designed and well printed, and include a sufficient number of surcharged issues to make them interesting. As the field is very small, the stamps issued by the Revolutionary Government might be included, but no fancy prices should be given for the varieties of the 1905 issue, which may be found with the control mark inverted, double, treble or absent altogether.

Rather more expensive countries to take up are the following:—

Egypt.
Luxemburg.
Finland.
Argentine Republic.

Of these, Egypt has lately been enjoying a little boom all to itself; and if it were not for this fact which has made the stamps difficult to buy, and the *tête-bêche* and other varieties which specialists ought certainly to have, I might have included it amongst the cheapest countries. It is to be hoped that some of the philatelists who have been studying Egypt for the past two or three years will give the results of their researches to the world, as nothing has yet been written about these stamps for the guidance of collectors.

Luxemburg is a country which should please collectors who revel in perforation varieties. There are local perforations and Dutch perforations, the latter being the same as were used for some of the stamps of Holland. Then there are local printings and Frankfort printings, surcharges on the officials, etc., etc., all of which go to make up a series of stamps which has been greatly neglected of late years.

Another country which has received very little attention of late is Finland, there is much still to be learnt about the 1866-71 issues with the serpentine roulettes. The catalogue arrangement, though it has recently been revised, is, to my mind, still far from perfect, and might well reward the patient collector. Pairs and blocks of this issue are rare, even used, as is evidenced by the sale at a Paris auction, some weeks ago, of a block of four of the 1 franc, used, for the enormous price of £20.

Argentine Republic, though it belongs to the somewhat despised South American group, has long had a devoted band of philatelic admirers. Some of the most productive issues, from a specialist's point of view, are quite moderate in price either for used or unused specimens. Mr. T. W. Hall, the well-known collector, recently read a paper before the Royal Philatelic Society on the 1882 issue, the design which has an envelope, bearing the value, in the centre. This paper was published in the May number of the *London Philatelist*, and is a remarkable illustration of the amount of interest that can be found in a single issue of stamps which consists of three values only. The issues of 1862 and 1867, which are so very dissimilar in design and printing, are equally interesting for purposes of study. Unfortunately, they include several expensive stamps, and the less ambitious collector will have to look to the surcharged issues and the lithographed set of 1888-90 to provide himself with sensation.

There are several other countries that I could name which are well worthy of attention, but reference to them would prolong my remarks so indefinitely that I must forbear. I have already given a wide selection, and I hope some of my readers will find it of assistance in guiding their wandering inclinations.



July, 1908, Report.

List of Officers and Committee, 1908-9.

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MEMBERSHIP.

Candidates for admission must be over 18 years of age, and supply at least two satisfactory references. They will then be proposed for election, and if no objection be lodged within fourteen days, be duly elected. The Entrance Fee, 2/6, and Subscription, 5/., should accompany the application, and will be refunded in the event of the non-election of the applicant. (The Committee are empowered to elect Life Members, not exceeding ten in number, at a fee of Two Guineas.)

NOTICES.

The Committee will meet at Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, on Thursday, Sept. 10, at 7.15 p.m., to arrange programme for the ensuing season and for other business. (The Hon. Secretary will be glad to hear from any members willing to assist with displays or papers, and will be happy to arrange to give same on behalf of any members unable to attend and do so personally.) A general meeting will follow at 8 p.m., when Mr. E. W. Wetherell will read a short paper on a subject of general philatelic interest, to be followed by a general discussion by the members present, and all members who can possibly do so are urgently requested to attend.

THOS. H. HINTON,

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Int. Phil. Union.
 26, Cromford Road, East Putney, S.W.
 July 13th, 1908.

Sarawak.

THE 4 CENTS BROWN ON YELLOW OF 1875.

By HUMPHRY BENNETT.

THE following few notes on the 4c. brown on yellow stamp of 1875 may interest readers of the *P.F.G.B.* I have recently been examining a sheet of 100 (ten rows of ten) of this value, and am able to give some information, which, as far as I know, has never been published before, as Poole in his book says he has not been able to see an entire sheet of this value and so could not place any of the varieties on the sheet. I have called this printing "A," though I have nothing to tell me if it is the first printing or not. You will note that the 9th and 10th stamps in the fifth row show a variety of types, as they are Types I. and II., instead of Types IV. and V.

I have also in my possession a block of fifty of this value, namely, five rows of ten stamps. This, from the list of varieties, is from a different printing to the full sheet, but I cannot say where it comes from on the sheet, as it has no margin at all on it. If you could give me any information on this point I should be very much obliged. This 4 cents stamp seems to be one of the hardest of the lot in Sarawak to find out anything about, as one so rarely meets with any large blocks with margins, etc.

Printing A (?)

SHEET OF 100 STAMPS.

No. 2.—Small cut at top of name tablet between W and A and stop at bottom after K of Sarawak.

No. 3.—Small flaw at top of name tablet above first stroke of K in Sarawak, and line from top of value tablet to top of F of Four.

No. 4.—Triangular flaw at top of value tablet between words of value.

No. 5.—Line of colour from left top spandrel through uncoloured line below name tablet and through bottom end of S of Sarawak, blotch of colour below first stroke of first A in Sarawak in uncoloured line below name tablet.

No. 6.—Upright stroke of T of cents continued through cross stroke nearly to top of value tablet.

No. 7.—Small uncoloured dot between AW of Sarawak and flaw in right lower spandrel.

No. 8.—Small uncoloured dot at bottom of value tablet between words of value.

No. 9.—Uncoloured spot at top of value tablet between UR of Four, and small spot after S of Cents level with the top of letter.

No. 10.—Spot below second stroke of second A of Sarawak and small spot at end of middle stroke of E of Cents.

No. 17.—Uncoloured spot on lower half of S of Sarawak and small flaw above centre of head.

No. 21.—Uncoloured spot after middle of K of Sarawak and another at bottom of OU of Four.

No. 24.—Small line at top of first stroke of W in Sarawak.

No. 25.—Uncoloured spot on lower part of corner S.

No. 26.—Blotch of colour to right of corner B outside frame and lower frame line broken at left lower corner.

No. 27.—Blotch of colour inside corner C and right upper corner of value tablet blurred.

No. 33.—Stop between NT of Cents.

No. 35.—Uncoloured spot at bottom of value tablet below CE of Cents.

No. 43.—Uncoloured spot in top of R of Four.

No. 45.—Flaw on background behind head level with ear.

No. 49.—Type I. in words of value instead of type IV. and uncoloured spot at bottom of value tablet below FO of Four.

No. 50.—Type II. in words of value instead of type V. and two flaws in front of head on background, one level with mouth and other level with chin.

No. 55.—Uncoloured dot joined to top of last stroke of W and another at bottom of name tablet below AK of Sarawak. Stop below C of Cents.

No. 58.—Short uncoloured line joined to top end of S of Cents.

No. 60.—N and bottom of T of Cents very blurred.

No. 67.—Flaw at bottom of neck.

No. 69.—Uncoloured line joined to O of Four at left, uncoloured stop in C of Cents, and stop after S of Cents level with top curve of S.

No. 70.—Flaw in background touching circle below back of neck.

No. 72.—Spot of colour on first stroke of last A in Sarawak above cross-bar.

No. 77.—Circular flaw in hair above ear.

No. 87.—Line of colour joining name tablet to outer frame line above last A in Sarawak.

No. 90.—Uncoloured line from between bottom of last A in Sarawak to uncoloured line round name tablet.

No. 97.—SAR of Sarawak very badly formed and thinner than on any other stamp, name tablet above same letters very rough at edge and outer frame line above SARA of Sarawak very thick.

No. 98.—Uncoloured line from left top end of R to line above name tablet and uncoloured spot in top of second A of Sarawak.

No. 99.—Bottom of value tablet below NT of cents and outer frame line blurred.

No. 100.—Uncoloured spot joined to top of first stroke of U of Four.

Printing B (?)

BLOCK OF 50 STAMPS.

No. 1.—Uncoloured spot under second stroke of R in Sarawak.

No. 2.—Uncoloured spot at foot of F in Four.

No. 3.—Several uncoloured dots on third A and K of Sarawak.

No. 4.—Uncoloured stop after S of Cents and level with top of letter.

No. 5.—Small flaw under back of neck.

No. 7.—Uncoloured stop at bottom of value tablet under F of Four.

No. 12.—Uncoloured spot joined to top point of R in Sarawak.

No. 14.—Stop before S and another between AR of Sarawak and small flaw under chin.

No. 15.—The third and fourth lozenges on right damaged and line from foot of F of Four to left of value tablet.

No. 16.—Bottom frame line broken under TS of cents.

No. 17.—Bottom frame line broken and wavy.

No. 18.—Coloured stop on last stroke of W in Sarawak.

No. 24.—Uncoloured line joined to top of S of Cents.

No. 25.—Top outer frame line broken and top frame line of corner B almost absent.

No. 26.—Uncoloured line above and between CE of Cents at top of value tablet.

No. 29.—S in right lower corner broken at foot and lower frame line round it broken.

No. 31.—Foot of corner C broken and battered upwards.

No. 35.—Spot in centre of R of Sarawak and frame line broken below S of Cents.

No. 38.—Uncoloured spot on back of C in top left corner.

No. 42.—Uncoloured spot in bottom curve of S of Sarawak.

The types in the words of value run 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, in all five rows of 10 stamps in this block.

The Systematic Recording of Philatelic Researches.

BEING a dweller in a far-off land, I am not *au fait* with matters philatelic in England, and it is more than probable, therefore, that the suggestion I am about to make is superfluous.

It has struck me, in reading through the two philatelic journals to which I subscribe, that whilst a great deal of research and patient work in stamps is done, and duly published in the pages of the various philatelic journals, yet much of it must eventually be swamped and lost sight of unless extracts of it are made and duly recorded in such a manner as to easy refer to. In other words, unless all the notes and articles on stamps are duly filed in a systematic manner, by countries and issues, philatelists are only wasting their time in making, or rather recording, their researches.

It would appear that the various philatelic societies in the country should undertake the systematic recording of all such knowledge on a uniform plan which I propose should be somewhat on these lines. Each society would

take a group, or certain number, of countries. Every stamp (excluding varieties of paper, watermark and perforation) would be allotted a sheet or "record," these being arranged for easy reference; 1st, by values, and 2nd, by date, e.g., we would first have all the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps chronologically arranged, then all the 1d. stamps, and so on. On these records would be entered up all notes, etc., as they appear in the various journals, either M.S.S. extracts, or the paragraphs bodily pasted in; in either case the name and date of the publication would be given for reference. Where an article or paragraph referred to more than one stamp, a note should be placed in the records of other stamps "See also Note 51 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. No. 7." An endeavour should be made to collate at the head of each sheet the following information:

1. First date of issue.
2. Last " "
3. Engravers, printers or lithographers.
4. Numbers issued.
5. Varieties of paper.
6. " perforation.
7. " watermark.
8. " colour and shade.

and other details that will occur to more experienced philatelists than myself.

The starting of such a scheme will undoubtedly mean a great deal of hard work, but once started it should not require much trouble to keep it up. The whole essence of the scheme is that all these records should be loose sheets, and in no way bound together, so that additional sheets can be added as necessary. Even if societies do not see their way to taking it up, there is no reason why private collectors, specialists in certain countries, should not do this for one country to start with. It would be most fascinating thus to work, both backwards and forwards, in philatelic literature, collecting and collating information, and I wish I had the time and opportunity to indulge in it myself.

GAS-RING.

Numbered Cancellations on Early West Australians.

IN last month's *P.F.G.B.* I gave a list of the numbered postmarks on West Australians—that I have in my own collection. Since then I have been able to add Nos. 19, 21, 24, 25, 33, and 35 to my list. As my collection contains considerably over a thousand of the line engraved stamps none of which has a numbered postmark higher than 20, it was with considerable surprise that I found such high numbers as 33 and 35.

It is safe to assume that all numbers exist, from 1 to 35 and perhaps even higher, so

collectors who have any of the missing numbers in their collections would confer a great favour by letting me have particulars.

Although I naturally assumed that No. 1 would be Perth, it was not until a week or so ago that I was able to confirm this. Looking through Peckitt's stock book I was fortunate enough to find a cover, franked with a pair of the 1d. rose, perf. 14 of 1861. Needless to say this piece changed hands—it is dated Perth, March 1863, and is postmarked in addition "Too Late." All the early West Australians are exceptionally scarce on the original covers and anyone tired of current new issues would find the pursuit of "stamps on the original" very refreshing and novel.

COMPLAINTS come to us from collectors who have bought skilfully repaired stamps of various countries, as fine copies, at big discounts from catalogue. Much of this stuff is being offered, we are sorry to say, but the remarkable thing is that ordinarily intelligent men should buy it, when the price itself ought to indicate "something wrong." Really fine stamps don't go begging now-a-days.

—Scott Stamp Circular (U.S.A.)

Our Publishers' New Address.

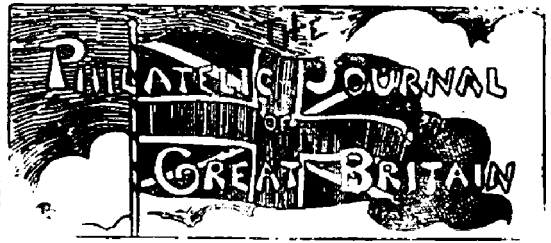


OUR Readers will remember that we announced some time ago that we had disposed of our lease of 84, High Holborn, and that as soon as we found suitable premises, we should announce our change of address.

We have now secured a most suitable suite of offices on the first floor at No. 68, High Holborn. This is quite close to our present address, being about fifty yards nearer the city, and on the same side of the road.

The alteration will date from July 29th, after which all communications should be addressed to

68, HIGH HOLBORN.



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Publishers' Note.

OWING to the pressure of work, consequent of our coming move into new premises, we have had to delay the publication of this month's P.J.G.B. for a few days, and must therefore ask our readers' kind indulgence.

We take this opportunity of saying how pleased we shall be to receive old, and of course new friends, at our new address.

We take possession on July 29th, and after that date we hope many of our subscribers will favour us with a visit. We have recently made several big purchases, and have a number of new acquisitions to shew our clients.



JULY 20, 1908.

Philately at Home.

The *London Philatelist* for June—an excellent number—contains a short paper on "The Provisionals of the Orange River Colony issued between March, 1900 and October, 1902," being the paper read before the Royal Society during March last. Mr. C. J. Daun, needless to say, deals with the war provisionals and his paper is eminently interesting.

Mr. Tilleard contributes his report read at the last Annual General Meeting of the Royal, while various Philatelic Notes, Reviews and a New Issue List complete—in our opinion, the best number of the *L.P.* that has been issued for many months.

The *Philatelic Record* for June contains a short paper on the 25 bani Roumanian stamp of 1890, wherein the author, Mr. C. H. Coote demonstrates that two plates were used for this stamp. Judging from the enlarged illustrations we find this hard to believe, but we extract Mr. Coote's researches and our readers must examine their Roumanian duplicates for themselves.

Type A.—The oval composed of horizontal lines, upon which appears King Charles' head to left, is surrounded by what appears to be an oval in white and then an oval in colour. In Type A this latter oval viz., the blue one, is narrow, and the other one, viz., the white, is broad.

The numerals in the corners are tall and slender in comparison with the other type, and the species of miniature fleur-de-lis ornaments under these numerals of value are clearly defined in Type A.

Type B.—Compared with Type A, what I have described as the oval in blue is appreciably thicker, while the one in white is correspondingly of a thinner character. The numerals in the corners are short and thicker, giving them a stumpy appearance, and the fleur-de-lis ornaments are blotchy and indistinct by comparison.

I think there can be little doubt but that two separate plates were made for this value, and the curious thing about it is that all the rest of the values belong to Type B, Type A only being found in the 25 bani.

In the 25 bani, however, Type A was certainly, in my opinion, the first issued, as it appears on the paper watermarked Arms, in which stamps of this design were first issued in February, 1890. Type B does not occur on the watermarked paper at all, but first came out on the no watermarked paper. The stamps on no watermarked paper, according to Mr. Duerst, were issued in February, 1891, and in all catalogues 1891 is given as the date. I have, however, found that the stamps on no watermarked paper were chronicled in the *Philatelic Record* in January, 1891, and I have in my collection a specimen dated November 23rd, 1890, this being Type A.

On the no watermarked paper I find Types A and B in general use, and have specimens of both post-marked 1891, 1892, and 1893. In 1894 the issue appeared on paper watermarked P.R., and here again I find both types.

From what I have said it is evident, therefore, that as Type B does not exist in the paper watermarked Arms, Type A was the first plate issued, and that the new plate (Type B) was brought into use late in 1890, when the no watermarked series was issued, and the two plates were used concurrently for printing up to the issue being withdrawn for the new designs.

SYNOPSIS.

Paper watermarked Arms.

25 bani blue (shades). Type A. Perf. 11½, 13½, and compound.

No watermarked paper.

25 bani blue (shades). Type A. Perf. 11½, 13½, and compound.

25 bani blue (shades). Type B. Perf. 11½, 13½, and compound.

Paper watermarked P.R.

25 bani blue (shades). Type A. Perf. 13½, ? compound with 11½.

25 bani blue (shades). Type B. Perf. 13½, 11½ × 13½, 13½ × 11½ ?

Mr. Duerst contributes a further short instalment of his article on the Local Stamps of Morocco; a photo and history of the late Mons. Paul Mirabaud; a reprinted article from the *Philatelic Journal of India*; a New Issue List, and the usual capital budget of Notes and News complete a very good number of our Manchester contemporary. From the Notes and News columns we extract the following:—

Of the new Norwegian provisional stamp 15 øre black on 4 skilling lilac, 750,000 will be issued.

The design for the new Roumanian stamps is by the architect Pompilian.

For the new Bavarian stamps 1,100 sketches have been sent in, but none were approved of by the judges.

Private envelopes, wrappers, postcards, and letter-cards are no longer stamped by the French Government.

* * *

All Russian stamps before Mai, 1889 (S.G., 1-82, with the exception of 72), have been demonetised.

The paper for the new Austrian stamps is made by Eichmann & Co., of Arnou, and the safety coating of chalk on same is made by Albert Emmerich, of Prague.

The new type of Russian stamps of 7 and 10 cop. are ready, and will be put into circulation as soon as the current stamps are exhausted.

The *Monthly Journal* for June contains instalments of several articles that have been continued for some months, notably Mons. L. Hanciau's paper on "The Postal Issues of Denmark and the Danish Colonies," the current paper dealing mostly with the official stamps. The same author contributes some more of his "Old Time Memories"; "Plain Anchor" concludes his article on "The Introduction of Penny Postage," and Mr. J. B. Leavy concludes his paper on "The Stamps of Salvador," the last one or two instalments of which have been particularly uninteresting. The usual capital New Issue List and Major Evans' Editorial Notes complete the *Monthly Journal*.

In the latter, Major Evans writing about philatelic exhibitions, says:--

These exhibitions afford an immense amount of pleasure to a large number of collectors, and the warmest thanks of the whole philatelic community are due to their promoters for the time and trouble which they devote to their preparation and arrangement. If there is any fault to be found, it would be, we think, on the grounds that almost too many of these exhibitions take place in the same year. So far as this country is concerned, an ideal plan would be to have one great exhibition each year, in a different city, if possible, local philatelists to make the arrangements, and all the leading collectors in the country to combine to make the show as fine a one as possible. A non-competitive exhibition, like that organized by the Junior Philatelic Society this year, would probably answer the purpose best, so that there need be neither jealousy nor duplication of exhibits. All the great specialists would be invited to show their specialities, or one of them, and each of them something different, an effort being made to get together different collections each year, so that people may not be led to suppose that there is only one fine collection of the stamps of each country in the whole of Great Britain. By some such scheme as this, too, the much-debated problem of an annual Pan-Anglican Philatelic Congress might perhaps be satisfactorily solved.

As our readers are aware this, the June No. of the *M.J.* is the last of its race. We have already expressed sincere regret that so grand an old paper should come to an end. Never before, and we hope never again shall we pen the word *finis* with so genuine a feeling of loss.

The *Philatelic Adviser* for June is evidently suffering from its Editor's recent perilous journey to Bayswater, or may be the recent hot weather accounts for the June No. being—like the eternal (we hope so) curate's egg. With the exception of the New Issue List, which is always excellent, the contents are mostly copied from other philatelic papers.

The Editor, however, contributes a page on the 1 MILA de E^o stamp of the 1870 issue of Spain and two pages of his paper on Malta stamps, while his Topicalities page is of course good. Knowing how capable the Editor of the *P.A.* is, makes us always demand exceptionally full measure—consequently when the result is only medium we feel proportionately disappointed.

The *British Philatelist* for May contains a further instalment of that excellent article on "The Line Engraved Stamps of Gt. Britain," already mentioned in these columns. We make the following extract concerning the 2d. blue.

The design of this stamp is similar to that of the One Penny, save for the indication of value, which is "TWO PENCE." There were only two plates of the Two Pence as originally issued, and the first of these was, through lack of time, put to press without being hardened.

Late in 1840 it was determined to alter the composition of the blue ink, so as to render it more likely to be acted on by any chemicals which might be used for removing obliterations; and in order to more easily distinguish the stamps printed in this ink, it was ordered that all further plates of the Two Pence should have a line respectively below and above the upper and lower tablets.

This alteration was effected on the roller, by cutting away the necessary metal, so that the corresponding parts on the plate were raised, and appeared in white on the stamps.

It has often been stated that this change was made to accentuate the difference between the two values; but the reason given above is on the authority of a Treasury Minute, dated 19th December, 1840.

Although rouletted copies of this value exist, we do not know whether they are from Archer's machine, or are the result of private enterprise—probably the latter, as it seems, from the evidence available, that Archer experimented on sheets of the lower value only.

With this exception, the Two Pence stamps were, until February, 1854, issued in an imperforate condition, and we learn, from the archives, that perforation was first officially applied to sheets of this value on the 31st January in that year.

Four plates, Nos. 3 to 6, were made from the altered roller, and copies can, with a fair amount of certainty, be allocated to one or other of these plates; we hope to be able to illustrate the corner-letterings, as a verbal description only is far from satisfactory. Plate 6 can be easily distinguished, as the white lines are appreciably thinner. Plate 3 is known imperforate only; Plate 4, both imperforate and perforated; subsequent plates, perforated only.

The Two Pence was, like the One Penny, at first printed on Small Crown paper, and the change to Large Crown was made about the same time as in the

case of the lower value. The earlier watermark is known in copies from Plates 1 to 5, and the Large Crown from Plate 5 onwards. The same perforating machines were used, and combinations of watermark and perforation occur somewhat similar to those in the other value.

There is, in this value, a "Die II.," as in the One Penny; but there is an important distinction—that, in the lower value, Die II. was used for stamps lettered in the lower corners only, as well as for those lettered in all four corners, but, in the case of the Two Pence, for the latter variety alone. The remaining plates of this value are 7 to 9 and 12 to 15, the latter three having thinner lines; all these plates are from Die II., with letters in all corners and numbers at the sides.

The *B.P.* is only a little fellow but the article referred to above contains more philatelic matter, than is sometimes found in a bound yearly volume of some of its contemporaries.

No. 2 of the *Stamp Lover* contains a splendid assortment of philatelic writings. The best article is we think the "Postage Stamps of the Falkland Islands" contributed by Mr. D. B. Armstrong. In the course of his notes, Mr. Armstrong says he knows of but one specialized collection of Falkland Island stamps (in Great Britain), namely that belonging to Mr. Vernon Roberts. As a matter of fact, Falkland Island stamps have ever been popular with collectors and to our certain knowledge, at least two members of the J.P.S. could exhibit very pretty collections of this country.

Mr. Armstrong writes in an interesting manner, and we feel sure our readers will appreciate the following extract concerning the old "frank" stamps.

The stamps referred to were ordinary metal franks or handstamps, and were struck on letters at the post office, after the postal charges upon the same had been prepared in cash. They were of two distinct types. First, a small rectangle containing the words "FALKLAND—PAID—ISLANDS" in three straight lines of small sans-serif capitals, which was struck in black; and, second, a large and roughly drawn circle having inscribed round its circumference the designation, "FALKLAND—ISLANDS," and the word "PAID" in one straight line across its diameter in large tall sans-serifs. The type used, and the whole of the handstamp itself, is on a considerably larger scale than the rectangular frank referred to above. This latter mark was struck in red ink. The theory has been frequently advanced that the rectangular frank was intended for use on inter-island correspondence only, and that the circular one was reserved for foreign letters, and in the early days of the existence of the Falkland Islands Post Office this was, in all probability, the case. But, unfortunately, familiarity breeds contempt, and after prolonged use the postal officials most likely became careless, and made indiscriminate use of the handstamps, whichever came handiest, for denoting the payment of either foreign or local postage. At all events, letters were received in England, about the year 1866, franked, some with one, some with the other of these stamps. It has been claimed that as, unlike the first issue of Bermuda, these stamps were never issued in an adhesive condition,

they are not deserving of the attentions of the collectors of adhesive postage stamps, and should be ruled out of all catalogues of such; but whatever the merits of this claim may be from the point of view of the general collector, it is quite certain that the specialist or would-be specialist in Falklands cannot afford to ignore this very interesting issue, merely on the score of the stamps not being adhesive ones, when it forms the first and most important landmark in the postal history of the Colony.

Reprints of these postal franks were made about the year 1900, being struck, *par complaisance*, from the original dies on ordinary scraps of plain white paper. The only certain means, therefore of distinguishing the genuine from the reprint, in this case, is to collect these postmarks only when on the entire cover.

Although these franks were in general use for a period of twenty years, their existence remained practically unknown to philatelists until long after the regular adhesive series of the Colony had been in use, and their discovery is a matter of comparatively recent history, being made, I believe by an American philatelic journal. The rectangular one is now by no means scarce, however, and specimens are readily obtainable for about 7/6 each.

It is interesting to note that the rate for inter-island postage was identical with that charged for foreign correspondence, thus tending to show what a very small amount of local postal matter was dealt with.

The above-mentioned franks sufficed to meet all the postal requirements of the Colony until Midsummer, 1878, when with the advent of increased facilities for communication, both with the mainland of South America and the Mother Country, and the consequent increase in the amount of matter sent through the local post office, it was deemed expedient to issue adhesive stamps to denote the prepayment of postage, in imitation of Great Britain and many of her other Colonies.

Mr. Armstrong also deals with the four stamps of the 1878-9 issue. We shall look forward with much pleasure to the next instalment of his article.

The *Stamp Lover* contains a lot of interesting matter and, inasmuch as it is not inconveniently crammed with too many articles, is we think a better number than was No. 1.

Several numbers of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* are before us—all containing a great deal of more or less philatelic writing. Mr. D. C. Gray contributes a very interesting little paper on the stamps of Tuscany and their cancellations. In an article entitled "A Plea for a Blank Album" we notice the following paragraph.

The entire number of obsolete stamps of any country that one intends to collect should first be ascertained, and pencil marked in the catalogue. The collector may fix his own limit as to prices, may eliminate or include varieties to his heart's content, may omit whole issues if he chooses, or wander into by-paths of irregular watermarks or perforations. But he should know the exact number of stamps he intends to secure; then let him allot a space to each on the blank page.

What an awful idea—fancy having to make up ones mind to collect thirty varieties of the 1d. red of Great Britain, and

not being able to afterwards change. Better by far the old Lallier. The article in question however, contains a lot of sound advice that could be advantageously followed by many young collectors.

G. S. W. for July 4th, blossoms forth with a new cover, while its contents are varied and good. Mr. W. Ward (a comparatively new, but promising writer) contributes the first instalment of what promises to be an interesting article entitled: "Postal Methods and Means during the American Civil War, 1861-5." The same gentleman also contributes a paper, entitled: "Colonial Post Office Scandals."

Messrs. J. Corner Spokes, Frank Phillips, D. B. Armstrong, and W. P. Barnsdall, all contributed readable matter, while Mr. Poole pegs away at his wonderful paper entitled "The Genus Homo in Philately." We admire Mr. Poole's fertility, while it is a constant source of wonderment to us how he can originate so many new sources of research. We also admire his work and envy him as a clever versatile writer, but we *do* wish he would write a little more about stamps.

Philately in the Colonies and Elsewhere.

The *Philatelic Journal of India* for May contains three short articles from the pen of that prolific writer, Mr. C. S. F. Crofton, namely, "Notes on Indian Official Stamps," dealing with the small Service stamps issued prior to 1872; "Queen's Heads," a series of notes on the Perkins Bacon Dies; and a "The De La Rue Foreign Bills of India." The rest of the *P.J. of I.* is filled with the usual splendid budget of "Notes and Extracts," a short review of some of the London papers, a list of prices realized at recent stamp auctions, and a long letter from Mr. Crofton on the subject of Blèute Paper, mostly in regard to its use for Indian stamps.

Truly the Editor of our Indian contemporary has an easy berth, his energetic application of the scissors and paste brush, must be greatly appreciated by Indian collectors.

The June No. of the *P.J. of I.* contains the following:—

From our next issue a new editor assumes control. Mr. B. Gordon Jones has already left for Europe, and will be away for some months, and the present issue is the last that appears under his control.

Mr. Crofton has made so many contributions to recent numbers of our Indian contemporary, that to all intents and purposes, he has virtually run the journal. Mr. Jones has evidently devoted only a very few hours every month to the make-up,—or rather fill up, of the paper—drawing very largely on the European papers for his material.

We welcome the change and feel sure that Mr. Crofton will turn out some excellent numbers.

In the June No. Mr. Crofton contributes a capital paper entitled "Queen's Heads," being an interesting account of some of the dies used by firms, other than Perkins Bacon and De La Rue, for the manufacture of stamps. Another article, entitled "The Current Numbers of De La Rue British Plates," from the pen of the same writer, and a capital budget of "Notes and Extracts" completes the contents of our Indian Exchange.

Several numbers of *Mekeel's Weekly* are before us—all of which contain one or more really interesting articles or paragraphs. In the copy dated June 13th, we find the following, which will doubtless interest those of our readers who collect Mexican and Venezuelan stamps.

The Porte de Mar stamps of Mexico were used on letters sent abroad on the English or French packet steamers; these letters were charged double postage, "that is, three times more than inland postage. This additional postage was paid by means of special stamps created for this purpose. (2) The "Escuelas" and "Instruccion" stamps of Venezuela were not valid for foreign postage as they were revenue stamps that served their purpose in a worthy cause, the collecting of funds for educational uses, only nationally, when employed postally, (3) The purpose of the overprint, "Resolucion de 1 Octubre de 1892," and new value, has been described as follows:—"On the triumph of the revolution of 1892, the president of the State of Bolivar decreed that the stamps of 1892 were to be surcharged, while the Government of Venezuela took the necessary steps to prevent the circulation of the great quantity of stamps of 1882 which had been stolen by the last presidents and army chiefs of the last 'continuist' government, as well as by those who pulled down and pillaged the office of *La Opinion Nacional*, where there was a large stock of stamps. As soon as the Government of Venezuela had notice of the surcharging done in Guiana, they ordered the use of the surcharged stamps to be suspended, they having been in use only fourteen or fifteen days in a city whose market has not a very large mercantile movements and it is for

this reason that these stamps are so rare. In view of this, speculators, as usual, seized the opportunity to counterfeit these stamps." The foregoing account was translated from a Caracas paper of the time.

The *Australian Philatelist* for May contains a capital and plain spoken review of the *Journal of the Philatelic Literature Society*. We make the following short extracts:—

According to journalistic etiquette, it is customary to speak kindly of a newcomer, and we generally endeavour to observe the rule, but in this case we feel hurt at the niggardly, conservative, and autocratic behaviour of the "literati," and we have decided to kick over the traces and tell them so.

We have great faith in the collection of philatelic literature—it is certain to prove an interesting pursuit; and some day transient journals, perhaps including the one now under review, which have had a weakly existence and a speedy demise, will be in much demand. Their value may not be in their contents but their rarity, and quotations will be on a par with rare stamps—why not?

We would have been disposed to help along the objects of this society with the best of our ability, but the governing powers have thrown a "wet blanket" over us by their silly and ill-advised restriction—not that we are particularly anxious to exchange journals, but we object to the principle which they seek to establish. They aim at setting themselves on a pinnacle above their fellows, which they will regret. This is not the way to further the objects for which the society has been formed, and the sooner they realise the fact the better it will be for themselves.

We agree with our Australian contemporary to a certain extent, certainly where the exchange business is concerned.

The following interesting paragraph is worth extracting:—

POSTAL DECLARATIONS ON INTER-STATE PACKETS AND PARCELS.

At the beginning of last month instructions were issued to the effect that, for customs purposes, a declaration, stating the nature of contents, country of origin and value, must accompany each registered packet sent from one State to another in the Commonwealth. Realizing that this would cause considerable inconvenience to philatelists, we approached the Postmaster-General on the subject, and the following is the result of our letter:—

"The postal declaration required by the above-mentioned order in connection with inter-State transfers, per parcels and packets post, need not be demanded for registered packets in transit to or from dealers, and marked "Postage Stamps Only."

The *Australian Philatelist* for June, has, as a leading article, a paper entitled "a Protest and a Proposition." We make the following extracts:—

We must protest against the tremendous increase in the sub-divisions of descriptions of stamps. Touching on the fringe of the "colour" subject we think a large number of the qualifying names to primary or fundamental colours are totally unnecessary, and in many cases *not warranted*.

As to the methods of stamp printers abroad we cannot say, but here in Australia and in New Zealand excessive care is never taken to see that the colours

are *at all times* and from a scientific point of view exactly alike. It is sufficient so long as the colours are similar and conform to general requirements. We have indeed known instances where the same ink has been used for printing two different stamps and they were described in stamp catalogues as different colours, *vide* the Fiji 1d. lilac rose and the N.S.W. 8d. lake, both printed at the same time in the Sydney office. Then again climatic conditions and operator's methods materially affect colours from a philatelist's point of view. Stamps printed in this country, in winter, will be paler shades than when printed in summer, with the thermometer 100 in the shade. In the case of the former the ink is more sluggish and doesn't "feed" so quickly. Our strong westerlies and hot northerlies have also to be reckoned with in considering varieties of shade. Further, steel-plate printing, if done by hand, produces, sometimes, *more than one shade on the same sheet*, for the simple reason that the plate has not been wiped equally all over. We see examples of this frequently at the post office, and the question might be asked what do such varieties of shade indicate—nothing.

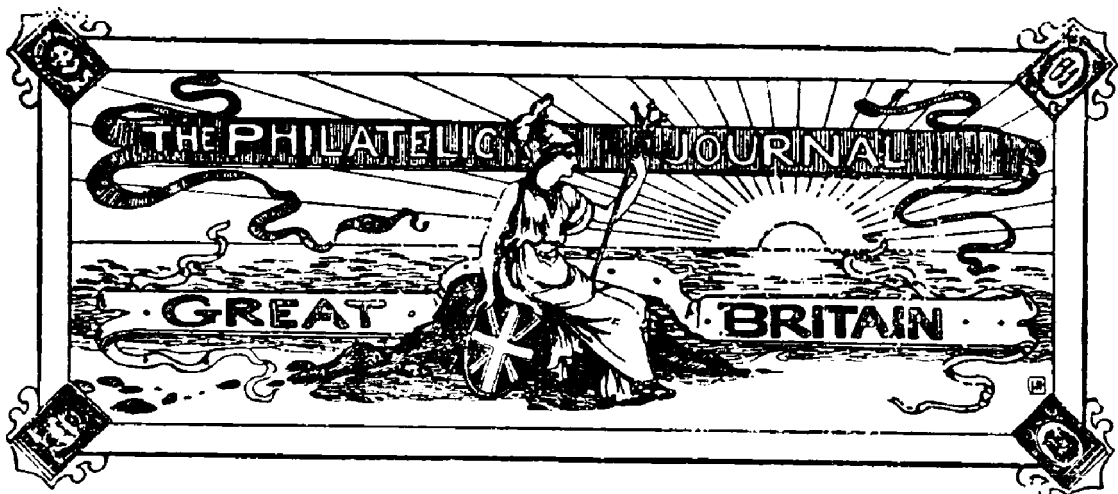
Then again the question of cataloguing stamps, printed on chalky paper as a separate issue, is agitating the philatelic mind. Our opinion is that it is very inadvisable. Stamps in unused condition can be distinguished, but when they have been used and immersed in water, a strong element of doubt creeps in and what then? It is an unsatisfying subject, and one which lays itself open to varying views.

Now for our proposition. We have all along maintained that philatelists have no right to interfere with the procedure of the postal authorities, and we still hold to that opinion; but it is already evident that philately has a great influence on the preparation and issue of stamps. More attention is now being paid to designs than was formerly the case, and our criticisms are bound to carry weight in the matter of stamp production. This being so we have come to the conclusion that philatelists and philatelic societies ought to take steps to inculcate in the minds of stamp producers ideas of consistency and uniformity; not only in regard to colours, but watermarks and perforations as well.

At the Postal Conference held last year a scheme of uniform colours were formulated, but these were only generalities. There are many shades of green, red, blue and brown. Our idea is that stamp printers should be prevailed upon to stick always to one colour for one value, and to see to it that each fresh supply of ink is absolutely the same as that which has preceded it—even from a philatelist's point of view.

Then again in the matter of perforations there should be no difficulty in having one uniform gauge established in any office. A reference to Gibbons' catalogue will show that since 1870 French stamps have always gauged 14 by 13½, United States stamps have been uniformly 12 since 1873, and in Great Britain we find a note after No. 41 which shows that, with few exceptions, since 1858 all the stamps are perforation 14.

What can be done in one country can be done in all. Consistency and uniformity are safeguards against fraud, and the eyes of stamp producers should be opened to the fact that stamps are paper money, so to speak, and should be turned out with the greatest care, pains being taken to guard against the slightest deviation from fixed rules. We hear of very few errors or varieties in the stamps turned out by Messrs. De la Rue, and although we do not wish to advance this as an argument that they should be entrusted with the printing of the stamps of the whole world, still we think their methods should be copied and other stamp producers should be petitioned to emulate their example, and so put a check on the overburdening of our catalogues which are already full to bursting.



The Official Organ of the International Philatelic Union, and the Sheffield Philatelic Society.

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AUG. 20, 1908.

[PRICE 2D.]

EDITORIAL.

THE *Australian Philatelist* recently published an article containing a plea for uniformity in the stamps issued by countries in the Postal Union. The suggestion does not imply that the designs should be the same in all countries, but that the size, colours, watermark and perforation should all be fixed

Postal Uniformity. by the Postal Union in the same way that the colours of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d. and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. values have been. Our Australian contemporary goes so far as to suggest that the colours should all be in exactly the same shade without the slightest variation, and the perforations exactly the same gauge. Now, without going into the question of the practicability of this scheme we should like to ask how it would benefit stamp collectors. We can imagine that it might be of great use to postal employees throughout the world, but it would not add to the attractiveness of new issues. If, instead of making use of every colour and every shade known to art, the stamps of the future were to be printed in about twelve definite hues, one of their greatest attractions would have disappeared. Uniformity of design would be scarcely less disastrous than uniformity of colour. Indeed, partial uniformity in design has been achieved in the case of the stamps of the British Crown Colonies, but their popularity has survived the drawback mainly because of the multitudinous

varieties of colour used. The Portuguese and French Colonies have not been so fortunate. For many years their stamps were all turned out in the same design and with the same colour for each value, with the result that they have achieved a very large measure of unpopularity with collectors. The French have discovered the mistake and have, during the past few years, provided most of their Colonies with new sets in bizarre designs and brilliant colours. Portugal will most likely follow suit when the issues bearing the portrait of the new King are produced.

"Variety is the spice of life" and there can be no doubt that the most original and striking-looking stamps will always be favourites with many collectors. We must not forget that Philately's ranks are recruited to some extent by new issues. A curious looking stamp coming on a letter from abroad is frequently a collector's first introduction to Philately, a stepping stone to older and more interesting issues. It is consequently of the greatest importance that new issues should continue to be attractive. In this sense attraction is heightened by a novel colour, therefore the more colours the better.

Recognizing this, we are the more sorry to think that the *Australian Philatelist* is prophetic in its remarks. The Postal Union officials have had a taste of uniformity and have evidently found it to their liking, for, since the introduction of the colour scheme for the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d. and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. values has it not been ordained that all

stamps shall in future have the numerals of value expressed in figures instead of words? Can we doubt that this is but the beginning of a much more extended uniformity which, looked at from the point of view of mere postal officials, would be only common sense? What more likely result than that in the fullness of time one colour shall be fixed for each value, whether the stamp hail from Foochow or Grand Cayman? But even should this come about we are happy to think that *absolute uniformity* of tint will be a prac-

tical impossibility for many years to come. If the same latitude were permitted as that shewn in the selection of the Postal Union green, red, and blue, no great harm will be done.

No! Though greater uniformity will gradually be achieved, we think there is no fear of any such scheme as that so blindly advocated by the *Australian Philatelist* being consummated in our time,—and we have only a sprinkling of grey hairs at present.

New Issues and Varieties.

(We shall be glad to receive any new issues or new varieties from our readers for description in this column. Letters should be addressed to THE EDITOR OF THE PHILATELIC JOURNAL OF GREAT BRITAIN, c/o MESSRS. P. L. PEMBERTON & Co., 68, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.)

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Brunei. In the May number of this journal we chronicled some impending changes in the colours of Brunei stamps. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* now says the following stamps have been issued.

Adhesives.
1c. all green.
3c. „ rose.
5c. yellow and black.

Canada. We have received full sets of the new commemorative stamps. In fairness to these stamps we can but say they form a very handsome set—being second cousins to the Jubilee Canadians of 1897 and third cousins to the Cabot issue of Newfoundland.

For the benefit of record holders we may add that we received our first consignment of these stamps at 10.2 a.m., on Monday, July 27th.

Commemorative Adhesives. No wmk. Perf. 12.

½c. grey-black (with picture of the Prince and Princess of Wales).

1c. green (portraits of Cartier and Champlain).

2c. rose-red (King Edward and Queen Alexandra).

5c. blue (L'Abitation de Quebec).

7c. green (Montcalm and Wolfe).

10c. mauve (View of Old Quebec).

15c. orange-red (Partement pour l'Ouest).

20c. brown (arrival of Cartier at Quebec, 1535).

Cayman Islands. The new ½d. stamp has already made its appearance.

Adhesive. Wmk. multiple CC. Ordinary paper.
½d. brown.

Ceylon. The new six cents stamp with numerals in the lower corners has now been issued.

Adhesive. King's Head multiple, ordinary.
6c. carmine.

East Africa and Uganda. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the current 1c. stamp in a new shade.

Adhesive. King's Head. Multiple CA., ordinary paper.
1c. red-brown.

Federated Malay States. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write us that they have received consignments of the 50c. stamp on multiple chalky paper.

Adhesive. Multiple, chalky paper.
50c. black and orange-brown.

Jamaica. In a fine specialized collection which our publishers recently purchased were the following varieties, which we have not hitherto seen chronicled:

The 1d. Pictorial of 1901, black and red on bluish paper.

The Postal Fiscal 1½d. blue on blue, imperf., used postally; we have also seen two fiscally used *pairs* of this variety, thus proving beyond a doubt that some were issued unperforated.

The ½d. Official, thin type, 17mm. long, overprinted horizontally and vertically downwards.

Leeward Islands. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles the 2d. stamp on chalky paper.

Adhesive. King's Head. Multiple, chalky paper.
2d. lilac and ochre.

New South Wales. *The Australian Philatelist* publishes the following interesting information:—

“Mr. Maney Lake was the first to inform us that new electros had been brought into use for the ½d., 4d., 6d. and 1/- values. The sheets are dated 1907, and have coloured margins; and we understand that all the stamps are placed the same way on the plates, so that inverted watermarks will in future not be so

plentiful as the normal kind, which was the case with some values. Most likely the 2½d., 8d., 10d. and 2/6 values will follow suit. We understand that one of the reasons for making these new electros was in order that the sheets might fit the new rotary perforating machine made at the government printing office pretty much on the same lines as the Adelaide press. The stamps are fed into both of these machines automatically, and there can be no possibility of imperforations, or double perforations; besides, the work is done much more quickly. The gauge of the recently installed machine varies a little from the triple cutters, some would say it was 12 all round, but in reality it gauges about 12 × 11½, and we shall still continue to list it as 12 × 11½. He would be a clever man who could tell from single specimens which stamps were perforated on the old triple cutters, which on the Adelaide perforating machine, and which on the new rotary. We might, add, however, that those values—new electros—above 2d., perforated on the new machine, have the gutters between the panes perforated, while the margins are not. It is the reverse on the old triple cutters."

North Borneo. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles the current 24c. stamp (overprinted British Protectorate), overprinted "Postage Due."

Postage Due.
24c. blue and lake.

Why, we wonder.

Northern Nigeria. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles the 2d. King's Head on chalky paper.

Adhesive. King's Head. Multiple, chalky paper.
2d. purple and yellow.

Papua. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the 6d. stamp (permanent type) perf. 12½. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the new 1d. value.



Adhesives. Wmk. Crown & A. Perf. 12½.
6d. dark green and black.
Perf. 11.
1d. pink and black.

St. Helena. Our publishers have shown us a most interesting variety of the 1d. St. Helena, of 1864, with the surcharge in indigo or very deep blue. It is a variety of the stamp with the words of surcharge in thin tall type and measuring 17 to 18mm. in length, perf. 12½. It is known that Messrs. De la Rue & Co. made use of this coloured ink in overprinting

the ½ and 1 anna India on H.M.S. in the '70's. It is therefore not very surprising that it should be tried on other stamps overprinted at about the same period, though it is curious that it should not have been discovered before.

St. Vincent. The *Monthly Circular* says it is reported that another value, namely the 6d. orange, has been added to the new series.

Straits Settlements. The long promised 3c. rose stamp has at last arrived. The design is the same as the 3c. lilac which it replaces.

Adhesive.
King's Head. Multiple CA. wmk., ordinary paper.
3c. rose.

Tasmania. The *Monthly Circular* chronicles the 6d. stamp on Crown and A paper.

The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles a pair of 6d. stamps imperf. vertically.

Adhesive. Wmk. Crown & A.
6d. lake.

Victoria. We are indebted to *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* for the following interesting information:

"From an official collection formed in Melbourne, we have recently purchased a block of stamps, they are the Emblems Issue of 1858, no watermark, but 'serrated 19.' This serrated perforation is well known on the 6d. orange-yellow, and was used in 1857-58. The 2d. 'emblems' was issued in 1858, and it seems probable that at least a sheet of the emblems was serrated, and this block of six stamps was kept in a Government office and found pinned on to some documents; the pin-holes are through the right-hand lower stamp on the block. What has become of the rest of the sheet? Probably it was issued, and we thus have a new variety to look for."

The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles the following:

Adhesives. Perf. 12½. Wmk. Crown & A.
£2 blue.
Postage Due.
4d. green and carmine.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Austrian P.O.'s in the Levant. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* describes the new stamps for use in the Levant. This set consists of nine values, but only two designs are used. The first design is that of the 5 heller of Austria, and is used for the para values and the 1 piastre, all of which are surface-printed. The second design is like the Austrian 1 krone, and is used for the piastre values (from 2 to 20pi.); these are all line-engraved.

In addition to the set mentioned above, there is a further set of Postage Due stamps,

consisting of nine values, all of the same colour and design.

<i>Adhesives.</i>	
10 para.	yellow-green on yellow.
20 ..	vermilion on pink.
30 ..	chocolate on brownish.
60 ..	purple on bluish.
1 piast.	deep blue on blue.
2 ..	red on yellow.
5 ..	deep brown on toned.
10 ..	green on yellow.
20 ..	dull blue on toned.

The design of the Postage Dues is similar to that used for the current Austrian "Dues."

<i>Postage Due Stamps.</i>	
$\frac{1}{2}$ piast.	yellow-green.
$\frac{1}{4}$..	"
1 ..	"
1 $\frac{1}{2}$..	"
2 ..	"
5 ..	"
10 ..	"
20 ..	"
30 ..	"

Austrian P.O.'s in Crete. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles a set of stamps, similar in design to the Jubilee Austrians, for use in Crete. They are described as follows: They are similar in appearance to the Austrian commemorative set issued at the beginning of this year, but there are only two designs: the first is that of the 5 heller, and is used for the 5, 10, 15 and 25 centimes; the other is like the 1 krone, and is used for the 50c. and 1fr. The first design is surface-printed, and the second line-engraved. The perforation gauges 12 $\frac{1}{2}$, like the Austrian.

<i>Adhesives. Perf. 12$\frac{1}{2}$.</i>	
5c.	yellow-green on yellow.
10c.	vermilion on pink.
15c.	chocolate on brownish.
25c.	deep blue on blue.
50c.	red on yellow.
1fr.	deep brown on toned.

Brazil. The *Metropolitan Philatelist* informs us that the set of Commemorative stamps, prepared in honour of the visit of the King of Portugal, had advanced too far to be recalled, and so will be issued as originally intended. The set consists of three values, and will shortly be put on sale. So far we are lacking full particulars.

Dreadful, isn't it?

Chili. The following interesting letter is published in a recent number of *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*—

"I think the following information *re* the stamps of Chili, obtained in my recent visits to Valparaiso, Coquimbo and Iquique, may be of interest to you.

"Of the present issue of Chili the 12c., 30c., and 1 peso (Gibbons' 97, 100, 102) have not yet made their appearance and the other values of the set seem to have been distributed in a perfunctory manner. For instance, I could only obtain the 50 cent value at Coquimbo, the 15 cent value at Valparaiso, and no 3 cent although used copies were obtained.

"The 30 cent in use was Gibbons' No. 75, and at Iquique the 50 cent, Gibbons' No. 62, was on sale at the post office.

"At Iquique I was told a rather curious story about the Postage Due stamps (Gibbons' Nos. 223-234), which I have every reason to believe to be authentic.

"Apparently this set was a private speculation on the part of an official at Valparaiso. The fraud was discovered, the official dismissed his post, and the remaining stock called in and destroyed. Hence the comparative rarity of this set to the previous one."

Dominican Republic. *Mekeel's Weekly* chronicles a vertical strip of ten of the 2c. 1902 scarlet and black, the line of perforations missing between the fifth and sixth stamps. These two stamps are opposite the marginal imprint, "Hamilton Bank Note Co., New York."

Dutch Indies. Java. Mrs. Clough has shown us a complete set of the current Dutch Indian stamps surcharged "Java." Our informant also tells us that these stamps are being surcharged "Buiten Bezit." Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. also send us a set of these stamps and add:—"Our correspondents write that the stamps overprinted with the word 'JAVA' are intended to be used only in Java and Madura, the stamps intended to be used in the other islands of the Dutch East Indies are surcharged 'BUITEJHEZITTINGE,' so that there are only two sets instead of a different set for each island as was threatened some time ago."

We have also received the new 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. value of the old set, this should become a scarce stamp, as the surcharging was done shortly after its arrival in Java.

Adhesive. Perf. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.
7 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. grey.



Dutch Indies Stamps surcharged "Java."

$\frac{1}{2}$ c.	mauve.
1c.	olive green.
2c.	brown.
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.	green.
3c.	orange.
5c.	rose.
7 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.	grey.
10c.	dull blue.
12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.	deep blue.
15c.	brown.
20c.	olive.
25c.	mauve.
30c.	chestnut.
50c.	lake brown.
1g.	lilac.
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ g.	slate.

Ecuador. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write us as follows:—

"A new set of postage stamps was issued on June 25th, to commemorate the opening of the Quito Railroad. Our correspondent informs us that these stamps were put on

sale for only one month from the date of issue, consequently they are already obsolete. The set consists of the following values:—1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 centavos and 1 sucre. We send you an unused specimen of the 1c. and a used 10c., the others being at present out of stock. The 1c. and 1 sucre are oblong, whilst all the others are triangular. The colours are as follows:—1c. brown, 2c. blue and black, 5c. carmine and black, 10c. orange and black, 20c. green and black, 50c. grey and black, 1 sucre black. The latter stamp has an illustration of a mountain in the centre."

These stamps are purely commemorative, speculative and unnecessary.

France. Madagascar and Dependencies. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. kindly send us specimens of these recent new French Colonials. They are all long big stamps and certainly attractive, from a pictorial point of view. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles a set of eight Postage Due stamps.



Adhesives. Centre in first colour. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$.

- 1c. olive and lilac.
- 2c. " red.
- 4c. pale brown and olive-brown.
- 5c. olive and green.
- 10c. claret and pink.
- 20c. brown and brownish-orange.
- 25c. black and blue.
- 30c. " yellow-brown.
- 35c. " dull red.
- 40c. " chocolate.
- 45c. " green.
- 50c. " lilac.
- 75c. " pink.
- 1fr. olive and yellow-brown.
- 2fr. " blue.
- 5fr. chocolate and lilac.

Postage Due Stamps. Perf. 13, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$.

- 2c. dull claret.
- 4c. lilac.
- 5c. green.
- 10c. carmine.
- 20c. olive.
- 40c. brown on toned.
- 50c. olive-brown on azure.
- 1fr. deep blue on pink.

Luxemburg. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles the whole of the current set of stamps, from the 1c. to the 2½fr., overprinted with the word "Official," in black.

Nicaragua. When we see other new issue compilers pegging away month after month, trying to keep pace with the new issues of a

country like Nicaragua, we have pangs of remorse concerning our own laxity. To make amends, we now extract a good "dollop" from the current number of the *Philatelic Adviser*.

Province of Zelaya. *Mekeel's Weekly* reports that the Scott Stamp & Coin Co. have received the 1 and 3 cent stamps. "American" print, with large "CABO" overprint in red. At present these are listed in "black or violet," but we suppose they will have to be listed separately in the next catalogue.

They also report other novelties as per appended list. Nicaragua has become an absolute nuisance.

- Overprinted "Correos—1908" on Revenue Stamps.
 - 5c. orange and black.
 - 10c. blue and green.
 - 1p. ochre.
 - 2p. grey.

- As last but with new value surcharged.
 - 1c. on 5c. orange and black, in red.
 - 2c. " 5c. " " in blue.
 - 4c. " 5c. " " in green.
 - 15c. " 50c. olive green, in carmine.
 - 35c. " 50c. " in red.

- For the Province of Zelaya.
 - Overprinted as No. 704 and new value "5 cent."
 - 5c. on 4c. orange-brown (Waterlow).

- Overprinted large "Cabo" on provisional Postal Fiscals.
 - 5c. orange and black.
 - 10c. pale blue.
 - 15c. on 50c. olive green.

The *Postage Stamp* adds another to the list of provisionals we gave last month, viz:—

- Surcharged in red.
 - 50c. on 6c. "American" print.

Ewen's Weekly Stamp News also chronicles new Official Provisionals as follows:—

Official Stamps.

- Surcharged in yellow in two lines, reading upwards.
 - 10c. on 3c. violet (American).
 - 15c. " 3c. " "
 - 20c. " 3c. " "
 - 35c. " 3c. " "
 - 50c. " 3c. " "

Mekeel's Weekly adds the following:—

- For the Province of Zelaya.
 - Overprinted large Cabo.
 - 20c. on 1c. green (No. 1100).

Panama. The *Metropolitan Philatelist* informs us that a new series of stamps has been manufactured for this country and will shortly be put in use.

Roumania. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* and the *Philatelic Adviser* have been busy lately chronicling new varieties of perforation. We extract both lists from the latter paper.

Adhesives. 1893-5. Wmk. PR. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$, 40 bani, green.

1905. No wmk. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$.
5-bani, pale green.
1 leu, black and green.

For use in the Levant. Surcharged in violet. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$.
10p. on 5b. blue.
1 pre. on 25b. violet.
Perf. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$.
10p. on 5b. blue.

Switzerland. *Gibbons Weekly* chronicles the 25c. stamp, perf. 11½ and 12 compound. We listed this stamp some months ago, on the authority of an exchange. At that time its existence was doubtful.

We have received from a correspondent in Switzerland, specimens of a new 40c. stamp in a new design, representing "Helvetia" apparently seated on a mountain top, holding a sword and olive branch in one hand, in the distance appear some snow-capped peaks. The colours are very striking, the background of the figure and of the numerals in the upper corners, is printed in pale yellow, while the solid background of the stamp is in bright magenta.

Adhesives.
Granite paper. Perf. 11½ and 12 compound.
25c. blue.

Granite paper. Perf. 11½.
40c. yellow and magenta.

Uruguay. Mr. A. H. Davis, writing from Montevideo, kindly informs us that the Post Office placed on sale on the 13th inst. a new 10c. stamp, identical in every respect to the 10c. issued on 15th December, 1900, so we now have the 5 mils, 1c., 2c., 5c., 10c. and 20c. of the 1900-1 set in use.

Numbered Cancellations on Early Western Australians.

BY W. WAITE SANDERSON.

PROBABLY the stamps of no country in the world provides a wider field for research than those of Western Australia.

For some reason which it is utterly impossible to explain, serious philatelists, who, by patient investigation, have solved many of the difficult problems relating to the stamps of New South Wales, New Zealand, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria have ignored the claims of the neighbouring colony which, I maintain, need yield pride of place to none.

Not only are the stamps of exceptional interest from an artistic standpoint, but the various issues simply teem with those knotty points, the elucidation of which, raises philately above the level of a hobby or a fad; yet even that Standard work "The Postage Stamps of Australia and the British Colonies of Oceania" compiled and published by The Philatelic Society, London, dismisses Western Australia with the baldest commonplaces, contained in less than half a dozen pages; those interested in the philatelic history of this colony are therefore under an exceptional debt of gratitude to the editor of the *P.J. of G.B.* for having attacked one of the most difficult problems in connection with the early issues of Western Australia.

I refer, of course, to the numerical cancel-

lations upon which interesting articles have appeared in the last two issues of this journal.

The writer of those articles has assumed that each number in these early numerical cancellations represents a different township and that the post office from which a letter was sent can be determined in this way.

I join issue with him on this point or rather I should say until proof is supplied I must regard it as a problem rather than an axiom. I admit it is a very feasible theory, but I prefer to regard it as a theory rather than a fact until further evidence is produced.

I have a twopence brown-black or red (1857 issue) on piece, postmarked "Vasse, Western Australia, Dec. 2nd, 1859" with the cancellation figure "1"; I have also a piece consisting of two S.G. 33 and one S.G. 34 (1861 issue) with postmark "Vasse, Western Australia, Oct. 21st, 1863" and the cancellation number is "21." Both these numbers are perfectly distinct. It might be argued that between Dec. 1859 and Oct. 1863, the cancellation number for Vasse may have been changed, but in opposition to that theory is the fact that in Oct. 1860, the cancellation number "1" was in use in Perth. I have the two pence pale orange (1860 issue) rouletted, on an entire with the postmark "Perth, Oct. 26th, 1860" and the cancellation number "1" on the stamp. It will be noted that there are less than eleven months intervening between the dates on which the cancellation number "1" was used at Vasse and Perth.

A very ingenious explanation of this has been offered by one whose knowledge of Western Australian stamps entitles his theory to the most respectful consideration, namely, that possibly the letter on which the two pence brown-black on red (to which I have already referred) was affixed, was posted from Vasse and only postmarked on its arrival at Perth. He adds, in a letter addressed to me on the subject: "From personal experience of township postmasters in Western Australia, I note they were often very careless in regard to stamping their letters; as a matter of fact the mails are very frequently only made up a few minutes before the mail train or steamer leaves, and the letters are handed to the guard, or captain, as the case may be, and postmarked on arrival."

As I have said this is a very ingenious explanation but I am afraid it falls to the ground in view of the fact that the letter was postmarked at Vasse and in order to accept the explanation in question we must assume that the letter was postmarked at Vasse and the stamp was unobliterated until it arrived at Perth—a most unlikely contingency.

I think a more probable explanation of the matter (assuming that the stamp was obliterated at Perth) is that the letter was posted from Perth to Vasse, the stamp cancelled at the first-named town and the postmark of Vasse added on its arrival there; although it

was certainly not an universal custom in the early days of the Western Australian postal service to postmark letters at the township to which they were addressed and the Vasse postmark on the envelope in question is directly below the stamp and not on the back of the envelope as it probably would have been if the letter had been received from another township.

In the article on this subject appearing in the June issue of the *P. J. of G.B.*, the question is raised as to whether the cancellation "G.P.O." superseded the numerical type or was used concurrently. I think there can be no doubt it was used concurrently, as I have stamps with this cancellation as early as the four pence slate blue (1854 issue) and the numerical cancellation as late as the 1889 issue. The numerical cancellations composed of numbers above "20" are of quite a different type from those of the lower and, I assume, earlier numbers. The earliest numerical cancellation above "20" that I possess is "22" on one penny bistre (1865 issue), and I have no number above "30" until the 1885-93 issue. In this issue I have the one penny cancelled "33." Before this, at least as early as 1882, the numerical cancellations were being replaced by capital letters set in a circle surrounded by bars. These letters vary in depth from 2½mm. to 9mm., and among those I have in my collection are "A," "B," "F," "G" and "Y."

I have also the following combinations of letters, sometimes set in a circle and at other times only surrounded by bars, "G.T." (possibly "Government Telegraphs") "K.G." "P.O." (evidently "Post Office") and "B.E." These vary in size from 2½mm. to 8½mm. I also have the one penny carmine-rose (1864 issue) cancelled by a Crown with the word "Paid" below but this is possibly a fiscal cancellation.



In order to give some idea of the comparative rarity of the various numerical cancellations I have gone through my collection of Western Australia, and tabulated those stamps upon which the cancellation number is perfectly distinct, unfortunately only about 15% or 20% are decipherable, but the following list of 272 stamps gathered together from many different sources may help those who are interested in the subject.

I am afraid the arguments in this short paper have been destructive rather than

constructive, but the problems facing those who set out to unravel the mysteries surrounding the early postal service of Western Australia are so numerous and intricate that the effort is foredoomed to failure unless there is a solid foundation of truth on which to build up the result of their research.

List of numerical cancellations with the number of each in collection.

Number of cancellation.	Number of stamps in collection.
1	32
2	37
3	21
4	—
5	19
6	15
7	6
8	54
9	—
10	2
11	2
12	1
13	5
14	1
15	—
16	10
17	4
18	10
19	2
20	3
21	7
22	2
23	1
33	1
35	1
"G.P.O." cancellation	36

Though it has nothing to do with cancellations, collectors of Western Australian stamps may be interested to know of an uncatalogued variety I recently secured, that is the sixpence golden bronze (1857 issue), *rouletted*.

W. WAITE SANDERSON.

Concerning the Recent Surcharged Maldives.

THE reason that sales of stamps were far larger than had been expected is surely an extraordinary one for stopping the issue altogether. The first object of a post office is not to carry mails but to make a profit; the convenience of the public is always made subsidiary to financial considerations. It should be the business of every post office to supply all the stamps for which it is asked and we cannot see that it matters in the least whether the applicants are stamp collectors or letter writers, so long as they pay cash.

—Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.

Current Chatter.

BY ANGUS MCTAVISH.

AFTER fooling collectors, and making them pay a £5 note for absurd Cayman surcharges, the Government has issued a few odd millions of ¼d. stamps. Silly isn't it? Reminds one of the mountain chap that groaned because he got bitten by a mouse (McTavish translation). And what a ¼d. stamp, from an illustration I have seen I should think the state *chef* of Jhind had something to do with its design, it looks like a badly printed inverted Jhind stamp, crossed with another badly printed (but right way up) Jhind stamp.

The McTavish tips being eagerly sought after by collectors in all parts of the world, I think it only fair to let my readers have a few now and again, so here goes. (1) Buy Uruguay, No. 29 (the numbers are S.G. 1908) at 6d. a head, buy them by the barleycorn, by the dram, or buy them by the *killo*, but buy them if you can and Mac will give you a profit on each one, or on each 1,000. (2) Buy, beg, borrow or swap Uruguay, No. 38, at the present catalogue price, viz., 1/-. It is a very cheap stamp.

Another little stamp I fancy is Egypt, No. 57, catalogued 2d., and yet many quite decent collections lack it. Chili is, in some instances, an undercatalogued country. There are several stamps I should fancy were I seeking a small investment, namely, Nos. 11, 16, 19, 27, 28 and 34. Quite a number of Roumanians, 1868 to 1871 issues, are worth buying at catalogue quotations, provided their condition is superb. I will list a few cheap U.S.A.'s and then I think my readers will have enough bargaining to hunt for. Nos. 9, 24, 59, 74, 120, 123, 125 are all too cheap, while the 6c. re-engraved Nos. 234-5 at 2d. is absurd. The above stamps are all catalogued (most of them very considerably) under a £1.

Writing of Yankees reminds me, I was told, that the 1909 Gibbons will shew some sensational rises in Yankeeland. The truth of the matter is there has been a Powerful sale of U.S.A.'s in the States, and at S.G. prices the supply can't keep pace with the demand. It may not be brotherly, but it is nevertheless true that our Stanley prices U.S.A.'s very considerably cheaper than does Uncle Scott, and I guess New Yorkers can calculate which is the cheapest stamp store for buying real elegant U.S.A.'s at.

In a recent number of *Mekel's* I see it reported that Taffy & Co., of Wales, would like to have stamps of their own, after the fashion of the "Sinn Fein" labels, that Mr. Gavan Duffy so kindly distributed amongst the philatelic papers a few months ago. Hoots! Taffy, the wee bit King's Heads are nae sae bad whatever. Writing of the "Sinn Fein" labels reminds me that they were recently described in the *S.C.F.* as being

"curious adhesive labels issued by those militant Irish patriots who adhere to the tenants of the 'Sinn Fein' brotherhood." Distinctly good, but surely another injustice to Ireland.

A few days ago I made the acquaintance of a stamp collector, and what in the name of little apples, do you think he collects? Shades of specialism! he only collects "Too Late" stamps. We got talking stamps, and he asked me to show him my South Australians, which I did. He was only interested in two or three stamps that happened to be cancelled "Too Late," and the sad fact came to light that he only collected stamps with this postmark. Can anything be done for so sad a case?

I am told that the publishers of this journal had a great time of it when they removed from 84 to 68. While it is rumoured that one or two of the members of the firm quoted more Shakespeare during the three days that the move was on, than is usually quoted during a whole month, under ordinary circumstances.

One of the sights was the removing of the safes, and the official tweezers, all going in through the windows. Griffiths' men (about a dozen or so) took possession for the day and tumbled safes about in the most unconcerned manner. Bye-the-by, have you seen the 68, High Holborn, tweezer? It's great, Sheffield make, and guaranteed to lift twenty-six Obocks at a time.

The *Australian Philatelist* (which is a paper all collectors should subscribe to) startles its readers occasionally with funny little editorials. The most recent of these concerns the desirability of a uniform postage stamp, uniform at any rate as far as paper, perforation, colour and watermark go. What a Quixotic, Utopian, Millennial, etc., etc., sort of idea. Where would the pleasure of collecting come in? As the Irish American said, "I guess that derved silly to try and kill the gander that lays the golden eggs."

Someone who writes under the *nom de plume* of "Pelure," has contributed the following to a recent number of the *Otago Witness* (N.Z.):

"I am very pleased to see that all the Home journals vehemently denounce the 'King Edward Land' rubbish. I don't think, however, they were ever issued as stamps, to be collected by stamp collectors, but merely to serve as mementoes of the Antarctic expedition. There is no doubt that they are arrant rubbish, quite unworthy of collectors' notice. They are evidently considered as such, as I have seen them offered at 3d. each, and no buyers."

Messrs. Willcox, Smith & Co. sent me the extract and, if it voices the general idea, held in N.Z., concerning these stamps, I am very glad. Going begging at 3d. a head and puir wee McTavish not there! Just the wee laddie's usual luck.

Well-known Philatelists.

No. 103.—REV. W. NEVILLE USHER.

HAVING collected stamps for nearly, if not quite fifty years, we feel sure that Mr. Usher's views regarding our hobby will be of exceptional interest to our readers.

Born in Edinburgh towards the middle of the last century, the subject of our present sketch can look back on a long, active, and pleasurable career of stamp collecting, while few philatelists, we feel sure, have extracted so much real enjoyment from the pastime of stamp collecting.

Although a collector in the late fifties, it was not until about 1883 that he first commenced to specialize, the country chosen being Gt. Britain. As is almost to be expected, British Colonials were next taken up and a fine collection was formed, but, eight or ten years later British Colonials had to take a back seat and Europeans, especially the smaller stamp issuing States, came into favour. For the last ten or so years Mr. Usher has devoted almost his whole attention to Europeans, with the result that he has now formed a very fine collection, special attention having been paid to blocks and pairs.

Perhaps the favourite of all countries is Iceland, in which country he is particularly strong.

Doubtless many of our readers will remember his display of these stamps at the London Exhibition of 1906, for which he was awarded a special silver medal.

That so active and advanced a collector should pay so much attention to the smaller European stamp issuing countries, and in particular those forming part of the Balkan group, is eloquent testimony to the interest which these stamps have.

Personally, we agree with Mr. Usher, as do very many of our readers, that Servians, Bulgarians, etc., are just as interesting, and in many cases more difficult to obtain than many of the stamps of our own Colonies.

A Master of Arts, a Fellow of many learned Societies, and a member of the Royal Philatelic Society for nearly a quarter of a century, Mr. Usher has always remained true to

Philately; not however entirely to the neglect of other hobbies, as he is a keen antiquary and a keen devotee of nearly all outdoor sports, of which golf is the prime favourite.

As is usual, we like to ascertain the views held, concerning the future of Philately, by Well-known Philatelists.

Mr. Usher writes as follows:

"I am not skilled in prophecy, but judging from the past, and presuming that human nature remains as at present, I should say that, with certain ups and downs, Philately is likely to continue to attract large numbers of adherents."

We do not consider this a too optimistic view of the future of our hobby. Were there, however, more collectors like Mr. Usher, we feel sure that there would be fewer "downs" and more "ups" in the pursuit of stamp collecting.

In these days of bitter disappointments at not receiving surcharged provisional stamps, when one has written to some insignificant little ocean landmark for a shilling's worth of new issues, it is a great treat to read the following extract from Mr. Usher's letter.

"Living in the country and far from other philatelists, I find this hobby an interesting pastime, not only for its own sake, but also because of the many friends with whom it brings me into contact, chiefly through correspondence. I look forward with interest to the exchange packets I receive through various Societies and often pick up interesting varieties in the

countries I specialise in. Besides Iceland, these include Roumania, Norway, Servia, Bulgaria, Turkey, South Bulgaria, Montenegro, Bosnia, China and Corea, besides a very complete collection of the Norwegian Town-post stamps, which attracted my attention when travelling in that country nearly thirty years ago."

It has given us very great pleasure to interview so kindly and genial a gentleman and we feel sure our readers will join with us in wishing Mr. Usher yet very many more years of active collecting, with plenty of fortunate purchases and finds.



Accusations Against London Stamp Dealers.

ALLEGED FORGERIES OF "B.T." OFFICIALS.

REFERRING to accusations brought by a certain paper—against two London stamp dealers in connection with the alleged forging of Board of Trade stamps, we have been requested to publish the following official statement by the Directors of the Stamp Trade Protection Association:—

A statement having been made that these accused dealers were members of the S.T.P.A., the Directors of that Association have exhaustively investigated the matter and find, Firstly, that one of the two Dealers whose names have been given, is not, nor ever was a member of the Association.

Secondly, that there is no evidence against the Dealer who is a member of the Association.

In short the charges made are quite as inaccurate as what purports to be a list of the London members of the S.T.P.A. as given in a recent issue of the sheet in question, and further referred to in a subsequent number of the same journal. To remove all misunderstandings in this connection the Directors deem it advisable to give the following full list of those London stamp dealers who are members of the S.T.P.A. at the present time. It will be seen that practically all the leading dealers, including those who stand foremost in the trade, are members.

LONDON MEMBERS OF THE STAMP TRADE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.

BLUETT, E. F. G.	HEIERLE, W. U.
*BRIDGER, E. J. (of Messrs. Bridger & Kay)	HORSMAN, W. G. (of Messrs. Puttick & Simpson)
CAMPBELL, D.	JACOBY, W.
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*HADLOW, H.	LOWE, H. F.
HAWORTH, H. E.	*MARTIN, B. E.
MOFFAT, E. J.	REED, C. T.
MORLEY, W.	REGAN, W. H.
NISSEN, C.	SALTER, H.
*OLIVER, F. H. (of Messrs. Bright & Son)	*TELPER, J. H. (of Messrs. Plumridge & Co.)
PECKITT, W. H.	TURPIN, F. B.
*PEMBERTON, P. L.	WAITE, J.
PHILLIPS, C. J. (of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.)	WESTHORN, R.

(A * denotes a Director for the current year).

For reasons which we think will commend themselves to all we do not mention the name of the paper which has circulated this unjustifiable attack, not only upon the S.T.P.A., but upon the good faith of the London stamp trade. It is difficult to guess the motive of such an attack, can it be that a desire for self advertisement and cheap notoriety lies at the bottom of the whole matter?

This is the last word of the Directors of the Stamp Trade Protection Association on the subject.

We are also desired to give publicity to the following announcement just issued by the S.T.P.A.:—

THE STAMP TRADE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION, LTD.

£100 REWARD.

ON conviction the above Association are prepared to pay £100 to anyone supplying information that will lead to the conviction of the person or persons who made, caused to be made, or knowingly dealt in forged or faked stamps which have appeared during the last few years, amongst them being the following:—

- Gold Coast, £1 Queen.
- Lagos, King, Single CA, 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s.
- Somaland Officials.
- Transvaal, C.S.A.R.
- British Central Africa, Nigger type, no wmk.
- Great Britain Officials.
- „ 9d., Hair Lines. &c., &c., &c.

All communications should be made to the Secretary of the Stamp Trade Protection Society, Ltd., 63, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.



August, 1908, Report.

List of Officers and Committee, 1908-9.

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MEMBERSHIP.

Candidates for admission must be over 18 years of age, and supply at least two satisfactory references. They will then be proposed for election, and if no objection be lodged within fourteen days, be duly elected. The Entrance Fee, 2/6, and Subscription, 5/-, should accompany the application, and will be

refunded in the event of the non-election of the applicant. (The Committee are empowered to elect Life Members, not exceeding ten in number, at a fee of Two Guineas.)

NOTICES.

As announced in last report the Committee will meet at Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, on Thursday, September 10th, at 7.15 p.m., to arrange programme for the season and other business. A general meeting will follow at 8 p.m., when Mr. E. W. Wetherell will read a paper on "The Progress of Philately in connection with the Formation of a Philatelic Club," which will be followed by a general discussion by members present. All members are urgently requested to attend and any visitors will be welcome.

The Hon. Sec. will be glad to hear from any Members willing to assist with displays or papers during the season, and will be pleased to arrange to give same on behalf of any Members unable to attend personally.

As already notified by Dr. Marx, the next Exchange Packet will be made up on October 10th.

The Hon. Sec. will be pleased to receive and acknowledge any subscriptions due or donations to the Forgery Collection.

THOS. H. HINTON,

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Int. Phil. Union.
26, Cromford Road, East Putney, S.W.

August 13th, 1908.

Correspondence.

Bury St. Edmunds,
August 8th/08.

TO THE EDITOR, *P.J. of G.B.*

DEAR SIR,

OLD ALBUMS.

I was, as a lover of old albums and old-school methods of stamp collecting, much interested in your short Editorial last month.

I have two old Lallier collections, which, although they contain a number of "cut to shape" and otherwise damaged stamps, are, in my opinion, far more interesting than the majority of present day albums, most of which are filled with twentieth century rubbish.

The following extract (the *raison d'être* of this letter) may possibly interest you, and doubtless some of your readers.

Yours truly,
"OLD TIMES."

From the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine*,
February 1st, 1863.

"Justin Lalliers' album is an elaborately designed and useful acquisition, variously priced, to suit the pockets of all classes, and an ornamental addition to any drawing-room

table; a separate page, sometimes two or more, being devoted to each country, the stamps described, and spaces lined off for their reception; but, like all prepared albums, labouring under the disadvantage of excluding any stamp not launched into circulation at the time of its publication, unless placed in an anomalous position, or far removed from its kindred in the extra leaves."

Brighton,
August 6th.

TO THE EDITOR, *P.J. of G.B.*

DEAR SIR,

COUNTRIES TO SPECIALIZE.

Surely Mr. Pemberton, in his excellent paper on "Countries to Specialize," published in your paper last month, is very modest when he states that only four British stamp issuing Colonies* have been neglected by the modern collector. The list he gives, namely, Heligoland, Prince Edward Island, Cook Isles and Tonga, is to my mind an absurdly meagre one, surely as much (or as little) is known about the stamps of Tonga as is known about the issues of St. Helena.

The four countries Mr. Pemberton has chosen are represented only by surface printed stamps. It would I think be only fair to add Colonies where the old Perkins, Bacon plates were used, not only by the original owners, but by Messrs. De la Rue as well.

I know it is true that the latter firm are adverse to giving philatelists any knowledge regarding their printings, so much so that research is very difficult, but that is counter-balanced by the fact that the true collector prefers to gain his information from a study of the stamps themselves.

I think the following list of countries is far more comprehensive than that given by Mr. Pemberton.

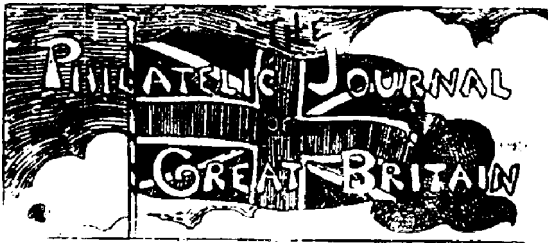
Bahamas.
Bt. Bechuanaland.
Bt. Central Africa.
Bt. Guiana.
Bt. Honduras.
Fiji.
Labuan.
Straits Settlements.
Sierra Leone.

This list could be very considerably added to, but I think it is quite long enough, as several of the countries mentioned are far from being popular with collectors, and "popularity" seems to be the keynote of modern philately!

I enclose my card and beg to remain, Sir,

Yours truly,
"RESEARCH."

*Mr. Pemberton was referring to inexpensive countries and that makes all the difference.—Ed.



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 68, High Holborn, London, W.C.

Publishers' Note.

AUGUST being the month when many country philatelists are in London, we would like to draw our readers attention to the many bargains that we are advertising in this journal.

We shall be pleased to show any of these stamps to any of our clients who favour us with a call, while those not sold will be gladly forwarded on approval to those of our readers who are unable to inspect them here. We may say that all the stamps advertised are in superb condition, and at the prices asked are indeed desirable bargains.

Servia.

THE SURCHARGED AND UNSURCHARGED
 ISSUES OF 1894-1901.

By P. L. PEMBERTON.

I HAVE recently examined a large number of the stamps of the above issues, and have observed several things worth noting. The most interesting of these is that there are three marked types of the 10 paras on 20 paras of 1900. If you will refer to any catalogue you will see that two types are given, one having small figures 1/4mm. apart and the other larger figures 1mm. apart. The third type is like the latter, but the figures are 1 1/4mm. apart, and, though this difference is almost unmeasurable, it is very obvious when the two varieties are placed side by side. Thinking it strange that such a marked type had not been noted before, I hunted through various catalogues and found that Kohl mentions it, in a footnote, as a sub-variety of the large figure type.

From the number of specimens I have examined, I do not agree with Kohl in calling it a sub-variety, and have little doubt that it is from a third setting, for the following reasons:—

1. Though I have examined dozens of pairs, blocks and strips, I have never found two varieties *se tenant*.
2. In all copies with legible postmarks that I have seen, there is none earlier than 1902, whereas the other types are found dated 1900 and 1901.
3. Kohl says the variety is only found perf. 11 1/2, and this bears out my own observations. If it were a sub-variety on the sheet of the second type, it would be found, like it, perforated 11 1/2, 13 1/2 and compound.

That there were three distinct and separate settings of this surcharge is therefore quite evident, and the following is the order in which they were printed :

10 П А Р А
 10 П А Р А
 10 П А Р А

I.—Surcharge 15mm. long. Figures and letters 1 1/2mm. high. Space between figures "1" and "0" 1/4mm.

II.—Surcharge 14mm. long. Figures and letters 2mm. high. Space between figures "1" and "0" 1mm.

III.—Length and height of surcharge as last, but 1 1/4mm. between "1" and "0."

As to their relative rarity, types I. and II. appear to be equally common, but type III. is appreciably scarcer.

It may be worth recording that I found type II. with a very distinct set-off of the surcharge (reading backwards, of course) on the back.

As Kohl has thought it worth while to note this in his catalogue, it is evidently a peculiarity of this issue.

The 15 paras on 1 dinar, a stamp which is much scarcer than its catalogue value would lead one to suppose, is also found in more than one variety, but in this case all are probably found on the same sheet as I have, horizontal pairs containing types I. and II., I. and III., and II. and IV. *se tenant*, also a vertical pair containing types I. and III. The four types differ only in the length and spacing of the surcharge and are as follows :

15 Π Α Ρ Α
15 Π Α Ρ Α
15 Π Α Ρ Α
15 Π Α Ρ Α

I.—Length of surcharge 15mm. Space between figures and word 2½mm.

II.—Length 15mm. Space 3mm.

III.—Length 15½mm. Space 3¼mm.

IV.—Length 14½mm. Space 2½mm.

It would be interesting to know how these types were arranged on the sheet, but I have been unable to get hold of an entire sheet or any large blocks. I should be glad to hear from any reader who could shew me a sheet. Out of 61 specimens which I looked through, I found the types were represented as follows:—39 of I., 9 of II., 8 of III., 5 of IV. Probably these figures will be found to represent their relative rarity fairly truly. Kohl's catalogue describes three varieties, the one omitted being that which I call II. Besides these varieties of spacing, there are differences in the shape and position of the figures "15" but these are very slight and too indeterminate to classify, moreover they do not appear to bear any relation to the space varieties. I noticed, however, a copy of type I. in which the figure "1" is dropped slightly and leans to the left.

Turning to the unsurcharged issues of 1894-98, I came across several marked shades which might well be catalogued. The 10 paras on granite paper, for instance, comes in rose and also in carmine, two shades so dissimilar as to amount to distinct colours. The 25 paras, granite paper, comes in dark blue and in a light shade approaching Prussian blue.

The stamps on ordinary wove paper present more varieties of shade still. The 10 paras appears (with either perforation) in a very bright aniline pink; this seems to be a much scarcer stamp than the ordinary dull rose shade. The 15 paras is found in violet varying from pale to deep, and also in reddish-mauve. The latter was the later shade, and is only found with the large perforation. The 25 paras comes in pale dull blue and dark blue besides the very pronounced ultramarine which, like the mauve 15p., is only found with the large perforations. All the stamps of this

set with small perforations are scarce in comparison with those perf. 11½.

The compound perforations of this set are very curious. They always gauge 13 at top, 13½ at sides and 11½ at bottom. Evidently the bottom rows of some of the sheets received the 11½ perforation, as I have never seen this on the top side of a stamp. Only the four values, 5, 10, 15 and 25 par., are known with the compound perfs.; the two highest values being very scarce thus, while the 5 and 10 par. are by no means common.

A well-marked flaw is found on the 5 paras, in which most of the design below the "5" in the lower left hand circle is missing. I notice that Kohl's very thorough catalogue mentions this small variety too.

Notes on Denmark.

LOOKING through an old file of stamp papers I found an old copy of *Stamps* and recognized the heading "Notes on Denmark" as being one I had chosen, several years ago, to head a few notes I had contributed concerning Danish stamps.

Unfortunately *Stamps* joined the great majority several years ago, if I remember rightly my article was published in the Spring of 1902.

In view of the rapidity with which events eventuate in the stamp world of to-day it is rather interesting to read an extract from the article referred to; at that time the philatelic papers were considerably agitated over minor varieties, "dotty" philately being very much to the fore.

"What future is there for philately as a science? Surely very little unless Caymans and resurrected Leewards are to be the craze. Maybe the collector of the future will specialize views. I believe Waterfalls are at a premium at present."

"It being generally admitted that specialism, in one form or another, is nowadays imperative, I cannot see how minor varieties are to be ignored. Take Denmark for instance, one of the most interesting countries catalogued, and we find that Gibbons enumerates nearly one hundred and fifty varieties. Does this list include uncollectible minor varieties?"

The reference to Caymans was evidently prophetic, at any rate I wish I could have foreseen, in 1902, the mad idiotic scramble that was to take place for stamps from these Islands only a few years later. Later on in my article I say: "Denmark is one of the favoured countries that has not flooded the market with necessary or unnecessary surcharges."

Unfortunately, this is not now the case, as Denmark, two years after the above was written, found it necessary to issue two surcharges, both of which of course, contain minor varieties.

Against the 147 varieties of Danish stamps listed by Gibbons in 1902, we now have 185, in which number is included a set of no fewer than ten Newspaper stamps—a set by the way which I consider quite superfluous.

Comparing the prices of the 1908 catalogue with those in the 1902 edition, I find one very startling fact, namely, that the prices for *specialist's* varieties have very considerably advanced. In particular I refer to the imperf. varieties of the 1870 and the 1874 issues.

The following list is both instructive and useful, only unused stamps are priced.

GIBBONS 1902 PRICES. GIBBONS 1908 PRICES.

1870-1 ISSUE.

	£	s.	d.	...	£	s.	d.
2sk. blue & grey	0	5	0	...	—	—	—
3sk. mauve	0	4	6	...	0	12	0
4sk. red	0	10	0	...	1	0	0
8sk. brown	0	5	0	...	—	—	—
16sk. green	0	6	6	...	—	—	—

1874-79 ISSUE.

4 öre blue & slate	0	7	6	...	1	0	0
8 öre rose & slate	0	6	0	...	1	0	0
100,, yell. & grey	0	10	0	...	1	10	0

Comparing the prices of the normal varieties I find that while unused stamps have in some cases slightly depreciated, there has been a steady rise in the prices for used stamps. The 1864-68 issue, which by-the-by, would form a big field for research for specialists, has rightly appreciated in value throughout, these stamps, in absolutely *mint* condition, being scarce.

It may be news to some of my readers to learn that this set can be separated into three different perforations, namely, P. 13, P. 12½ and P. 13×12½, all the values are not known in each perforation, but it is possible that they may exist. The paper these stamps are printed on varies very considerably in thickness, two very distinct sets could be made of thin and thick papers.

An interesting variety on the 8 öre of the 1874-79 issue is not listed by Gibbons, it consists of the smaller "8" having been entirely omitted from the design, and is a more important variety than the variety of the 5 öre with central loop of the "5" unfinished.

Quite a number of collectors are puzzled over the stamps of the 1882-85 issue that are listed with "small figures in the corners," while it is not generally known that the 10 öre stamp is found on the same sheet as is the common variety with large figures. This stamp should be collected in a pair, one stamp with small and one with large figures. The whole design of the stamps with smaller figures in corners is very different from that of the common variety, the difference being very marked when they are side by side in an unsevered pair.

The cancellations of Danish stamps are very interesting and well worth study. That usually found on the stamps of the first issue

consists of several circles; a variety, and a fairly scarce one, being the dot variety in the centre of the innermost circle. Concerning this first issue it is said that only one used block of four of the 2 r.b.s. is known to exist, this may or may not be the case, but from personal experience, I know that even pairs are extremely rare, although singles are fairly common.

Several years ago Danish stamps, in common with Scandinavians in general, were considerably boomed, with the result that prices were slightly inflated. Half-a-dozen or so years have made a big difference and, although prices may not have "come down" much, Danish stamps in good condition have certainly "gone up." I feel sure that a study of the stamps of this interesting country will repay anyone interested enough to devote a little leisure time, and cash.

"WALLABY."

Postal Development.

THORNTON HEATH, which forms part of the Borough of Croydon, has grown tremendously in recent years. The retirement of Mr. Bacon, head postman in the district, who has served there for forty years, recalls the interesting fact that when he commenced work there was only one receiving office; there are now thirty-six. All the letters were carried to and from Croydon forty years ago by one man. To-day the bags are received by mail, six from the General Post Office, five from the south-east district, five from the south-west district, and others from large country towns and districts. The number of letters received for delivery when Mr. Bacon began work as a postman was about 100 a day. To-day 6,000 is about the average, and the staff has grown from one to forty. No one is now in the employment of the Croydon Post Office who was there when Mr. Bacon joined the staff.

It may be mentioned that on one occasion Mr. Bacon and his ten sons played a cricket match against a team of postmen.

—Daily Telegraph.

Very Early Perforations.

A READER informs us that in a book published in the year 1849, he found the advertising announcement of a Boston stationery firm offering perforated paper for sale, with the perforations ranged in different styles. Thus, it is seen that Archer's invention was utilized by private enterprise in this country many years before our government or that of Great Britain officially adopted the convenience for stamps. Archer made his trials from 1848 onwards, but it was not until early in 1854 that his government employed the perforating machines.

—Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News.



AUG. 20, 1908.

Philately at Home.

The *London Philatelist* for July contains as its chief contribution the first instalment of Mr. Wetherell's excellent paper entitled "The Stamps of Spain and Cuba, April 1855 to February, 1860." This paper was read before the Royal Society in February last. Students of Spanish stamps cannot do better than read his article in full—we cannot do its author justice by merely making extracts. It is almost unnecessary to remind our readers that Mr. Wetherell has studied Spanish stamps with great thoroughness, and has made a number of very interesting discoveries.

Mr. C. J. Daun concludes his paper. "The Provisionals of the Orange River Colony issued between March, 1900 and October, 1902." The usual budget of "Notes," "New Issue List," and other regular features complete the July number.

Several numbers of *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* are before us. In the copy dated July 18th we find, among other interesting matter, a short paper on the Postage Due stamps of Belgium.

We make the following short extract concerning the use of bisected stamps, as these splits are among the few known that were officially sanctioned.

When the amount of surtax on a letter was 5, 15, or 25 centimes, in addition to Postage Due stamps of 10 and 20 centimes the half of a 10 centimes was used to make up the odd 5 centimes. According to the regulations in such a case the stamp was to be divided horizontally; this was made quite clear by a circular issued on 6th January, 1871, by the Director-General Tassiaux, which referred to the surtax payable in certain cases on insufficiently paid post cards. The circular stated that for such cards a Postage Due stamp of 10 centimes was to be bisected horizontally, the two halves being each then equivalent to 5 centimes.

In spite of the regulation set forth above, in many post offices stamps were bisected in different ways, generally either vertically or diagonally. And in other offices, when the stock of 10 centimes had become exhausted, stamps of 20 centimes were used in their stead bisected in various ways.

Other notable features in the same number of *G. S. W.* are an excellent article on Persian postal methods, and Mr. Ward's instalment of his paper on "The Postal Methods and Means during the American Civil War, 1861-5."

Gibbons' Stamp Weekly for July 25th is edited entirely (with the exception of the New Issues) by Major Evans, and it takes the place of the old *Monthly Journal*. We cannot welcome the new innovation with any enthusiasm, "a rose by any other name does not," etc., and we regret, even more than we anticipated, the change that Messrs. Gibbons have made. In the first place we miss Major Evans' straightforward and plain-spoken "leading" article, his editorial remarks were always of great interest, and are not to be replaced by two pages of "Philatelic Notes and Queries," as is the present case. Our leading stamp paper, even under the present *regime*, is, however, still ahead of its competitors, so we must make up our minds to imagine that the monthly "*Weekly*" is the "*Monthly*" of old. Mons. L. Hanciau contributes yet another long and interesting instalment of his article on "The Postal Issues of Italy and the Italian Colonies," Major Evans contributes a paper on the stamps of Nowanuggur. Mr. John N. Luff is the author of a paper entitled "The 1903 Surcharges of Guadeloupe." We make an extract from his introductory remarks, as therein are expressed views that must, we know, be shared by many philatelists.

At the outset, I wish to put myself on record as neither collecting nor being especially interested in the stamps of Guadeloupe. I belong to the old school of conservative collectors, who were taught to esteem the stamps that were issued to meet postal needs, and to look with disfavour on issues which were palpably intended as a source of revenue for impoverished governments or unscrupulous officials. The 1903 provisionals of Guadeloupe are an especially glaring example of philatelic impropriety. To destroy stamps of a certain denomination by surcharging them with another value, recreate the destroyed denomination by a second

surcharge on some other stamp, and then repeat the last operation—all at one time and without even the small decency of a trifling interval—ought certainly to be sufficient condemnation of the issue; but when various settings of the surcharges are employed and a further overprint is added, in five settings and much too numerous types as well as several colours of ink, the thing becomes positively indecent.

At the same time, I have always maintained that one of the first ends of stamp collecting was the amusement of the collector, and if he fancied the stamps of any particular country or group, that was sufficient reason for him to collect them, and his so doing was not the affair of any one else, whatever our personal likes or dislikes might be. So long as stamps are issued under due authority and are used for postage, even to the most trifling extent, the catalogues are bound to recognize them. Their standing being thus established, any one who chooses to collect them should be at liberty to do so, no matter how unfavourable an opinion of their merits the rest of us may hold. Thus it is with the Guadeloupe issues which I propose to discuss.

To students of stamps any new or more complete information is always welcome. Therefore, having recently had occasion to study these Guadeloupe stamps, I have acquired information which it seems to me it will be well to put on record now. However small its value may appear at the present time, we cannot say that it will not be very welcome to some one in the future.

Major Evans contributes a short article on "British New Guinea Stamps." We are glad to see that the Major has not, as yet, studied these stamps with the Papua overprints!

Some "Philatelic Notes and Queries" and Mr. Frank Phillips' excellent "New Issue" list completes the first of the monthly *Weeklies*.

The *Philatelic Adviser* for July is a capital paper. Continuing his paper on "The $\frac{1}{2}$ -Real Plata of Cuba, 1857-60," the editor describes the designs of the genuine stamp, and also describes no fewer than six types of the commoner kinds of its forgeries.

Mr. Frank Oliver contributes a good paper on that old, old topic, "Used or Unused?"; but he writes in an original style, and we make one or two very much to the point extracts:—

Many collectors are of the opinion that a postage stamp is not complete until it bears upon its face the official cancellation, which denotes that it has performed the task for which it was intended, viz., to prepay the postage upon a letter or postal packet, and these purists look with scorn upon a collection of unused specimens, and consider them as little more than labels, which, not having done duty for postage, are practically still-born. Alas, for these extremists! Their very demand for cancelled copies, and nothing else, causes the enterprising dealer to employ his agent to plaster stamps on empty envelopes, which are all sent through the post to one address, and which bear enough stamps to pay the postage on an elephant, if that curious survival of old-time mammalia could be forwarded by parcel post.

Moreover, the same dealer being of a saving turn of mind, and unwilling to waste money on buying

envelopes or time in addressing them, in many cases finds that the services of the postal officials are at his disposal, whereby he is enabled to produce *used* stamps, nicely postmarked in sheets and with original gum, which latter is duly washed off upon arrival of the consignment. Therefore it follows that a collector who fondly imagines that he possesses a collection of only *used* stamps and glories in it, is under a misapprehension, to say the least.

Bravo! But who said Zanzibar?

Mr. Oliver goes on to write about those collectors who make original gum their main objective in unused stamps. He says:—

I now turn to the collector who will accept nothing in his collection but unused stamps, and to whom a used specimen is an eyesore. With many such collectors the be-all and end-all is that their treasures should have "original gum"; everything else has to be subservient to this. It does not matter whether the stamp is well-centred or not, good colour or not; so long as it has "original gum" much may be forgiven it, though possibly the gum has been added by some energetic but unscrupulous "philatelist." I have known collectors who have been so obsessed with the "original gum" idea that they have added it to their own stamps—in some cases to stamps that were never issued other than without gum.

Considering the fact that many of the known copies of some of our rarest stamps are minus gum, and that a constant source for old issues is old stamp collections, formed before the days of stamp mounts, we think that the question of gum, although of course desirable, is of minor importance when it is otherwise a matter of perforation, centreing and colour.

Mr. Oliver concludes his paper with the old but admirable suggestion, that the beginner collect both used and unused stamps, taking the stamps in the condition in which they can be purchased most cheaply.

A capital New Issue list, a number of "Notes and Extracts," and several pages of reprinted matter completes the July number of the *Philatelic Adviser*.

No. 3 of the *Stamp Lover* contains a lot of interesting and useful information. Mr. D. B. Armstrong concludes his capital article on "The Postage Stamps of the Falkland Islands." Writing about that interesting variety, the $\frac{1}{4}$ d. provisional, Mr. Armstrong says:—

For some mysterious reason, when, in 1879, the Colony became a member of the Universal Postal Union, the prescribed single letter rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ d., the equivalent of 25 centimes per half ounce, in operation between all countries belonging to that organisation, had not been adopted, and the rate upon overseas correspondence had been allowed to remain as before, either through ignorance or indifference upon the part of the Falkland Islands postal authorities, at $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per half-ounce. This breach of the regulations governing the Postal Union was apparently brought to the notice of the Falkland Islands Government some time in the year 1890, as on January 1st, 1891, the foreign letter

rate was, by official decree, reduced to 2½d. per half-ounce, and for use in conjunction with the current penny value for making up the fractional amount, pending the arrival in the Colony of a supply of stamps of the requisite denomination, a provisional stamp of the face value of "½d." was extemporised by bisecting a certain number of the current penny stamps diagonally, and surcharging each half with a metal hand-stamp in black with a large fractional figure "½d.," these provisionals being allowed to do postal duty as halfpenny stamps until such time as stocks of that and the new 2½d. value in the permanent type could be prepared in England and shipped to the Colony.

Although this overprint was, in the majority of cases, applied to complete sheets of 1d. stamps at the Post Office, the hand-stamp being applied twice to each of the sixty specimens on the sheet, in the top left hand and lower right hand corner, or *vice versa*, the separating of the two halves being performed either by the postal authorities or the purchaser himself indiscriminately, persons already possessing current penny stamps, and wishing to utilize them as halfpenny ones, could do so by cutting them in half in the manner described, and, having affixed them to the communication which they were destined to frank, could, by handing them in at the Post Office, have the half stamp in question overprinted with the fractional value in the ordinary manner, thus converting them into a legitimate provisional stamp, issued under Government supervision; and copies are known upon original covers, on which portions of the surcharge overlap the stamps, and are impressed in part upon the envelope itself. In a few instances, also, ordinary unsurcharged penny stamps, divided as above, were permitted to pass through the post in payment of postal charges.

The principal reason that the stamps were ordered to be bisected *diagonally* was to prevent, as far as possible, the usage by unscrupulous persons of halves of penny stamps which had already done postal duty but had escaped the obliterating stamp, it being considered a matter of greater difficulty to obtain diagonal halves of used stamps free from cancellation than the same portions horizontal or vertical.

The appearance of this, the only provisional stamp ever issued by these Islands, and one for whose existence there is every excuse, was heralded by the following official notice, which was issued by the Falkland Islands Postmaster towards the end of 1890:

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

For the present notice is given that after the First of January next letters addressed to England, India, and the Colonies must be franked with 2½d., single letter fee, instead of 4d. as heretofore.

Pending the arrival of 2½d. stamps, the 1d. stamp bisected diagonally may be employed instead of ½d. stamps, thus:—



By order,

(Signed) SHEDDER SANGUINETTI,
Postmaster.

The list of varieties of the "split" stamps given by Mr. Armstrong is as follows:—

ERRORS.

- ½d. on half 1d. claret, overprint inverted.
- ½d. twice on half 1d. claret, double surcharge.

VARIETIES.

- ½d. on half 1d. claret, no stop after "d."
- ½d. on half 1d. claret, with only part of overprint.
- Half of 1d. claret, used as ½d., without surcharge.

Mr. Armstrong has written a highly interesting and instructive paper, and we shall anticipate with pleasure the perusal of future contributions from his pen.

Mr. F. J. Melville contributes a most enjoyable biography of the late Dr. Gray, while other writers assist in making the August number of the *Stamp Lover* a great success.

The *British Philatelist* for June contains a further instalment if its serial, namely, the article entitled "The Line Engraved Stamps of Great Britain." As is usual, this article is most interesting, and we make the following extract relating to the three-halfpenny stamp:—

The third value to be dealt with is the Three Halfpence, which, though prepared in 1860, was not brought into use until 1st October, 1870.

The plate was similar in its arrangement and marginal inscriptions, except for the necessary alteration in price. The die was, in the first instance, a reproduction of Die II. of the One Penny, with the stars removed from the upper angles. The original upper and lower tablets were erased, and a triangular curvilinear band substituted therefor, inscribed "POSTAGE," "THREE," and "HALFPENCE"; and the lower portion of the Queen's bust was shortened to bring it inside the band. Check-letters were in all four corners.

The stamps on the first plate did not bear any plate number, but those on the third and last—Plate 2 was defective—were numbered "3."

Plate 1 was put to press on 22nd March, 1860, and 10,000 sheets were printed in lilac-rose on Large Crown paper and perforated 14; of these, one sheet was used for the *imprimatur*, another sheet went to the Paris Exhibition of 1867, and 8962 sheets were destroyed in the same year. This leaves a balance of 1036 sheets, distributed amongst postmasters, collectors, etc.

The plate was again put to press on 6th June, 1870, and supplies printed as required in lake-red, similar to the colour of the One Penny. Copies in both colours are met with imperforate. Plate 2 was, as stated above, defective; the impressions from the roller were inaccurately spaced, and it was consequently neither registered nor put to press.

Plate 3 was at press from 10th August, 1874, until July, 1880; and from it and Plate 1 it appears that 189,634 sheets were printed, but any apportionment must be, to a great extent, arbitrary, though (from the Creation warrants) the printing from the latter plate was about two-thirds of the whole.

All the printings were on Large Crown paper, generally blued for the impressions in lilac-rose—and the perforation was uniformly 14.

This is the only line-engraved stamp in which a true error of lettering occurs. On Plate 1 the third stamp of the sixteenth horizontal row bore the letters "O.P.—P.C." instead of "C.P.—P.C." The error ran through all the printings, but is rare, even in used condition.

SYNOPSIS OF THE THREE HALFPENCE.

1st October, 1870—Lake-red; on Large Crown; Perforated 14; Plates 1 and 3, the first not numbered on the stamps.

Variety: Imperforate; Plate 1.
Error: "O.P.—P.C." on Plate 1.

Earliest-known date.

14d. lake-red 1-10-1870

The July number of the *Philatelic Record*—a very late visitor this month—contains a short instalment of Mr. G. B. Duerst's

article on the local stamps of Morocco, an illustrated interview with Mr. M. H. Horsley (the well-known specialist in Canadian stamps), the usual "New Issue" list, and a short budget of "Notes and News," together with three or four pages of reprinted matter from other journals.

The *Postage Stamp* arrives on time every week and always contains a lot of original and other philatelic news. Cornelius, in every number, always opens the ball, and opens it well. The following is his advice concerning chalkies:—

The only way that I know of distinguishing chalkies, and the only advice I can offer, is to buy your singles in pairs (!), to draw a silver coin, if you can borrow one, diagonally and heavily across one of the stamps, and if it leaves a bold stroke as of a lead pencil, then it is a chalky, and you can throw away the injured stamp and mount the uninjured one as a sound chalky. Still better advice is to ignore chalky varieties.

Philately Abroad.

L'Echo de la Timbrologie.

In the number for June 30th, is the conclusion of the interesting notes on the stamps of Peru, previously referred to, the present instalment treating of the stamps surcharged, during 1883-4, with triangles, ovals, etc. Of the triangular surcharge five types are given, and the multitudinous varieties testify to the difficulties under which the postal administration of the war-ridden country was carried out. Stamps intended to supply the urgent demand fell into the hands of the Chilians, and the improvised issues had to serve until the cessation of hostilities.

In the same number is a further instalment of the exhaustive work in the stamps and postal organisation of Russia, which seems likely to stretch out indefinitely, for it is still at an early stage of the alphabet among the locals. Another article treats of the 3 cents United States, 1870.

It is to be regretted that the visit of French philatelists, which was under arrangement by the *Echo*, with the support of the Société Française de Timbrologie, has had to be abandoned, owing to the difficulties in the way, chiefly those of getting together sufficient number of visitors to make the excursion a success and representative of French philately. It must often have occurred to philatelists that the intrinsic bond of union which stamp collecting—probably above all other forms of connoisseurism—offers has not been sufficiently developed between different countries. Such an opportunity might be afforded by such a visit as that projected, and it could well receive the consideration (for example) of some of

our societies, which would lose nothing by extending to foreign collectors a definite invitation to these shores, which would probably be fully reciprocated, to the betterment of philately and philatelists.

Pursuing this matter along a more restricted path, we may mention a suggestion of a correspondent writing to the *Echo*, suggesting some sign or freemasonry between philatelists, which might obviate many wasted hours that could be spent in a communion of interest when two collectors unknown to each other meet, say in a railway carriage. If two devotees of golf with their clubs should cross one another, it is pretty certain that they would speedily find something to talk about. Unfortunately, philatelists carry nothing more significant than a glass or tweezers, so that more patent means of mutual detection are wanting. The *Echo* leaves the question to the endeavours of Societies to ravel, and proposes to deal with it at a later date itself.

This journal contains, in the last two numbers, much interesting information upon the stamps of Belgium, with many illustrations of essays and alteration of types.

In the number for July 31st the second issue of Mexico is treated on the same lines as the first issue, to which we have recently drawn attention.

Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste.

The suspicions thrown out by our contemporary when referring to the so-called postage stamps of Labrador, are borne out by some correspondence which it publishes thereon. Replying to request for information, a letter was received in the following terms.

Montreal, 4th May, 1908.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of 24th ult., I have to inform you that the stamps are those of an American Company which has obtained jurisdiction over the postal service of the Labrador Coast, under the control of the Government of Newfoundland. Although non-official they are nevertheless the first issue of stamps in Labrador for the mail service, which will in all probability be continued for some years by the Washington Government which has considerable mining interests in the locality. These stamps will later become official and will be all the more rare since the Company has sub-issued 100,000 altogether.

Enclosed is an envelope which has passed the Canadian post and a cutting from a Canadian journal relative to the stamps.

Yours truly,

A. E. Clement,

Montreal.

But, says our contemporary, the value of the Labrador "stamp" in the envelope referred to, is instanced by the presence there also of the regulation 2 cents Canadian, and the Company apparently possesses neither post office nor obliterating stamp. To our minds this "issue" is as much-or-little-entitled to rank with postage stamps as an advertisement label or the "Sedang" and "Brunei" issue of some years ago.

The August number gives an interesting piece of information long delayed, anent the French 15c. error of 1876. The cliché of the 15c. got placed among those of the 10c., and it has long been a question whether the plate was retouched and the value altered, or whether the plate was re-made. It seems that neither was done, but that the error was cut out from the sheet at the end of the printing, and a normal stamp stuck into its place to make up the value of the sheet. The probable early detection and knowledge of the error will account for its rarity.

Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung.

We find a comment upon the statement that certain issues of Thum and Taxis are to be reprinted, the 5 sgr., 15 and 30 kr. and the $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, 1, 2, 3 sgr. and 1, 3 kr. rouletted in coloured lines. That it is proposed to reprint certain issues is agreed, but, it is denied that there is authority for reprints of the particular stamps mentioned. Of the last issue there is still a sufficiency of remainders in the hands of the authorities, but of some of the earlier issues a few sheets are required for distribution to other authorities, etc., and the plates are still serviceable for the purpose.

This journal for August contains a very elaborate catalogue of the postage stamps of Abyssinia, all types of surcharge being illustrated, and an extensive list of varieties given, the whole being based as first-hand official information, and continuing that already given some months ago.

From the report of a sitting of the Frankfort Philatelic Society, mentioned the loss to Germany of the Fraenkel Library, would seem to be appreciated in that quarter at least. It is, moreover, stated, presumably with full authority, that this, one of the finest collections of its kind in the world, was sold for 1800 marks—£90, and that no buyer could be found at that price in Germany. This seems incredible, and deserves the bitter ending of the paragraph—"So much for German scientific philately and piety!"

The separate publication of the translation of the Swedish Society's work on the Stamps of Sweden, which has just been completed in this journal, is announced for immediate issue.

Philately in the Colonies and Elsewhere.

The *Philatelic Journal of India* for July is the first number to appear under the editorship of Mr. C. S. F. Crofton. Mr. Crofton is an advanced philatelist, and a well-known and appreciated philatelic writer, so those of our readers who are subscribers to our Indian contemporary

may confidently look forward to some capital numbers. The following paragraph appears in the course of a capital editorial:

In matters with which we are more familiar our criticisms will be candid, and our intolerance of unsound writing will be uncompromising; but it will neither be personal nor knowingly offensive, and, as our sole object is the furtherance of philatelic knowledge, we shall be the first to congratulate those who successfully rebuild the edifice of truth on the ruins of our own reputation.

Rather high ideals to live up to, Mr. Crofton. At any rate, we wish you every success.

Two interesting articles form the chief contents of our contemporary—the first, a series of notes and criticisms on Baron P. de Worms' paper on Ceylon stamps, read before the P.P.S. more than two years ago; and the second, an interesting little article (or rather a first instalment) on the Indian stamps of 1854-55.

In the first article (which we presume is from Mr. Crofton's pen) we see that the writer champions the much-written-about 10d. stamp, perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 14$. This stamp, although recorded in the handbook on "India and Ceylon," is challenged by Baron de Worms and Mr. Bacon as being non-existent. We make the following long extract:—

There are, however, no less than two distinct ways in which it might have been produced. In the first place, the stamp was being supplied in small consignments of 500 at a time during the early part of 1860, which corresponds exactly with the issue of Perkins, Bacon stamps in Barbados and Trinidad, perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ and 14, and any one of these early consignments of the 10d. is sufficiently small to account for any requisite degree of rarity. Secondly, it is well known that part of the Perkins, Bacon perforation in 1883 gauged 14, and it is possible that one of the 100 sheets was accidentally only part perforated in September, 1863, and was finished off when the $12\frac{1}{2}$ machine was acquired later on in the year.

The dates during 1864 on which De La Rue first delivered the 2d., 4d., 8d., 10d. and 2s., viz., April, June, August, and December, denote that they were adhering to the custom of quarterly consignments. These values were all perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, and fix the date of the appearance of this gauge at least as early as April, 1864. But our author has found this perforation on a stamp dated June 9th, 1864, and as it took nearly three months for stamps to reach Ceylon, it is scarcely possible that this stamp was sent out as late as April 11th. We accordingly think it probable that the preceding consignment of the 2nd January was the first to be perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$. This is consistent with the use of the machine for St. Lucia at the end of 1863. We think that the fact of the 10d. being sent for perforation to Perkins, Bacon in Sept., 1863, precludes the existence of the $12\frac{1}{2}$ machine in that month. Hence all the Ceylon stamps delivered by De La Rue in 1862 and 1863, were perforated either 12 or 13. Denoting the consignments of these years by Roman figures, it appears that the five De La Rue values went out in III. 62, but that the 5d. and 1s. sent out in IV. 62 and throughout 1863 were Perkins, Bacon prints. Hence there was only one lot of these two values by De La Rue, and they are identified with the no watermark stamps perforated

13. Hence the 13 perforation was used for the first of all De La Rue's consignments, and is therefore at least as early as the 12.

The number of consignments of the 1d. perf. 12 or 13 was probably six, viz., III. and IV. 62 and I., II., III. and IV. 63, each consignment containing 720 sheets. This quantity is equivalent to three quarters of the total supplies with Perkins, Bacon's perforations, which is fairly well corroborated by the catalogue prices. Since St. Helena stamps are supposed to have been issued on the CC paper in July, 1863, this paper must have been available for the Ceylon consignments III. and IV. 63. But the rarity of the 1d. on this paper and the scarcity of the 12 perforation on either paper looks as if one consignment only was perforated 12, and included stamps both with and without watermark. As we cannot, for reasons stated above, put back the 12½ perforation to IV. 63, we must fall back on the surmise that there was a large stock in hand of the one penny with no watermark which covered III. and part of IV. 63. On the other hand, Baron de Worms points out that the watermarked stamp p. 12 is in the same shade as some of those perf. 12½, and he deduces that the two perforations were in the same consignment, or, in other words, that a consignment was partly perforated 12 when the 12½ came in. Whichever explanation is correct, both go to show that the 12 perforation was later than the 13. We think there were five lots of 720 sheets, or 3,600 sheets of no watermark perf 13, and one lot of 720 sheets perf. 12.

A short budget of "Notes and Extracts," and a long, careful, and very capable review of the philatelic press, completes an excellent number of the *P. J. of India*.

The *British Guiana Philatelic Journal* has now reached its fourth number; as it is only published half yearly, our Colonial contemporary has already, these mushroom days, arrived at an age of discretion. The July number, now before us, is a capital little paper, containing, as it does, a good deal of original and other interesting matter. Mr. J. Rodway contributes an interesting little paper on old postal methods in British Guiana in the early seventies; as was usual in those days there was no organized system of letter carriers, consequently the post office, on the arrival of the mail train, or steamer, was a seething mass of humanity struggling for letters.

Canon F. P. L. Josa contributes a few general notes on Italian stamps, while Mr. Howell Jones, who has recently mounted the official collection for the Museum of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana, contributes a few notes on the different kinds of gum employed for stamps.

Mr. J. R. D. Hill contributes an interesting paper, entitled "Incidents in Stamp Collecting."

Our contemporary adopts the excellent plan of publishing a list of journals, etc.,

received for exchange purposes, publishing at the same time the names of the various publishers and the subscription rates. We should like to see this plan followed in the English Press, enabling collectors to have cognizance of *other* philatelic papers beyond the one they may happen to subscribe to. Were this plan adopted, it would enable our contemporaries to freely mention other philatelic publications, and would widen their scope of usefulness. There is far too much of Codlin's the friend, not Short, about the philatelic press. Perhaps it is that the publisher of *Robinson's Philatelic Weekly* is afraid that some of his hundred or so subscribers might learn of *Tompson's Monthly*; if that happened, it might be "Good-bye, Robinson."

The *British Guiana Philatelic Journal* is a paper we should like to see published monthly; the local philatelic circle seems an enthusiastic and capable one, so perhaps before long we may have our wish gratified. We have, however, one fault to find with our contemporary, namely, that it contains far too many type errors, showing a laxity on the proof-readers' part.

The following little extract is interesting:—

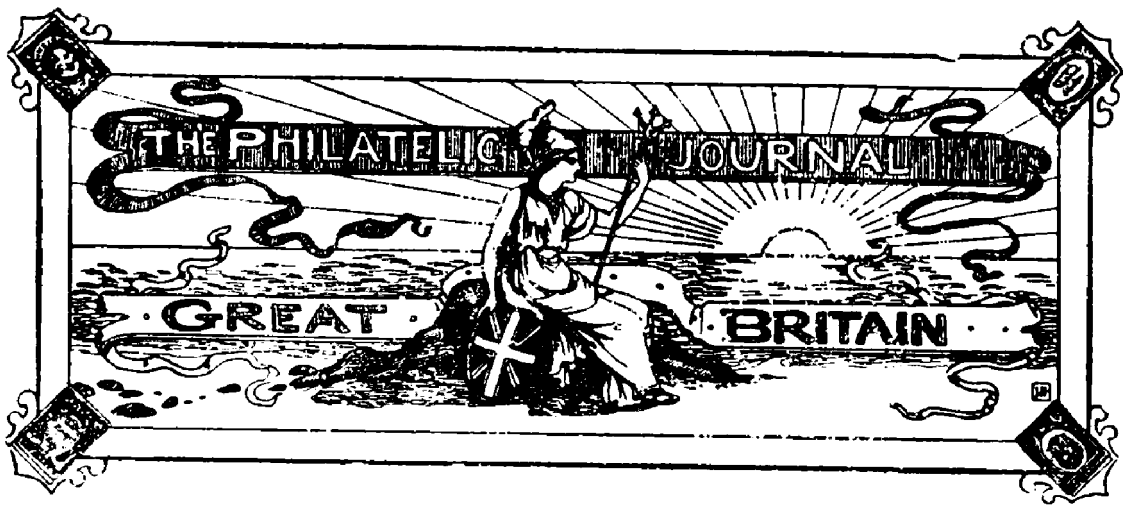
The collection of blocks appears to be gaining as strong a hold on collectors here, as it has done for a considerable time in the Old Country and abroad.

Many stamps that are easily procured in single specimens are scarce or unobtainable in blocks, and cannot be obtained at the rate of single specimens. The inclusion of blocks in a collection, as well as specimens on original covers, is to be commended.

Quite a number of copies of *Mekeel's Weekly* are before us, all of which contain some interesting matter. As is to be expected there has been a lot of controversy lately concerning the *pros* and *cons* of the recent Cayman Island stamps. A writer in the copy dated July 25th writes about the recent 2½d. on 4d. stamp as follows:—

My remittance fortunately reached Georgetown the very day the stamps were placed on sale and so I received a pair of them. I have the correspondence to show that only two sheets were issued, and they were sold at face, none to speculators or to dealers. They were all sold in one or two days and no more issued. There was never a more legitimate issue of stamps.

Two notes of interrogation, four semi-colons, and a dozen or so exclamatory notes, are surely required after the last sentence.



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EDITORIAL.

THE *Philatelic Journal of India* for April contains a most interesting and able article entitled "The Science of Philately." The writer, in the course of his remarks makes some good observations, some of which we reproduce elsewhere in these pages.

From a careful perusal of the article in question we are however **Scientific** forced to admit that the **Philately.** *P. J. of I.* has brought no fresh ideas or schemes forward, and it leaves the old, old, subject none the richer for original suggestions.

We join issue with our contemporary in agreeing that the two most uncompromising enemies to scientific philately are the catalogue and the printed album, but then of course we, in common with many other writers have been for many years condemning the hide bound school of collectors, as exemplified by those who slavishly collect according to the narrow confines of a catalogue or a printed album.

There is no need to split hairs over the definition of the word "science," philately is, and always will be, a hobby; and as such can be made just as scientific as the individual collector pleases, in fact the amount of science that is envolved rests entirely with philatelists, some of whom would deduct more scientific study (a pleasure) from a few sheets of Papuas than would others who had whole sheets of early Perkins, Bacon stamps at their disposal.

Our contemporary tells us that: "Many years ago a very small step in a scientific direction was made by keeping the British line-engraved stamps separate from the surface printed." We fail to see how the separation of the Perkins, Bacon and the De la Rue stamps should influence scientific collecting, unless we are to assume that only the collector of line-engraved stamps is entitled to call his hobby a science. That serious collectors (*i.e.*, those who study their stamps in an exhaustive manner), should consider the line-engraved stamps of far more importance and interest than the latter emissions of De la Rue and other firms is only natural. The difficulty in obtaining information concerning many of the rare Perkins, Bacon stamps is almost insurmountable, while it follows that stamps, the collecting of which has given their owner much difficulty, will be more highly treasured than those that are delivered, like tradesmen's goods, through the agency of a smart delivery service.

The suggestion that philatelic exhibitions of the future should have classes for groups of stamps, enabling the exhibitors to display only line engraved issues of a certain colony, or particular groups, as for instance the perf. 13, no wmk., stamps, issued between 1861-63, by Messrs. De la Rue, is an admirable one; but it only conforms with the growing idea that philatelists should collect as their own sweet will dictates, quite regardless of what Messrs. So and So recommend in their standard (or otherwise) catalogue.

That experienced collectors, amongst whom the Editor of our Indian contemporary ranks very high, should see that the older stamps are necessarily of more interest than are those of the present day, is but the outgrowth of personal study, while it is but natural that they should wish to help new collectors by guiding them aright along the devious path of philately.

Although holding no brief for the recent, and in many cases, unnecessary new issues of the past few years, we certainly maintain that the collector of this class of stamp can make his research as scientific as can the philatelist whose only love is for those stamps issued in the early days of stamp paid correspondence.

The *data* on which to work is in many

instances identical, while the mere fact that certain varieties of surcharge, paper or perforation are, in the earlier stamps, unintentional, against the very doubtful authenticity of the present day "varieties," certainly does not authorize the collector of early stamps to be the only one entitled to claim that his researches are scientific.

From one point of view the chief charm of philately is that it is a pursuit endowed with much elasticity, enabling one collector to obtain as much pleasure (scientific or otherwise) from the study of the postmarks on early French stamps, as another enthusiast would from his practically complete collection of the stamps of Africa or Europe.

Papers for Moderate Specialists.

BY P. L. PEMBERTON.

XI.—BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.

THE first issue of stamps for these territories took place in April, 1891. They were made by overprinting the stamps of the British South Africa Company, then current, with the initials B.C.A. in block capitals $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm. high. All values were so treated



except the 3d.; the 3/- was not issued until Oct., 1895, and the 4/- till March, 1893. The stamps of the values from 1d. to 10/- were of the usual size and the higher values, from £1 to £10, almost twice the size. The former were in sheets of sixty stamps arranged in six horizontal rows of ten, and the paper used was of a very thin transparent texture similar to that used for early issues of other colonies by the printers, Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. The collector of entire sheets may look out for two varieties, as follows.

1. With watermark "W. C. S. & Co." in monogram, of which the letter "C" forms an almost complete transverse oval, measuring 6 centimetres across, with the words "Pure

Linen," arched above, and "Wove Bank" below. When well-centred, portions of this watermark appear on about one-third of the stamps on the sheet.

2. Similar watermark with the addition of the number "139" below, and the words "Extra—Strong" to left and right of the monogram, respectively. This variety is scarce.

The unsurcharged stamps of British South Africa are known on paper without watermark and of slightly thicker texture, and though I have not heard of any of this variety being used for B.C.A., they might be found.

There are slight variations in the letters B.C.A. of the overprint. Each sheet of 60 was apparently overprinted from a stereo of which the lower three horizontal lines were an exact replica of the top three, for all the peculiarities in the overprints on the upper half of a sheet are reproduced in the same positions on the lower half. The principal variations in the type are the following:—

Stop after A larger, and further away from the letter; first stamp in first and fourth rows.

Stop after A touches the foot of the letter; seventh stamp in first and fourth rows.

Top of C thick and misshapen; eighth stamp in first and fourth rows.

Extreme tops of B and C cut off straight; first stamp in second and fifth rows.

B with thicker down-stroke; ninth stamp in second and fifth rows.

All the other stamps in each half sheet differ in some slight degree, either in the thickness of the letters and stops or in the positions of the latter.

Some of the stamps of this issue are known bisected and used as stamps of half their value. The 2d., 8d. and 1/- have been recorded as so used.

All the stamps of this issue up to 10/- are common unused and can still be procured at a small advance on face value; a single exception is that of the 6d. ultramarine, which is quoted at ten times its face value.

Of the high values the £1 and £2 are the best. Great care should be exercised in buying any of the high values either used or unused, as fiscally used specimens, cleverly cleaned, are frequently offered, by unscrupulous persons, either unused or with forged postmarks.

THE 1892-93 PROVISIONALS.

The need for stamps of the value of four shillings arose before the B.S.A. stamps of that value were issued; provisionals were accordingly made by surcharging the five shillings stamp with the words FOUR SHILLINGS in two lines of block capitals. This was issued in August, 1892, and only lasted till February, 1893, when the ordinary 4/- stamps arrived.

In the same way a 3/- provisional was issued in October, 1893, and for this value the new 4/- slate and vermilion was made use of. The printing was a very small one, only 1380 stamps (twenty-three sheets) were issued. Taking this into consideration, the present market value of the stamp is very low.

THE ONE PENNY PROVISIONAL OF 1895.

There is something to be cleared up in connection with this stamp as there appear to have been three settings of the surcharge. The first reference to this that I can find is a note in the *Monthly Journal*, for Oct., 1896, as follows:—

“There is a history going the round of the magazines, in reference to certain copies of the “One Penny” on the 2d. of the British South Africa Company with double surcharge. The story is that 100 sheets were sent to the Government printing office, at Blantyre, to be surcharged; that the first sheet was put through the press twice over, presumably to show the Postmaster how nicely they could do it. The P.M., however, was not satisfied, and sent the other 99 sheets to Cape Town to be adorned; and thus is accounted for a double overprint which differs in type from the single one.”

The *Monthly Journal* went on to say:—

“This history comes from an unimpeachable source, and we have no doubt that it is perfectly true; but we think that waste products of this kind should be destroyed, instead of being preserved for sale to collectors.”

The stamps printed at Blantyre differ from

those of the Cape Town setting, in that the letters of the words ONE PENNY are slightly thinner and that the bar below them is thinner and shorter, measuring 16½mm. instead of 18mm. This surcharge is only known double and it is almost certain that the stamps were never issued to the public.

Of the Cape Town type there is pretty good evidence of two distinct settings of the surcharge. I have an entire sheet before me on which the sixth stamps of the second and fifth rows have the two last letters of PENNY set rather below the level of the rest of the word. It is quite certain, judging by this and other evidence, that this sheet was printed from a stereo made up of three horizontal rows of ten surcharges which was impressed twice on the sheet. With the exception of the slightly depressed NY there is no semblance of a variety on this sheet. Yet there is a well-known and marked variety in which the “Y” of PENNY is dropped considerably below the level of the rest of the word. Several years ago I had an entire sheet in which this variety occurred but unfortunately it was broken up before I took a note of how many there were on the sheet and what positions they occupied. It certainly occurred more than once. However that may be, it is certain that the setting was different from that in which the slightly depressed “NY” occurs. This sheet was memorable for having the fourth horizontal row doubly surcharged; it is puzzling to know how this could have occurred unless each row was surcharged separately, and I am inclined to think that this is the solution. Collectors should take particular note of the fact that, of the two types of double surcharge, the Blantyre variety was never issued to the public, whereas the Cape Town type is a genuine error. Both command good prices, but the latter is not only more desirable as an issued stamp but is also scarcer.



THE 1885 ISSUE. No Wmk.

A new set of stamps, in a design typical of the Colony, having been requisitioned from Messrs. De La Rue & Co., stamps with a representation of two negroes, one with a spade and the other with a pick-axe, supporting a shield surmounted by the Arms of the Colony (a tree), were issued in 1895. The

design was intended to represent the dignity of labour. The inscription "Light in Darkness" appears in coloured letters on a scroll at the foot of the stamp.

The set consists of five values from 1d. to 1/-, and six values, of a larger size, from 2/6 to £25. I have never found out what the £25 stamp was wanted for, but the £10 was largely used for fiscal purposes and also occasionally for prepayment of postage and insurance of valuable parcels of gold dust, etc. All the values from 2/6 upwards are good, but I do not advise the purchase of the £10 and £25 for investment purposes. These can be got sometimes with the surcharge "specimen" and even in this condition are fairly valuable.

ISSUE OF FEB., 1896. WATERMARKED.

This set is similar to the last except that the small sized stamps are watermarked Crown CA, and the larger ones Crown CC and that the shades of all the values are somewhat different while the £1 is changed in colour from orange to blue. The £10 and £25 of this issue are even scarcer than those without watermark. There is a marked shade of the 6d. in a pale washy blue.

ISSUE OF 1897.

For this issue the design was slightly modified. The negro group now appears on a white, instead of a lined, background; the



name of the Colony is in an arched label above, and the value is in a tablet at foot, instead of being in each of the lower corners as before. The colours, too, are different for every value. As before, the values from 1d. to 1/- are watermarked *Crown CA* and the higher values *Crown CC*. The most sought after stamp in this set is the 3/- sea-green; these were not required very much in the ordinary way, and were nearly all used up for the provisional "one penny" stamps, early in the following year.

THE 1D. ON 3/- OF 1898.

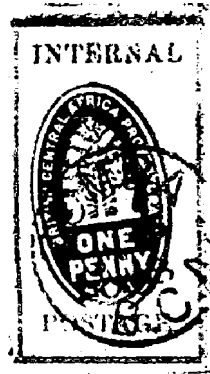
The exact date upon which this stamp was issued is not known, but it is generally believed to have been early in January, 1898. The surcharge, which was printed in red, on the 3/- sea-green of the 1897 issue, consisted of the words "ONE-PENNY" in two lines, in

Roman capitals. An error occurred on the second stamp from the end in the last row but one, in which the word PENNY was spelled PNNEY. This mistake must have been seen very soon, and corrected immediately, as the stamp is exceedingly rare. It was not until 1901 that the error was discovered by philatelists.

This provisional was made necessary by the loss in transit of a case containing a supply of stamps from Messrs. De La Rue & Co. Nobody ever knew what became of the case but its loss made the issue of this, and, afterwards, the curious provisionals I am about to describe, an absolute necessity.

THE CHEQUE-STAMP PROVISIONALS.

Presumably there was not a sufficient supply of any other value, after the 3/- had been used, for surcharging purposes, and the authorities at Blantyre hit upon the happy expedient of manufacturing stamps themselves and using the embossing stamp ordinarily used for impressing upon cheques, as a groundwork.



These were printed in red in two rows of fifteen on sheets already prepared with thirty upright rectangular frames, made with printers' rule, and containing the words INTERNAL, above, and POSTAGE, below, all printed in blue.

In order to guard against forgery the Postmaster initialled some of the stamps first issued, on the back, by hand, with his own initials, J.T.G. but as this was an exacting and wearisome work another form of control was used, after a short time, consisting of uncoloured letters and figures faintly embossed on the backs of the stamps, presumably by means of ordinary type.

Mr. B. W. H. Poole, in a most interesting article in the *West End Philatelist*, for June, 1907, says that only sixteen sheets (480 stamps) were initialled by the Postmaster, and that the remainder of the issue, both perf. and imperf., numbering in all about 24,000 stamps, were marked with the uncoloured type. The meaning, if there is any, of these figures and letters, has always been, and probably will always remain a mystery. Mr. Poole, in the article referred to, gives some particulars

about this matter which I cannot do better than reproduce verbatim.

"The uninked type consisted of figures and letters — a different combination for each stamp on the sheet, so that the stamps of this issue can be "plated." So far as the figures are concerned, the arrangement is quite systematic, the stamps in the top row being numbered 1 to 15, from right to left, while those in the lower row are numbered 16 to 30, also from right to left. The letters that accompany the numbers appear to be quite unintelligible, though they might have had some significance to the officials at the time the stamps were issued. In some cases the figures are above the letters, in others the letters are over the numbers; and in four stamps on the sheet they are side by side. I have reconstructed the plate, and find the combinations of letters and figures on the thirty stamps are as follows:—

15	14 I	13	12	XA	10	9	F	7	6	F	4	3	2G	1
K		D	WX	11	Z	C	8	H	P	5	M	X		F
30	XQ	28	27	Z	25	24A	23	S	21	T	Z19	Q	E	16
S	29	FA	B	26	J		N	22	WP	20		18	17	FY

"The letters and figures are not, as a rule, in line above each other, as shown in the diagram. Usually, one is to the left of the stamp, and the other to the right. For instance, on the thirteenth stamp the figure "3" is in the centre and the "X" is close to the left-hand side: on the seventh stamp the "9" is on the left, and the "C" in the centre; on the thirtieth stamp the "16" is in the centre, the "F" is on the left, and the "Y" on the right and so on; the positions varying on almost every stamp.

"The following diagram of the six stamps, from the right-hand side of the sheet gives an idea of the appearance of the uninked type":—

13		15
D	14 I	K
28	XQ	30
F A	29	S

The stamps as first issued, in March, 1898, were not perforated, but they were afterwards perforated 12. Marked shades of colour, both of the central oval and of the frame can be found, and the oval stamp is very rarely found evenly centred in its rectangular frame.

Specimens exist with the centre inverted, and it is said that only the stamps in the upper row of fifteen on one sheet were so printed.

ISSUE OF 1900.

Relief did not come to the provisional-ridden country until 1900 when a new supply of 1d., 4d. and 6d. stamps arrived. In these the niggers appeared in violet instead of the more correct black, and the frames were also changed in colour.

THE KING'S HEAD ISSUE.

During the years 1903-4, the values of a new set, bearing the portrait of the King, were issued. As with earlier issues, the number of denominations, especially of the lower values, was singularly limited, 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d. and 1/- stamps being sufficient to supply all needs. The higher values were 2/6, 4/-, 10/-, £1 and £10. The design was

identical with that used in East Africa and Uganda, the five high values being in the usual size employed by Messrs. De La Rue for stamps of 5/-, and watermarked Crown CC. In 1907, the 1d., and, later, the 6d., were issued on paper watermarked with the multiple Crown CA, chalk-surfaced, but the watermark of the other three values was not altered.

NYASALAND PROTECTORATE.

The name of the Colony was altered to "Nyasaland Protectorate" by an order in council dated 6th July, 1907. This necessitates a change in the stamps and a new series, specimen sets of which have already been seen, is probably in use by now. A German paper has described them as follows:—

Wmk. Crown CA., single, chalk-surfaced paper.
1/- black on green.

Wmk. Crown CA., multiple, ordinary paper.
½d. green.
1d. carmine.

Wmk. Crown CA., multiple, chalk-surfaced
3d. deep lilac on yellow.
4d. red on yellow.
6d. red-lilac on white.
2/6 carmine and black on blue.
4/- black and red on white.
10/- red and green on light green.
£1 black and lilac on red.
£10 ultramarine and lilac on white.

It will be noticed that the 2d. value is not included but that two values, not hitherto used in British Central Africa, have been added, namely:—4d. and 3d. I have not seen an illustration of the design but, according to the *Colonial Office Journal*, the stamps are printed from the two new universal key-plates and are the first stamps to be so printed. The issue of the 1/- on single watermark paper might have led to a good deal of speculative buying if it had not been already officially announced that 60,000 were to be issued.

Current Chatter.

BY ANGUS MCTAVISH.

TRYING to find suitable subjects, readable by both old and young alike, for the Current Chatter column in the early days of September, is like looking for an inverted watermark on the old three halfpenny British stamp.

All the kind friends who are generally so ready to unload little tit-bits of scandal, concerning some other fellow, are away holiday making, and poor wee McTavish has to return from his favourite haunts, none the richer for hearing what "the people with the stamp mounts" or "the people with the stamp tweezers" are doing.

Many years ago I had a great idea of publishing, on my very own, a paper to be called the *Anglo-Canadian Philatelist*, in fact I went as far as to write to a good many dealers, offering to give them a free advertisement in the first number, an offer which, by-the-by, was enthusiastically welcomed. While I obtained printers' estimates, and contributed the literary (?) (the note of interrogation is McTavish's, and is put there to prevent that big chap L..b from exercising his so-called —*) contents of the first three numbers. I was eleven years younger in those days. My idea was to publish a journal likely to interest English and Canadian collectors, with a big advertisement supplement, freely (under the circumstances a painful word) patronised by the leading British, Canadian and American dealers. The subscription was to be quite nominal and, after a time, I hoped to get a number of well-known philatelic writers to help me. I think I have already mentioned that eleven years ago I was eleven years younger.

Now although the above little story is perfectly true and very interesting, it is only the prelude to what I have been trying to write for some minutes, and that is that I have received the first two numbers of a Canadian stamp paper, published in the interests of philatelists and others, mostly others, which is called the *North American Collector*. Knowing the difficulties which beset the path of anyone

who tries to launch a new stamp paper (outside London, of course, in which town they flourish like wee bit beasts on a doggies back), I am inclined to be very lenient, and in that humour I welcome, with much enthusiasm, the Canuck venture. May it grow like a bay tree, also a fig leaf, and in the near future become the official organ of the Canadian Philatelic Society. The editor is working hard, and it only rests with collectors in America, Great Britain, Ireland, the rest of the world, and *elsewhere*, to send along their two "bits" (a "quarter," or 25 cents, was known as a "bit" when I last did "chores" in maple leaf land) and get the *N.A.C.* for twelve months. Address: J. Mewhort, Crossfield, Alberta, Canada.

Have you seen the new competition that all the leading stamp papers are advertising? To me it seems a very simple way of earning £100, that is to say if the S.T.P.A. would delete the "on conviction" clause. That's the wasp in the lolly pot, and, as my dear friend Hadfer says, is likely to prove the very deil.

It is astonishing how many dealers read the *P.J.G.B.*, especially the *C. r. e. t. Cha. . .* r page (£100 will *not* be awarded to the intelligent readers who solve the above missing letter puzzle). One, whom I met strap-hanging on his way to Putney, was chortling over a little reminiscence that I had related in the July number. Well, well, Putney's a sad suburb now-a-days.

The *Daily Telegraph* recently reported a somewhat clever ruse on the part of an impecunious collector of postal orders. The I. C. of P. O.'s strolled into a small sub-office and asked for a registered envelope, which, as he had his right arm in a sling he laboriously addressed with his left hand. He then asked the clerk if she would mind placing five £1 postal orders in the envelope and sealing it for him, which she did. On receiving back the envelope the man felt in his pockets and found that he had left his money at home. He returned the envelope to the girl to keep while he went home for the money, but as he did not return it was opened, and found to contain only blank paper.

More profitable than the top hat and rabbit trick, but not quite so amusing from the spectators point of view.

Have you any Kerguelen's Land stamps? no man's land stamps are pretty popular just at present, so it is possible that the near future may see the Island of Desolation, as Kerguelen's Land is sometimes called, issuing a set of stamps. Kerguelen's Land lies in the Indian Ocean, between South Africa and Australia, and covers an area of 300 square miles. It is at present uninhabited, but an expedition has been formed by the Kerguelen Whaling Co., whose headquarters are at Christiania, for the purpose of colonising the island.

*In the interests of peace we have deleted the last word.—Ed.

The vessel which is carrying out the settlers, consisting of sixty Norwegians, is the *Jeanne d'Arc*, and her cargo will include wooden houses, Iceland ponies, poultry, sheep, pigs, and other animals which are intended for breeding purposes for the use of the new community. They have taken a lease of the land for twenty-two years from the French Government, with full fishing rights. The vessel on her way out will call at Durban and take in about thirty negro labourers to assist in the work of the new colony.

The correspondent to the *Daily Telegraph* omits to add that the *Jeanne d'Arc* will call in at Wilkes Land to embark Admiral Shackleton, who will doubtless do the needful on his arrival, with a few sheets of the 1855 issue of Norway.

Should a suitable design be needed, I would suggest that the stamps be overprinted "Kerguelen Land" at the top, "Desolation Land" at the bottom, with a nice central design representing a double-footed sea elephant having a boxing match with a clean shaven oyster. Silly idea, isn't it.

Talking of General Shackleton reminds me that a correspondent wrote me last week that he is willing to pay £3 apiece for New Zealand No. 3. As this is considerably more than catalogue price, I should recommend my readers to look up their dups.

Wandering down the Strand the other day, I met dear old —, who, as usual, ready to

offer a good home to a glass of whisky, took me into the Cecil, where we talked stamps for an odd half hour or so. In the course of conversation he informed me that he has an 8½c. Nova Scotia printed in vermilion, on yellow toned paper and watermarked with peppermint lozenges, multiple stars, and an inverted Johore rosette!

Can you suggest a safe cure?

I have just heard that the International Philatelic Union people had a most enjoyable evening at their first 1908-9 meeting, held on the 10th inst. The new President most ably occupied the chair, with the Hon Sec. and Senor Jam Wetherell respectively on his right and left.

H.H. the Jam read a most capable and interesting paper, muchly enjoyed, and only marred by the fact that all present were aware that Mr. Wetherell will shortly be furling his tent and silently sailing away to India's coral strand.

I am also told, by the wee bit birdie, who whispers International secrets, that the I.P.U. Smoking Concert Sub-Committee afterwards held a most successful meeting at the Gaiety (wherever that place may be), while it is rumoured that two members of that select body were afterwards seen arguing with a motor Jehu as to whether he preferred green Chartreuse to Crème de Menthe. I don't believe it.

New Issues and Varieties.

(We shall be glad to receive any new issues or new varieties from our readers for description in this column. Letters should be addressed to THE EDITOR OF THE PHILATELIC JOURNAL OF GREAT BRITAIN, c/o MESSRS. P. L. PEMBERTON & Co., 68, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.)

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Canada. The *Daily Telegraph* publishes the following interesting information:—The Quebec Tercentenary Commemoration issue of postage-stamps is being eagerly sought after. The stamps are stored in the vaults of the American Bank Note Company, and are bought and drawn upon as required. From the morning of the day they were first put on sale there have been upwards of 5,000 separate sets disposed of to collectors and those anxious to obtain a souvenir of the great event. In the selling of single stamps, the ½c. and 15c. were the most popular varieties purchased, but this was due, it was explained, to the fact that there are no stamps of these denominations

in the ordinary issue. The 2c. and 1c. varieties, have of course, been largely used, but still the demand has not been nearly as great as was at first expected. The 1c. prints were bought wholesale, many collectors purchasing entire sheets of 100 for preservation. Besides letters from all over the Dominion from collectors requesting that sets be forwarded to them, the postmaster of Ottawa office had numerous communications from philatelists abroad, who, though only asking for a complete set, enclosed sums which have supplied them with half a dozen. Remittances of 10s. from the Old Country were frequent. As soon as the cost of the set and postage was deducted the balance was returned to the senders. Over 29,000,000 stamps were sold, the proceeds amounting to some £147,250.

North Borneo. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles another of the current Postage Due stamps, overprinted "British Protectorate."

Postage Due.
6c. black and deep brown.

Queensland. The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles the current 2½d. stamp in a previously unlisted shade, namely dull purple on blue.

South Australia. Mr. Charlick has kindly shown us an extremely interesting variety of perforation, namely the current 6d. stamp in a block of four, the top pair of which is perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, and the bottom pair $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ and $11\frac{1}{2}$. This means that two machines were used to perforate the one side of the same stamp, there being a distinct break in the perforations where the second machine has got to work. Mr. Charlick has also the 1/- value, likewise on Crown and A paper, perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ top and bottom, $12\frac{1}{2}$ a third of the way down at sides and $11\frac{1}{2}$ for the rest. At one time we thought a stamp perforated by four different machines would be the limit, but evidently we have to consider the possibility of eight machines getting to work on one stamp.

The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles the 9d. current issue, in a deep lake shade.

Adhesive. Wmk. Crown and A. P. 12.
9d. deep lake.

Straits Settlements. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the following novelty:

Adhesive. King's Head, multiple, ordinary paper.
10c. lilac on yellow.

Tasmania. *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*, for August 29th, contains the report of the discovery of a minor variety on the current 2d. pictorial stamp. Truly, there is "nothing new, etc." This variety, or flaw, was described—in the course of a letter from a Tasmanian correspondent—in these pages as far back as August of last year. The "flaw" consists of a white blotch to left of the T in Tasmania, and occurs on the fifth stamp, top row, of right-hand pane.

The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles the current 6d. pictorial stamp, with a new perforation.

Adhesive. Wmk. Crown and A. P. 12½.
6d. lake.

Mr. Charlick tells us he has the 9d. stamp, Crown and A paper, in an ultramarine shade, quite different from anything previously chronicled.

Adhesive. Wmk. Crown and A.
9d. bright ultramarine.

Transvaal. We have seen a most remarkable curiosity in the form of a 1d. Transvaal stamp—King's Head, all red—on paper watermarked with a cabled anchor similar to that used for Cape of Good Hope stamps. Mr. Joselin who showed us a used copy of this

stamp has had it in his possession for some months. The only possible theory is that one (or possibly more) sheets of Cape paper was mixed up with the Transvaal paper at the London printing works. If this is the case—particularly as Messrs. De la Rue & Co., are usually very careful—this freak watermark variety will be of great rarity.

Adhesive.
1d. Transvaal stamp printed on Cape of Good Hope paper.
Wmkd. Anchor.
1d. red.

Victoria. Mr. Glazebrook, of Melbourne, sends us the current stamp in a new shade.

Adhesive. Wmk. Crown and A.
3d. orange-yellow.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Afghanistan. Several of our contemporaries chronicle, on the authority of a French exchange, the following novelty.

Adhesive. Imperf.
1 rupee deep green.

Argentine Republic. We have received a third value, a 15c., of the new set, of which the first two values were chronicled in May last.

Adhesive. 1908. Wmk. Sun.
15c. light yellow-green.

Brazil. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. kindly send us specimens of the two recently issued commemorative stamps.

Adhesives. 1908.
100r. pale carmine.
100r. vermilion.

These "stamps" are, we believe, only available for internal postage.

Danish West Indies. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. very kindly send us four new stamps in an attractive design. They are printed at two operations, so the near future will doubtless bring a few inverted centres.

Adhesives.
Head of King Frederick VIII. in circle.
Value in numerals at bottom. P. 12½, 13.
5 bit green.
10 " red.
20 " blue and green.
25 " blue and ultramarine.

Greece. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles two distinct types of the 5 lepta "Mercury" stamp of 1901. The difference is explained as follows. In Type I. there is a white space between the two exterior vertical lines of the frames enclosing the word "ΕΛΛΑΣ" (Greece) on both sides of the stamp. In Type II. this space is filled in with short horizontal lines.

Nicaragua. The *Metropolitan Philatelist* has been informed that an entire new issue will be forthcoming in the course of sixty

days. Meanwhile, everything in the way of a stamp is being pressed into use by surcharging or otherwise.

Panama. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles several of the 1906 issue of stamps with the centre portion inverted.

Paraguay. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., very kindly send us specimens of the following novelties. The peso value has the black bar over the word "Oficial."

Adhesives. Surcharged "Habilitado."
5c. on 1c. blue.
1 peso orange and black.

Peru. *Mekeel's Weekly* states that a new set of stamps is to be shortly expected from this country—together with the usual trimmings in the form of postage due and official sets.—The postage dues are, we are informed to be triangular in shape, but no information is given concerning the design,—possibly three rampant money bags; or a couple of Incas shovelling shekels into a Peruvian bark (barque) would do.

Russia. *Offices in China.* Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have shown us the 15 and 25k. stamps surcharged for use in China.

Adhesives. Surcharged in black.
15r. blue and claret.
25r. lilac and dull green.

Uruguay. Mr. A. H. Davis, who so kindly keeps us posted concerning new issues from this part of the world writes as follows: "The Government have just placed an order with a firm in Buenos Aires for the printing of Commemorative stamps to be issued on 25th August next, the Independence Day of this Republic."

We are sorry.



September 1908, Report.

List of Officers and Committee, 1908-9.

Hon. President: HIS HONOUR JUDGE PHILBRICK, K.C.

Hon. Vice-Presidents:

W. DORNING BECKTON. H. L. HAYMAN. H. R. OLDFIELD.
VERNON ROBERTS.

President: J. C. SIDEBOTHAM.

Vice-Presidents:

W. SCHWABACHER. L. W. FULCHER. W. SCHWARTZ.

Committee:

P. P. BROWN.	A. B. KAY	W. E. LINCOLN.
W. J. BOVILL.	W. S. KING.	DR. MARX, M.A.
W. HADLOW.	MAJOR LAFFAN, R.E.	F. H. OLIVER.
J. E. JOSELIN.	F. F. LAMB.	P. L. PEMBERTON.
	E. W. WETHERELL.	

Hon. Sec. & Treasurer: T. H. HINTON.

Hon. Exchange Superintendent: DR. E. F. MARX, M.A.

Hon. Counterfeit Detector: W. HADLOW.

Hon. Librarian: W. S. KING.

Hon. Solicitors: MESSRS. OLDFIELDS.

MEMBERSHIP.

Candidates for admission must be over 18 years of age, and supply at least two satisfactory references. They will then be proposed for election, and if no objection be lodged within fourteen days, be duly elected. The Entrance Fee, 2/6, and Subscription, 5/., should accompany the application, and will be refunded in the event of the non-election of the applicant. (The Committee are empowered to elect Life Members, not exceeding ten in number, at a fee of Two Guineas.)

The following is now proposed in accordance with the above:—George Edwin Strong, Hanwell, Middlesex, proposed by T. H. Hinton, seconded by J. C. Sidebotham.

NOTICES.

As announced in last report a meeting was held at Essex Hall, on Thursday, September 10th. Present: J. C. Sidebotham, President (in the chair), E. W. Wetherell, J. E. Joselin, P. P. Brown, W. E. Lincoln, P. L. Pemberton, F. F. Lamb, A. B. Kay, Miss G. Killick, G. E. Strong and the Hon. Sec. Mr. Wetherell read his paper on "The Progress of Philately in connection with the Formation of a Philatelic Club." An animated discussion followed, on the conclusion of which it was unanimously decided to refer the further consideration of matters discussed to a special meeting of the Committee, to be held at Essex Hall on Thursday, 24th inst., at 7.15 p.m. A hearty and unanimous vote of thanks to Mr. Wetherell and the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

Arrangements for displays and papers during the season have been left in the hands of the Hon. Sec., who would be glad to hear from anyone willing to assist in this direction, in order to issue as complete a programme as possible at an early date.

Smoking Concert under the management of a Sub-Committee, Messrs. P. L. Pemberton, F. F. Lamb, W. E. Lincoln, and E. W. Wetherell, will be held early in October. Full particulars will be shortly announced.

THOS. H. HINTON,

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Int. Phil. Union.
26, Cromford Road, East Putney, S.W.

September 14th, 1908.

An Exhibition, on a large scale, is to be held in Amsterdam, in June next, under the auspices of the Netherlands Philatelic Society. The programme and prospectus will be issued in October next.

Well-known Philatelists.

No. 104.—MR. WILLIAM GILL.

WE have great pleasure this month in introducing to our readers, as our well-known philatelist, Mr. W. Gill, President of the Liverpool Philatelic Society.

Writing from Birkenhead, Mr. Gill very kindly gives us the following interesting account of his philatelic career. He is the son of the late Mr. John Raw Gill, of H.M. Inland Revenue, and was born in 1844 at Astley, Worcestershire, the birthplace of the gifted Frances Ridley Havergal.

The frequent changes of residence incidental to the Inland Revenue service caused Mr. Gill, when young, to become acquainted with Leeds, London (in the year of the great Exhibition of which latter he has a fair recollection), Whitehaven, Ware, and again London, where he received the chief part of his education, from 1856 to 1860. On his father's removal to Carnarvon in the latter year, Mr. Gill joined the staff of the North and South Wales Bank, being stationed successively at Oswestry, Holyhead and Liverpool. In 1867 and 1868 he was at the Ruthin Branch in the delightful Vale of Clwyd, after which he was again transferred to the head office of the bank, in Liverpool, where he has for many years held the appointment of chief cashier.

Mr. Gill first became a collector of stamps about ten years ago. Before then he had never given a thought to philately, but after helping a young lady friend who had appealed to him for stamps for her album, it dawned upon him that he would like to become a collector himself. From then till now he has worked assiduously and is as intense in his love of philately as when the fever first attacked him.

Both a specialist and a general collector our subject collects all stamps that come his way, while he has a weakness for British Colonials. His collection includes a very fine lot of King's Heads, single C.A.'s, but multiple watermarks and chalky surfaces are not collected, wherein we think Mr. Gill shows much wisdom, as, however unlimited a collector's time and cash may be, there must be a line of limitation drawn somewhere. Strong in good old stamps, Mr. Gill's collection, which numbers considerably

over 15,000 varieties, also includes many of the handsome and recently issued "picture" stamps, which of course is as it should be in a general collectors album.

Joining the Liverpool Philatelic Society about ten years ago, Mr. Gill was, in a few years time, elected a member of the committee, since when, after serving as vice-president, he has been elected president, a position he now most ably fills to the mutual benefit of the Society's officers and members. He is also a member of the Liverpool Junior Society, which, although very recently established, is making good progress.

Like so many other collectors, Mr. Gill regrets the lost opportunities of his younger days. For instance, when junior at branches of the Bank, he unhesitatingly threw into the waste paper basket the cloth paper envelopes, bearing high value stamps, in which supplies of bank notes had been received, to say nothing of the envelopes received from a relative in Australia in the later fifties.

Perhaps, after all, it is just as well that so many of the older stamps were thus so ruthlessly destroyed; it would never do if the present day collecting world suffered from a plethora of rarities, as would be the case had *all* the older issues been saved from destruction.

Mr. Gill believes that Philately has a great future to look forward to, while he finds among his friends many who are taking to the hobby, and joining Societies and whose example will no doubt be followed by

others. The Societies are a power for good, and bring together in close friendship men who otherwise would be merely ordinary acquaintances.

Our readers will join with us, we feel sure in wishing the President of the Liverpool Society and his brother officers, every success for the coming season.

The American Philatelic Association now has a total membership of 1542. The associates are distributed all over the world, 1411 are in the United States, 33 in Canada, 21 in England, 16 in Germany and the balance of 61 is contributed to by nearly every country in the world.



Societies' Doings.

[As we are unable to devote the space necessary to printing full reports and programmes of the various Societies, we take the following method of letting our readers know what is going on in the Stamp Club world.]

The Philatelic Society of Victoria has had a most successful season. On July 23rd last the Annual Meeting was held, Mr. Chester, the President, being in the chair, with a goodly attendance of members. The following officers for the present year were then duly elected:—

President: MR. A. G. KELSON.

Vice-President: MR. C. H. EDMONDSON.

Hon. Secretary, Treasurer and Exchange Supt.:
MR. W. BRENSCHNEIDER.

Librarian: MR. S. O. SMITH.

Committee:

Messrs. WILLIAMSON, GLAZBROOK, LONGMORE,
and the REV. LANE.

After a vote of thanks to the retiring officers, the meeting closed, and the ordinary General Meeting for July was held.

From a perusal of the Annual Report we find that eight new members joined the Victorian Society, while eight were lost through resignation or death, leaving a membership, as before, of seventy. The average of stamp sales from the exchange books was distinctly good, and the Society is in a sound financial position.

* * *

The Brighton Branch of the Junior Philatelic Society has gotten out a goodly programme for the 1908-09 session. Meetings will be held at the Royal Hotel, Queen's Road, every second and fourth Tuesday in the month, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., and from a glimpse of the "bill of fare" Brighton philatelists have many pleasurable evenings to look forward to. On October 8th, the President, Mr. F. J. Melville will give a display on San Marino stamps, to be followed by a paper read by Mr. W. Mead. On October 22nd, Mr. A. H. L. Giles will display his fine collection of Greece, Mexico and Uruguay.

* * *

The Junior Philatelic Society of Scotland has issued an attractive little booklet containing the rules of the Society and programme for the coming season. On October 7th there will be a display of Gibraltar, Malta, and Cyprus stamps, by members; while on October 21st, Mr. J. L. Thomas, one of the Vice-Presidents, will give a display of the stamps of Uruguay. The *J.P.S. of S.* hold their meetings at the Alexandra Hotel, Bath Street, Glasgow, at 8 p.m., and we feel sure that Mr. R. Borland, the Hon. Secretary, will be pleased to give information to prospective members who write to him at Lochside, Milngavie.

The Junior Philatelic Society has now a new meeting place, and, from all accounts, their new home is quite palatial. The address is 17, Fleet Street, E.C., and we are informed that Prince Henry, the eldest son of King James I., is a member of the J.P.S., or rather would be, had he been alive at the present time, as No. 17, at one time, was a frequent haunt of his. Be that as it may, the new J.P.S. room is full of historic associations, enjoying a real Jacobean ceiling, oak panelling, bay windows and all the etceteras of the good old days. Visitors are always welcome at J.P.S. meetings, and, as space is somewhat limited, they are advised to come early on Saturday, October 3rd, when the opening meeting of the new season will be held. Subsequent "meets" will be held every first and third Saturdays in the month, until May next.

* * *

The International Philatelic Union held its first meeting on September 10th, when a goodly number of members were present. A capital syllabus was drawn up for the 1908-9 season, which will be opened on October 5th, by a Smoking Concert. The International Philatelic Union members, or the rollicking I.P.U.'ers, as they are sometimes called, will entertain their friends with a capital programme, better it is hoped than even that provided last year, which, by the bye, is still remembered by one or two members as the event of their philatelic careers. A small charge of 1/- will be made for tickets, which can be obtained from Mr. T. H. Hinton, 26, Cromford Road, East Putney; or from Mr. P. L. Pemberton, 68, High Holborn, W.C.

New Leaves to Cut.

AFGHANISTAN.*

BY SIR D. P. MASSON AND B. GORDON JONES.

THIS important work, which has been looked forward to with so much eagerness by the small band of collectors who specialise in Afghanistan stamps, forms the ninth volume published by the Philatelic Society of India. So far as one with an elementary knowledge of the subject is able to judge, the prestige of this series of handbooks will not be diminished by the latest addition, which, besides being very carefully written, and embodying all that is known about these stamps, contains twenty-four exceptionally fine full-page plates illustrating entire and re-constructed sheets.

The volume begins with a brief political history of the country from the middle of the 18th century, during which period no fewer

* *The Postage Stamps of Afghanistan*, by D. P. Masson and B. Gordon Jones. Published for the Philatelic Society of India, by Higginbotham & Co., Mount Road, Madras, and W. T. Wilson, 292, Birchfield Road, Birmingham, England. 20/- net.

than eighteen Amirs have ruled in that turbulent land. It was during the reign of Sher Ali, namely in 1871-1872 (1288 according to the Mohammedan calendar) that stamps were first issued. We learn that the word Sher means Lion and it was out of compliment to the Amir that all stamps issued during his reign bore a so-called representation of a Lion's head. That the drawing appears in various specimens, to be more like a tiger, cat or owl, is the fault of the draughtsman who drew each stamp on the plate of stone, separately. The stamps were produced by lithography and each stamp on the sheet of every issue of the Sher Ali series is slightly different, it is consequently an easy matter to re-construct the plates—if you have the stamps and the admirable illustrations provided in this work to assist you.

If the reader will refer to any catalogue he will find that the first stamp of Afghanistan is given under the date 1868, but the authors of this work show that this hoary old sinner will have to be deleted from future editions, for the following reason.

"The stamp described in the catalogues as of '1868, no value, violet,' is entirely bogus. It was never in use at all, and certainly never appeared so early as 1868, at which period the country was in a state of anarchy. Apparently it was produced about 1888, in Kabul, for a scientist who was at the time travelling in the country, and who was deluded into believing it to be a genuine issue. The faulty formation of the Arabic characters and the irregular circle, denote an illiterate engraver. The design is a variant of the Abdur Rahman 1298 period, when similarly printed circular stamps from single dies were in use. If this stamp had really been a 'Sher Ali' issue, it would have been lithographed and have existed in several types."

This will be sad news for collectors who have hitherto considered themselves fortunate enough to possess this imposter, for it has always been of the greatest rarity and is quoted in Gibbons at £15.

In the descriptions of the stamps of all issues, minutest details of the designs, and the translations of the native inscriptions, are given. These, together with the illustrations, make the identification of specimens an easy matter, and if only it had been possible to publish the work at a low price, there can be no doubt that it would have made Afghanistan a much more popular country than it has been. The book, however, cannot be considered dear, as the plates, which must, in future, be indispensable to the serious collector, are alone worth the money.

Now that an excellent and reliable handbook on these difficult stamps has been published, we feel sure that many scientific collectors will turn their attention Cabul-wards. They will have a still uncrowded field to work in, with the advantage of expert and reliable

information to base their studies upon, and we certainly think that those philatelists, in search of a really intricate and interesting country, would do well to pay more attention to the stamps of Afghanistan.

HINTON'S HINTS ON STAMP COLLECTING.*

We have received a copy of the third edition of this very popular handbook for collectors. Mr. Hinton has added a long chapter, entitled: "Some Points of Interest to the Collector," while the whole work has been carefully revised and brought up to date.

As in reviewing previous editions, we have nothing but praise to give this handbook. It contains a great amount of information, written in an interesting and concise way, information that should prove of great advantage to the beginner and fairly advanced collector alike.

The methods of printing stamps, the different kinds of paper they are printed upon, the various watermarks and all the etceteras of stamp manufacture are fully described, together with many chapters in which the reader may learn all about commemorate stamps, essays, reprints, locals, errors, and the dozen and one other subjects of importance to the general collector.

The book is well illustrated, several hundred stamp blocks having been used, while it can most certainly be confidently called the cheapest and most popular book for beginners that has yet been published.

LEMAIRE'S 1908 CATALOGUE OF 20TH CENTURY STAMPS.

We have received from Mons. T. Lemaire a copy of his recently issued catalogue of postage and telegraph stamps. This catalogue only includes stamps issued after the 1st of January, 1901, and takes all issues, including official and postage due stamps from that date up to June, 1908.

This book is intended to act as a supplement to Mons. Lemaire's well-known catalogue, bringing it up to date, and at the same time be of great service to those collectors who only collect the stamps of the 20th century. Well illustrated, well edited and printed, it should be of great service to collectors of modern stamps. The price is 6d., and we feel sure that those of our readers who write to Mons. T. Lemaire, 16, Avenue de l'Opera, Paris, enclosing this amount, together with 3d. added for postage, will be pleased with the 130 page catalogue they will receive. No varieties of perforation or watermark are listed, yet each of the 130 pages contains a list of about 60 stamps, making a rough total of 7800 new issues during the past seven-and-a-half years.

* Published by E. Nister, 26 and 28, St. Bride St., E.C. 1/-.

The Cents Issues of New Brunswick.

By F. F. LAMB.

IN the February number of this journal I contributed a short, and I am afraid not very erudite paper, on the "pence" issue of New Brunswick. Although containing very little original matter it was appreciated by one or two of my readers, so much so that I have been asked to write a companion article on the "cents" issues.

Candidly, I must confess that I know little or nothing original to write about.

Mr. Donald King, to whom I was indebted for a great deal of my information concerning the "pence" stamps, contributed a capital and exhaustive article on New Brunswick stamps to the *Monthly Journal* early in 1895. So complete was his paper that its publication left little, or no room, for further research. The only excuse then for my writing about the cents stamps is that possibly I may interest a few young collectors, to whom thirteen years is a philatelic lifetime; also that I may help to remind older philatelists of the work of one of our best known authorities on North American stamps.

CENTS ISSUE 1860.

Owing to the change in the currency throughout the whole of Canada, it was found necessary to change the wording on the stamps from "pence" to "cents." The three stamps of the pence issue were also proving themselves so woefully inadequate to prepay several of the existing postage rates, that it was decided to enlarge the list of denominations.

Mr. Charles Connell, the then Postmaster-General, gave instructions to the American Bank Note Co., of New York, to print and forward to New Brunswick supplies of 1c., 5c., 10c., 12½c. and 17c. stamps. This order was duly executed, and the stamps were printed in sheets of 100, made up of ten rows of ten. When Mr. Connell was instructed, in December, 1859, to order these stamps, he was evidently given a pretty free hand in regard to the choice of designs for them; consequently, we find that on the arrival of the stamps and preparatory to their being sent to "way back" post offices and stations, it was discovered that the 5c. stamp bore a likeness of Mr. Connell!

In a short article on the "Connell" stamp, that appeared under the signature of Mr. Donald King in *Meeke's Weekly* some time early in 1902. I find the following information.

"Doubtless, pleased with the new stamps, and the portrait—which was a good one—

Mr. Connell made no secret of the designs, and thus, before the eventful 1st of May to be, his colleagues secured specimens of the new issue.

Perhaps through jealousy, perhaps through loyalty, possibly suspecting treasonable designs on the part of Mr. Connell, who does not appear to have been popular in the Cabinet, they claimed the privilege of approving the new stamps before they were issued.

Mr. Connell was not in Fredericton at the time this step was taken, and his first intimation, received at his home in Woodstock, was a telegram from Hon. S. L. Tilley, the Provincial Secretary, that the issue could not be made until approved by the Governor in Council. The Postmaster-General did not appreciate the seriousness of their objection, as he telegraphed back to the Provincial Secretary to secure the approval at once, apparently believing it was only a necessary matter of form, and informing him that in three days' time the Post Office Department had arranged to issue them.

Naturally, Mr. Tilley did not procure the necessary approval, and Mr. Connell, on March 28th wired his chief clerk at Fredericton, to postpone the issue for a few days—then to Mr. Tilley, that he thought the approval was granted when authority had been given him to procure them, and an intimation that he would be in St. John in a week's time, the council meeting there then on other business."

The result of this storm in a tea cup was that Mr. Connell sent in his resignation, which was accepted. In consequence of the dispute over this stamp, the other values which were all ready for sale to the public were withheld from issue for two weeks or more. They were however finally distributed on, or about, the 15th of May, 1860, and consisted of the following values: 1c., 10c., 12½c. and 17 cents.

The 5c. stamp, with portrait of Connell, was of course never issued, consequently the set of four values was incomplete and orders were at once sent to New York for a printing of 500,000 5c. stamps bearing the head of Queen Victoria, as on the 10c. value.

The fact that no used copy of the Connell stamp is known, should necessitate the removal of this stamp from a catalogue of postage stamps, it being more correct to class it as "a stamp prepared for use, but never issued."

The few known unused copies of this stamp are undoubtedly some of those that were kept as souvenirs, at the time they were so much in evidence.

I do not know the date on which the 5c. stamps, printed in green and bearing a portrait of Queen Victoria, were delivered at Fredericton, but doubtless it would be early in July or, possibly, late in June. The first printing of this stamp was in a deep bronze



or sap green and is a comparatively scarce stamp, even used, while in mint condition it is really rare, the catalogue quotation of 40/- being very misleading. The second consignment of this value received from the printers, was printed in a totally different shade of green, namely, deep yellow-green, and is an excessively common stamp.

Before the arrival of the 5c. stamps from New York, the public of New Brunswick felt the inconvenience of having no stamp of this denomination, a difficulty they overcame by halving the 10c. stamp and using each half as a 5c. stamp. This "split" is of considerable rarity and ranks with specialists as a most desirable variety.

A fine copy of this provisional is exhibited in the Taping Collection at the British Museum. The *Monthly Journal* lists another provisional 5c. stamp, made up of two 2c. and half a 2c. stamp. This, if authentic, is of very great rarity.

The designs of these five stamps are most interesting. The 1c., with a big locomotive, on which, bye-the-bye, the big bell, such a nuisance to anyone living near a city level crossing, is very prominent; the 5c. and 10 cents, both with a handsome portrait of Queen Victoria; the 12c. with a barque rigged steamer; and the 17c. with a portrait of the young Prince of Wales.



All these stamps, with the exception of the deep shade of the 5c. green, are very common in an unused state, as a big remainder of all values, including the 2c. stamp, to be mentioned later, was sold to a syndicate of dealers. Used, however, some of the values are quite scarce, notably the 10c. and 17c. stamps. The 5c. is very common, so too is the 12½c., but the early shades of the 1c. are difficult to secure.

Collectors should, if possible, only collect these stamps with town dated cancellations. One sees so many so-called used stamps of this issue—usually defaced with an ink smudge,

or two or three bogus bars—that an authentic postmark is very much to be desired.

Owing to a reduction in inland postal charges, a 2c. stamp was found necessary, and the American Bank Note Co. was given



instructions to deliver a supply. The colour was orange-yellow and the design similar to that of the 5c. stamp.

All the "cent" stamps were perforated by a machine gauging "12," or more correctly, between 11½ and 12, and all values can be found in a number of shades. The 2c. certainly shows least variation, while the 17c. differs but little, but the other four values vary considerably. All values have been forged, but the only forgeries I have seen have been exceedingly badly executed lithographs.

The "cent" stamps remained in use until July 1867, when they were replaced by the general issue for the Dominion of Canada.

Although I have been able to add little, or no information, to that already existing, I feel sure that those of my readers who are in need of a new country to specialise, would do well to consider the claims of the "pence" and "cents" issues of New Brunswick.

J.P.U. Smoking Concert.

THE Fourth Annual Smoker will be held at the Villa Villa Restaurant, on October 5th, at 7.30 p.m. for eight o'clock. A small charge (1/- each), as in previous years, will be made for tickets, while an excellent programme has been drawn up, including a number of professional and amateur performers, amongst the latter being Mr. W. S. Lincoln, who has kindly promised to give two or more of his inimitable recitations.

Tickets may be obtained from members of the Sub-Committee, or from the Hon. Secretary, at the restaurant, before or during the entertainment.

The Villa Villa Restaurant is most conveniently situated, within two minutes walk of Piccadilly Circus, from whence it is reached by walking up Shaftesbury Avenue and turning up Macclesfield Street, on the right-hand side.

The 5th of October is the first Monday in the month, and collectors should make a point of seeing that on this evening they are free from other engagements. The I.P.U. Committee will provide a capital entertainment, and all who attend will spend a most enjoyable evening.



SEPT. 20, 1908.

Philately at Home.

The *London Philatelist* for August contains a good assortment of really interesting matter. The most important contribution being a second instalment of Mr. Wetherell's paper on "The Stamps of Spain and Cuba, April 1855 to Feb. 1860." Mr. Wetherell is so well known as a careful and painstaking researchist, that there is no need for us to praise him; we make two extracts from his paper which show collectors his exhaustive mode of procedure.

FLAWS AND OTHER MARKS.

From an examination of large blocks of the earlier impressions I find that with only a few exceptions (original imperfect clichés) there are very few flaws detectable. It is therefore clear that the great majority of the dots and dashes visible on late impressions are due to wear and tear of the clichés, or to accidents which have happened to them, or to rough treatment of the moveable clichés while in store.

I must here point out that the little marks noticeable on all Spanish stamps from 1850 to 1875 and not inherent to the designs themselves belong to one of seven classes.

(1) Those present on every stamp of every value of one design and therefore present on the original die and of the nature of secret marks for the issue.

(2) Those present on every stamp of one value of one design and therefore present on the secondary die and of the nature of secret marks for that particular value.

(3) Those present on every stamp of one value printed from one particular plate and therefore of the nature of plate marks (these do not occur in the 1855-60 issue, as there are no true "plates," merely different settings of the same moveable clichés).

(4) Marks appearing on every stamp on a sheet after a certain period and therefore added by hand to every one of the clichés, as in the 1859-60 period of the 4 cuartos value (*vide infra*) or to the secondary die, between the date of manufacture of first and second plates (as in the 1873 issue).

(5) Small marks characteristic of particular clichés. These may be due to original defects (important) or accidents later (unimportant except as a help to plating late impressions).

(6) Marks due to dirt and dust on the plate, producing coloured marks.

(7) Marks due to dust on the paper, producing white marks.

The second extract has a very direct

bearing upon the one printed above, as our readers will doubtless discover.

SO-CALLED ERRORS.

Some of the Spanish catalogues for specialists list errors such as "CORRFOS," "CORRECS," "CORRCOS," etc. These are not errors in any sense; they are due merely to the fact that the particular flaws, etc., occurring on certain stamps happen to pass through certain letters. The letters, being *white*, are depressions in the printing surface, and if some dust gets stuck in these depressions, it gives rise to these apparently broken letters, of which I have many specimens. In some cases the figure of value is entirely missing.

Moens' lists, on the authority of the Philatelic Society of London, the following defective impressions:—

"CORRFOS,"	4 cuartos,	1 real;	watermark loops.
"C ARTOS,"	4	"	"
"CORRLOS,"	1 real	"	"
"CORRIOS,"	2 reales	"	"
"PEALES,"	2	"	"
"CORRLOS,"	1 real;		lattice watermark.
"CORRFOS,"	1	"	"
"CORRFOS,"	4 cuartos;		no watermark.
"CORRFOS,"	4	"	"
"CORRFOS,"	4	"	"
"CORRECS,"	4	"	"
"CORRFOS,"	1 real	"	"
"CORRLOS,"	1	"	"

The above are not of any importance, as they are due merely to the filling up of parts of the indented portions of the designs on the clichés, and, moreover, they are as lists extremely incomplete. I can assure collectors that these varieties are of even less importance than the nicks on the frame, as the one is caused by a defect in the cliché and the other merely by dirt.

Dr. Diena contributes a few notes dealing with 1882-3 issues of Argentine, and the Jan. 1866 stamps of Uruguay. Noting that the 1882-3 issues of Argentine were produced by the aid of the pantograph (as described by Mr. T. W. Hall in the May number of the *L.P.* and referred to in this journal in our June number) Dr. Diena writes as follows:—

To my knowledge the list of postage stamps contains other issues produced with the aid of the pantograph, and I believe I am not wrong in advancing the theory that the four stamps of Uruguay, of 10th January, 1866 (5, 10, 15 and 20c.), figure type, perforate and imperforate, have been engraved by the pantograph.

It is not without a reason that I said "engraved" in lieu of "lithographed," for the corners of these stamps, as shown by proofs which I know, on card, clearly show that it was done by engraving in intaglio

on metal. These engravings were transferred afterwards to stone, and all the issued stamps are lithographed.

According to Dr. Wonner (*Les Timbres de la République Oriental de l'Uruguay*, 1887, p. 36) and Mr. Ehrenbach (*London Philatelist*, VIII., p. 122) the stamps in question were prepared by the firm of De la Rue & Co. But is this statement correct? It is known that this firm provided for the Uruguay Republic the envelope stamps of 1886-7. I think that this order has given rise to the supposition that the adhesive stamps, which it is known were designed in Great Britain, had been executed by this firm.

In an interesting article by Dr. Legrand, "Les timbres poste à l'Exposition universelle de 1867," published in M. Moens' *Timbrophile* of 15th June, 1867, page 256, it is said that two essays in black of the 5 and 10c. of this issue had been exhibited at Paris by Messrs. Maclure and Macdonald of Glasgow. It is to this firm then that we owe the preparation of these types. As to the lithographic transfers, they were executed in whole or in part at Monte Video (as we know from the work of Dr. Wonner, who gives information on the various printings).

Notice that the design of these stamps of Uruguay is constituted of two parts, separately engraved—that is to say, the background containing the inscription in microscopic characters, and then the design properly so called of each value, as is the case in the 12c. Prussian blue, of Argentine, as Mr. Hall has explained to us.

But what leads me above all to say they are made by pantographic reproductions is the nature of the varieties and errors that are found for the 5c. and 10c., figure "5" called "à tête blanche" (cabera blanca, the Spaniards call it), "entecimos," "centecimo," "centecimos" with "s" final too long, the curved line of the "5" unfinished, and other varieties described by the late lamented Mr. Ehrenbach in the *London Philatelist*.

I ask, moreover, what other theory can be advanced to explain the origin of these errors "of omission," to repair which it was necessary to have recourse to retouches, such as the joining of the letter "s," final, of "centecimos," which appears in different forms.

Dr. Diena furthermore suggests that the 1871-6 postage and fiscal stamps of Japan were produced by the pantograph process, but we are afraid that this theory does not hold good.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly for August 29th takes the place of the once long looked for *Monthly Journal*. It contains a continuation of Mons. J. Hanciau's exhaustive article on the "Postal Issues of Denmark and the Danish Colonies," the present instalment dealing with envelope stamps. Major Evans treats us to a further instalment of his article on the stamps of Nowanuggur; while Mr. J. N. Luff contributes a long, and to those not interested in French Colonial stamps, a very tiring list of minor type varieties to be found on the Postage Due stamps of Guadeloupe. These three articles together with some "Philatelic Notes and Queries" and a short new issue list complete the contents of *the*—or what we fondly hoped would be *the* monthly *Weekly*.

We are afraid that in only dealing with Danish envelope stamps, Nowanuggur labels and Guadeloupe Postage Due unecessaries Major Evans will not appeal to a very big circle of readers, we should have thought that the paper under his editorship would have been more successful and certainly more interesting, had it dealt with topics more likely to interest the general collector, while, is is extremely doubtful if even 2% of specialists—to whom the late *M.J.* appealed—will appreciate the new regime. After all its none of our business, but we *do* miss the *M.J.*

The ordinary numbers of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* edited by Mr. C. J. Phillips are all capital productions.

The *Philatelic Record* for August contains a capital "Editorial Note," in the course of which we find the following sound philosophy.

A really earnest philatelist is not content to collect according either to catalogue, or to the much more elaborate publications of the Royal Philatelic Society, or the excellent series of handbooks on certain countries which have been published by the Philatelic Society of India, by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., and others during the last dozen years. Such a collector wishes to make discoveries for himself, as well as to see his collection gradually built up; in fact, it is not so much from numbers of stamps or from vast arrays of pairs, blocks, or even entire sheets that his pleasure is derived, but rather from the discoveries which the possession of such has enabled him to make.

The mere accumulation of stamps in entire sheets when they teach nothing, we have always condemned as mere vulgarity; there is no sense in bloating for bloating's sake, but at the same time to study a hitherto neglected country it is essential to become a bloater of the most pronounced type. Until a student has exhausted his subject, he does not know of what it is capable, and in a similar way this applies to the stamps of a country which have not already been explored scientifically.

Mr. J. Stelfox Gee, well known in Manchester circles is the "Notable Philatelist." A translation of a short article from a continental paper dealing with the "6 Rappen Zurich stamp" in the course of which several important discoveries, the work of the late Monsieur Mirabaud, are detailed, proves interesting reading. The first instalment of Mr. Bernstein's paper, read before the Manchester Philatelic Society, entitled "The Universal Postal Union," the conclusion of Mr. Crofton's reprinted article on "Queen's Heads," a few Manchester 1909 Exhibition notes, a new issue list and a capital budget of "Notes and News" completes an excellent number of our Manchester contemporary.

The *Philatelic Adviser* for August contains a very short instalment of its editor's admirable paper on "The $\frac{1}{2}$ Real Plata of Cuba, 1857-60," a very much shorter instalment of the article on "The 1870 Issue of Spain," and the conclusion of a "copy book" chat on the "Stamps of Malta"; the commencement of a paper headed "The Stamps of Gibraltar," wherein a goodly list of English plate numbers used at the Rock, figures largely. (Poor old Gib. and Malta, they *do* have to work nowadays, in fact, they have been such good friends to philatelic scribes during the past and *present* few months, that we really think they should be pensioned off for a year or two. just to give the Caymans, Solomons, and Maldives a chance).

A capital "New Issue" list, a few of "Tancred's" Topicalities, which are certainly not up to that writer's tip-top form, and the usual big and well selected budget of reprinted articles, completes the August *Philatelic Adviser*.

The *British Philatelist*, that admirable little paper which publishes so much to interest and instruct collectors of British stamps, continues in its July-August number the capital article entitled "The Line-Engraved Stamps of Great Britain." The current instalment deals with the halfpenny stamps, and the following extract is of interest.

This value was introduced in connection with the reduced rate of postage on Inland newspapers, printed matter, and patterns or samples, which was to take effect as from the 1st October, 1870. The design, which was oblong in shape, and measured only 18mm. by 14mm., consisted of a diminutive diademed profile of Queen Victoria to left, in a plain oval within a rectangular frame, of which the ground was mechanically engraved in a lattice-work pattern.

At each corner was a square block to contain the small sans-serif check letters, which ran from "A-A, A-A" to "X-T, T-X," there being four hundred and eighty stamps on the sheet, arranged in twenty horizontal rows of twenty-four each; and at each side of the frame, on a ground of solid colour, was " $\frac{1}{4}$ d" in white—this was the only inscription.

The plate number, in small Arabic figures, will be found on the lattice-work at the sides of the oval medallion.

The inscriptions in the margins were similar to those of the previous values, the prices being " $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per label, 1/- per row of 24, £1 per sheet"; and the plate number was engraved at the four corners of, and the current number above and below, the pane of stamps.

For this value a special paper was manufactured, with the watermark of *half penny* in script, extending over the space of three stamps, and the words *Postage Stamps*, also in script, appeared in the end margins of the sheet.

The plates ran from 1 to 20, but it was found necessary to reject some, viz. :—plate 2, after being

half finished, was found to be imperfect; plate 7, or rather its roller, was defective, and could not be used; plate 16 could not be finished, as the roller broke; and the rollers of plates 17 and 18 cracked after a very few impressions had been taken.

Plate 1 was put to press on the 20th June, 1870, and plate 20 on the 27th June, 1879. Two more plates, Nos. 21 and 22, were made, but were never put to press.

The colour of the impression was lake-red, similar to that of the One Penny, and, like it, varied in tone and in depth of shade.

With a few exceptions, all the sheets were perforated before being issued, the gauge being the usual one of 14 to the two centimetres. There was one noticeable difference between this and the other values; the perforation, instead of being applied in horizontal rows, was begun at the side, with the result that the sheets were perforated in vertical rows, and that one of the two outside rows was left imperforate on either the left or right. Copies, with the right side imperforate, are lettered "X-A, A-X," to "X-T, T-X," and those with left side imperforate, "A-A, A-A" to "A-T, T-A."

There was a large demand for stamps of this value, and during the ten years they were in use no less than 1,837,200,000 were printed.

Plate 9 was at one time supposed not to have been put to press; it was, however, brought into use towards the end of 1871, but copies from it are comparatively scarce.

Needless to say the author of the above has a most intimate knowledge of his subject and we should welcome a further series of articles from his pen.

The August number of the *West End Philatelist* is a bright little paper. Mr. Poole continues his admirable article on the Postage Stamps of Hong Kong. We make the following brief extract :

THE 1898 PROVISIONALS.

In May, 1898, the British Philatelic Journals mentioned the arrival of the current 30c. stamp, surcharged "10 cents" in two lines, and shortly afterwards the same stamp with Chinese inscription added was chronicled. The English surcharge was apparently applied locally, and the provisional was issued to meet a temporary shortage of 10c. stamps.

The stamps were surcharged in panes of 60 at a time, and thus each sheet had to go under the printing press four times before the process of overprinting was complete. To save time, and to give the impression on one pane a chance to dry before the rest of the sheet was printed, all the, say, top left-hand panes were first surcharged, then the lower left-hand panes, and so on until the work was completed. On some of the upper right-hand panes *all* the stamps in the vertical row at the right-hand, have a wider space between the figures "1" and "0." As these widely spaced errors only occur on some of the sheets, it may be presumed that they were detected and corrected.

The Chinese surcharge was applied by hand to each stamp, as with the similar surcharges for the 20c., 50c. and \$1 values. Sometimes this was omitted, and thus pairs may be found, one of which is without surcharge. As a rule, the Chinese surcharge is small, but a hand stamp showing a larger impression of the same device was employed to a limited extent.

The August *W.E.P.* contains other interesting information and is a most readable paper.

The *Postage Stamp* for August 29th contains a peevish criticism from the pen of Mr. Nankivell on the article on "West Australian Cancellations" which we published in our August number. The editor of our contemporary takes exception at Mr. Sanderson, the author of the article in question, stating that "for some reason which it is utterly unable to explain, serious philatelists, who, by patient investigations, have solved many of the difficult problems relating to the stamps of New South Wales, New Zealand, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria, have ignored the claims of the neighbouring colony."

Mr. Nankivell also accuses our contributor of lacking patience and carefulness while he states that "Mr. Sanderson does not believe in the theory that each numbered cancellation represents a different township."

Had the editor of our contemporary taken the trouble to read Mr. Sanderson's article he would have found no such statement, consequently his extract is most misleading. It may be news to our Tunbridge Wells friend to learn that our contributor, Mr. Sanderson, has a fine selection of West Australian stamps, has studied them for many years, has full cognisance of all that has been published relating to West Australian stamps in the English press, and last, but not least, is a member of the Royal Philatelic Society, although, like many other members of that learned society, he does not avail himself of the privilege to use the letters M.R.P.S. on every possible opportunity.

Mr. Sanderson very kindly spent a great deal of time in going through his collection of West Australian stamps and tabulating, for the benefit of those interested in the subject, a list of those stamps with decipherable numbers, with the result that he gave the readers of this paper a very comprehensive list, including particulars of nearly 300 stamps. The study of postmarks is certainly of minor importance, but study it is, and until a Nankivell or somebody with a more intricate knowledge of the intricacies of early West Australians can come forward and give us a better list, that which we published last month will rank as the best known.

The imputed slur implied in Mr. Nankivell's concluding remarks, namely,

that he "hopes someone with the time to spare will go thoroughly into the history, meaning, and use of numbered cancellations in various countries, and give us something authentic," is quite uncalled for.

We maintain that the study of postmarks is of great interest, and the efforts of those who try to elucidate the many knotty problems, most praiseworthy.

The *Stamp Lover* for September contains the first instalment of an article entitled "Postage Stamps of Malta," contributed by Mr. I. J. Bernstein. Although very readable we cannot say that Mr. Bernstein's article contains one iota of original information, which in these days, when every dealer and collector runs his own philatelic paper is not to be wondered at. Fortunately every paper has its own coterie of readers, otherwise collectors would tire of reading and re-reading the same "copy."

The rest of the *Stamp Lover* is filled with a long, interesting and well illustrated account of the J.P.S. new meeting room in Fleet Street, a short article on stamp colours, an article on "Mounting and Arranging a Specialised Collection," illustrated with a number of diagrams, making it look (and read?) like a bridge problem. A continuation of "The Penny Post of 1860" and an article entitled "The Stamp Lover's Library."

We are quite aware that the J.P.S. people know their own business better than we do, but surely *if* they are catering for the outside public, consisting in this case of both collectors and dealers, they might include a little information about *stamps*, as after all, most stamp collectors are usually a little interested in stamps. As an official organ for members of the J.P.S. the *Stamp Lover* is admirable and they are very fortunate in having such a paper at their disposal, but those unfortunate collectors who are not members of the J.P.S. will not welcome the almost total exclusion of reliable information concerning stamps.

Philately in the Colonies and Elsewhere.

The *Philatelic Journal of India* for August is an excellent production, containing a great deal of philatelic research of interest and instruction. Mr. Crofton

is evidently responsible for the whole of the contents and is to be greatly complimented on his labours.

The leading article is entitled "The Science of Philately" and the following extracts are of interest.

We have been told at so many different times and places that philately is a science, that we are tempted to wonder if, after all, it can be true. This much is sure enough, that a great many people who repeat the formula have only the faintest idea of what they mean and would be hard put to defend their proposition if any one challenged it. Literally, of course, science only means knowledge, but knowledge of such a matter as, for instance, one's neighbours' private affairs, extensive though it may be, has never yet succeeded in establishing a claim to be considered scientific. There is something excruciating to a scientific mind in a stamp collection with Barbados at one end and Trinidad at the other, and the Queen's Head Transvaal sandwiched in between German monstrosities and miles away from its companion issue of the Falkland Islands. Fancy a Zoology with the lion grouped with the African elephant while the tiger keeps company with the Indian pachyderm!

The remedy for this is of course "group collecting," a most fascinating pursuit, whether of design, watermark, paper, perforation, or the dozen and one interesting intricacies of philatelic side paths.

The five following suggestions are put forward with a view of advancing the scientific side of our pursuit.

1. That printed albums should proceed gradually on the lines already adopted for the English stamps by separating line-engraved and surface-printed stamps in the smaller colonies.
2. Perhaps after a bit the same albums may see their way to divide themselves into chapters, each dealing with the work of a different manufacturer.
3. The great exhibitions shall reorganize their prize lists. Instead of a class for India, Ceylon, N.S.W., etc., there should be one for India lithographs, Ceylon line-engraved, N.S.W. Sydneys, etc.
4. Besides the classes for special groups there should be others for perforations, stamps from the colonial stock die of 1879, or from the P and R die of 1890, or a class for stamps of the American Bank Note Company, or of Bradbury, Wilkinson, etc., or from the Perkins, Bacon Britannia dies.
5. The illustrated catalogues, or handbooks, as we should prefer them to be called, should be arranged on scientific lines with full alphabetical indexes.

An instructive article entitled "Somerset House Perforations," a goodly instalment of Mr. Crofton's article on "The Indian Postage Stamps of 1854-55," wherein he confutes a number of points of minor interest in Mr. Hausburg's recently published book on Indian Stamps, and an instalment of "Notes on Indian Official Stamps," in which the author deals with the "Small Service" stamps of 1866, and where again he has a bone to pick with Mr. Hausburg, completes the main contents of our contemporary, while a capital budget of Notes and News, and a review of some of the Home papers make good reading.

The *Australian Philatelist*, our bright little contemporary from "down under" is getting on in years. We see from the August number that it was first published as *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly* as far back as 1887. In 1894 Mr. Hagen became the possessor of the paper, which he has published regularly since that date under the title of the *Australian Philatelist*. Our Australian exchange always contains some interesting Notes and News. Mr. Malone contributes the following short article to the current number. Readers of this journal must decide for themselves whether Samoan stamps should be included in Part I. Personally we think not.

BRITISH SAMOA.

By P. MALONE.

As Heligoland, at present a German Colony, appears in the British portion "Part I." of Stanley Gibbons' catalogue, why should not Samoa, which is included in the Foreign portion, "Part II.," receive the same privilege?

There may be reasons why it should be designated a Foreign Country, but there is no reason whatever why the issues prior to 1900 should not be considered British stamps, and many collectors bear out this assertion by the fact that their collection of Samoan stamps up to the above date is usually found among their British Colonials.

In the first place, although Samoa was not purely British, it was under British protection, conjointly with Germany and America, being subsequently divided with the two latter countries in 1900, but the issue of stamps previous to this date was in every sense of the word unquestionably British, both in their production and currency, while the post office, of which only one existed in Samoa during that period, was also undoubtedly British, being conducted by the late Mr. J. Davis, an English gentleman, who, working in conjunction with the Government of New Zealand, carried out the duties of Postmaster until the Island was taken over by Germany in 1900, and a German Post Office established.

The issue of the stamps referred to is so well known that a description of them here is unnecessary, other than to state that the first issue, or what is known as the "Express" stamps, were lithographed by S. T. Leigh & Co., Pitt Street, Sydney, and only constituted a private issue, and the second or well known "Palm Tree" stamps were typographed at the Government Printing Office, New Zealand (in reality a by-issue of New Zealand), and only prepaid postage to any part of the world by first passing through that Colony. Hence they should be undoubtedly recognised as British stamps.

We have received the first three numbers of the *North American Collector*, a new stamp paper published by the Crossfield Printing Co., of Crossfield, Alberta, Canada, for its Editor, Mr. J. Mewhort, of that town. Like so many of the smaller American journals our new contemporary believes in publishing very little (and that not always accurate) stamp news, while it regales its readers with a number of stale platitudes and a multitude of anecdotes relating to every imaginable

subject except stamps. We are however very glad to welcome a Canadian stamp paper, even although it contains but a modicum of philatelic news and shall look forward, with pleasurable anticipation to the days, we hope not far distant, when the *North American Collector* will be able to publish articles of philatelic interest to collectors in all parts of the world.

Mekeel's Weekly, by far our most welcome American exchange, always contains a good deal of original matter. In our copy dated August 29th we find an excellent article on Philippine Official Stamps, contributed by Brigadier-General Bandholtz. This article deals exhaustively with the stamps surcharged "O.B." and we make the following extract:—

As explanatory of why the Bureau of Posts did not distribute official stamps direct to other bureaux, it might not be amiss to state here that postage due stamps were discontinued in the Philippines because so many provincial postmasters insisted on selling them for postage. It will readily be seen that this difficulty would have been aggravated in the case of "officials" that differed from the others only in having an abbreviated and to most natives an unintelligible surcharge. Furthermore the distribution of another different class of stamps would increase the clerical work of the bureau without any proportionate compensation. It is true such a procedure would have increased the revenues by sales to philatelists, but such methods were not considered desirable. When the postage due stamps were discontinued offers were made for their purchase below face, but were rejected as such action would practically amount to a breach of faith with previous purchasers. Offers to purchase the remainder after cancellation were likewise rejected as being beneath the dignity of the government. These stamps were held in stock, solely for the accommodation of collectors, for over a year and then destroyed. After their destruction there was the usual number of procrastinators who felt they had not been given a proper chance to purchase.

Manchester Postage Stamp Exhibition.

PHILATELIC CONGRESS DECIDED UPON,
FEBRUARY 18th, 19th, and 20th, 1909.

MUCH activity prevails amongst the Manchester Juniors who have decided to hold, not only a Stamp Exhibition in February next, but intend to combine with it a Philatelic Congress also.

The Hulme Town Hall, an admirable place for a Stamp Exhibition, and most conveniently situated within a few minutes ride of the City, has been engaged for the three days February 18th, 19th, and 20th, 1909. With a floor area of about seven thousand square feet, the Hulme Town Hall in splendidly lighted, and is in every way suitable for the purpose. It

embraces two large halls for Exhibition purposes and Trade Stalls, Congress Room, Secretary's Office and Committee Room, Press Room and Room for Refreshments.

Mr. J. R. M. Albrecht, who is a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, has accepted the position of Honorary Exhibition Secretary. Offices have been taken at 9, Albert Square, Manchester, where all communications may now be addressed.

In connection with the Congress, we are informed that invitations are being issued to all Philatelic Societies throughout the Kingdom to take part, and that quite a number of prominent Societies have already promised their whole hearted support of what is to be the first Philatelic Congress ever held in Great Britain. Mr. J. J. Darlow is acting as Congress Secretary, and all communications may be addressed to him at Exhibition Offices, 9, Albert Square, Manchester. The Manchester Philatelic Society, through the worthy President and Secretary (Messrs. W. Dorning Beckton and G. F. H. Gibson) is closely associating itself with the Congress, which should at once assure the success of a gathering which is so desirable, and which, looked at from all points, commends itself to all Societies who have the good of the hobby at heart.

Mr. Geo. White is the Secretary of the Publicity Committee and will deal with all matters of advertising, whilst Mr. D. A. Berry will be pleased to supply all information respecting the exhibits. Either of these gentlemen may be addressed at "Exhibition Offices," 9, Albert Square, Manchester.

Inasmuch as the Exhibition is to be open entirely free to the public, the Manchester Committee are hoping to receive the Financial as well as the Philatelic support of their Stamp Collecting brethren. Donations may be sent to the Hon. Exhibition Secretary, Mr. J. R. M. Albrecht, at Exhibition Offices, 9, Albert Square, Manchester, and will be duly acknowledged.

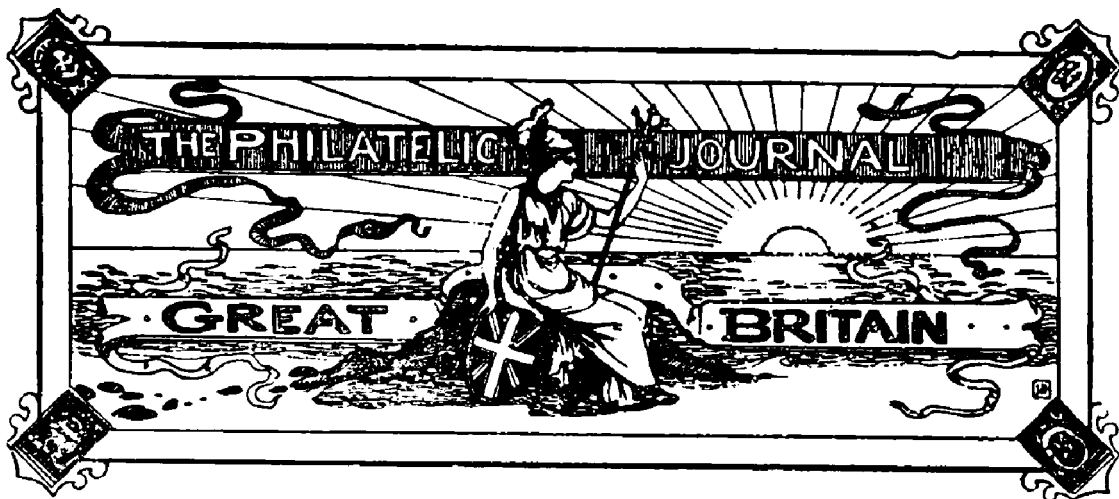
The Exhibition will include the stamps of all the world.

Postage Stamp Fraud.

St. Petersburg.

IN Moscow the detective police have discovered an organisation for the falsification of postage stamps, which perhaps has been flourishing in the city and Varsovia for a long time. The method of the gang consisted of cleaning used postage stamps for use anew. In the last two months six millions of these false stamps have been sent out from Moscow. The cleaning was so well effected that for a great while the trick remained undiscovered, in the press of work in the post offices.

—Daily Telegraph.



The Official Organ of the International Philatelic Union, and the Sheffield Philatelic Society.

No. 214. VOL. XVIII.

OCT. 20, 1908.

[PRICE 2D.]

EDITORIAL.

THE Annual Report of the Postmaster General always contains a great deal of interesting and instructive information, readable alike by the philatelist and the non-collector. The

Postal Progress. report before us is the fifty-fourth and from it we learn that the stupendous number

of 4,972,070,000 postal packets were delivered in the United Kingdom for the year ending March 31st last. This huge total is made up of 2,863,900,000 letters, 858,300,000 postcards, 940,600,000 half-penny packets, 199,800,000 newspapers and 109,470,000 parcels. We think it might safely be said that stamp collectors contribute more largely to this total than do the devotees of any other form of collecting, while certainly few, if any other members of the great British letter-writing public, look forward more eagerly to the advent of the postman than do philatelists, unless indeed it be the poor unfortunate stamp dealer, who has a selection out on approval and is in arrears with his office boy's salary!

The number of undelivered postal packets, many of which were posted entirely without an address, or in numerous cases without a cover, reached the immense number of 31,278,000 while the undeliverable registered and ordinary letters contained articles of value, to the tune of £656,059, numbered 392,298.

These figures do not, we are told, include the value of remittances enclosed in packets returned unopened to the senders, nor the value of miscellaneous property dealt with as undeliverable. As these letters included a large number of "Limerick" letters, or letters containing "last lines" with postal orders enclosed, there is little doubt but that the total mentioned above could have been considerably augmented.

The total number of packets posted without any address, and of articles found loose in the post was 442,957. Included among these were bank notes and cash to the value of £1,456, and cheques and other forms of remittance to the value of £27,016. The latter amount we can easily account for by suggesting that some absent minded beggar or a stamp dealer thought he was paying in at his bank when he dropped the twenty-seven odd thousand into the letter box but the odd thousand in bank notes and cash is difficult to account for. The British public has a name for absentmindedness but to drop bank notes into a letter box is surely the essence of forgetfulness.

Dealing with postal orders we find that only an insignificant odd million or so were issued, to be exact 125,264,000, most of which of course were sent as subscriptions to stamp papers, and in the form of Limerick donations by budding-and-burst poets to the numerous papers that cater for these sixpenny authors.

There is little doubt but that the

immense total of correspondence for 1897-8 will be exceeded in the returns for next year, not only are postal rates being extensively reduced, an example of which is the new charge of one penny for letters

to the United States of America, but the peoples of the world are becoming daily more accustomed to the wonderful facilities and the exceeding cheapness of the world's postal service.

Stamps on Original Covers.

By F. F. LAMB.

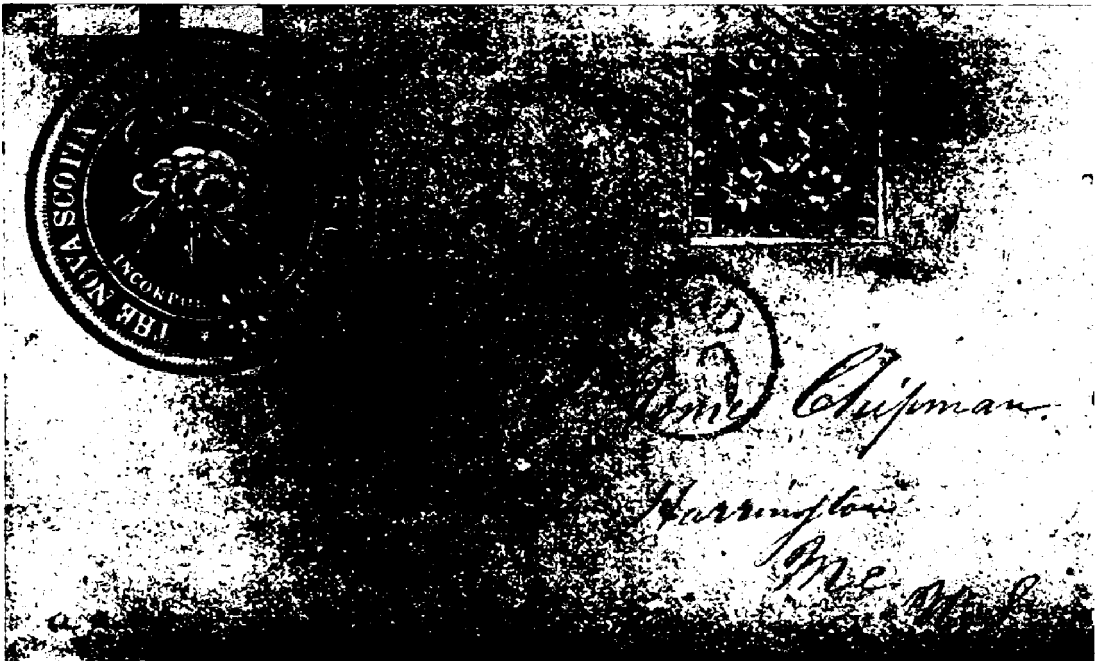
THE collecting of old stamps on the covers or envelopes which they franked is a very neglected branch of our hobby; so much so, that I have ventured to jot down a few notes, the perusal of which may I hope induce some collectors to realize that original covers are of great interest. The only objections that collectors can raise against them is that they take up too much room in a collection, are really, in many instances hard to find, and, when found are more expensive than the same stamps would cost off the envelope. I admit that there is reason in all of these arguments, but, nevertheless, I think that they can be easily overcome.

To begin with, dealers have, for many years, not been in favour of stocking old stamps on covers, for the simple reason that they are too bulky to put into their ordinary stock books and too large and heavy to mount in their approval books, which are sent through the post. This being the case, they have, many of them, made it a practice to have all stamps

soaked off, with the result that when the mere collector asks to see "entires" he is met with a rebuke. This practice of soaking old stamps from their envelopes is not, fortunately, followed on the Continent, with the result that Paris and many other centres are still happy hunting grounds, where the enthusiastic collector can sometimes pick up a nice "bunch" of old covers.

That the dealer finds old covers too bulky is no reason why collectors should be warned off; the average collector would only take one of each variety, which could be mounted after each issue of that date in any blank album. Personally, for some of the countries I collect I have blank exercise books, 6d. size, in which I mount entires only, while with those countries where I am not strong in entires they are mounted after each issue.

There is no doubt that in many instances quite common stamps, catalogued only a few pence each, are exceedingly rare on original covers, but then the general collector can



easily procure the normal specimen and can afford to wait until the "entire" comes along, when, if priced at less than 25% off catalogue, it is a desirable thing to purchase.

Another reason why so many old stamps are soaked off their covers is that dealers and collectors alike are so horribly afraid of missing a possible variety of watermark. By all means soak off some stamps, Victorians to wit, but for Heavens sake leave such stamps as the early West Australians on, *they* will not turn up with Cabled Anchors or multiple C.A.'s.

Although "entire" collecting has been very much neglected by the general collector, specialists have for many years now realized the immense help that they have derived from old covers, the best substitute for which is the stamp with a dated postmark. As many of our "catalogue" dates of issue have only been discovered from the study of dated copies of stamps, it necessarily follows that the entire cover is a very necessary adjunct from the specialists point of view. Nearly all of our well known philatelists are partial to "stamps on originals." Many, from a real love of the early stamped covers and the lessons in postal history that can be gained from them, others because they are able to obtain reliable evidence of early, or late dates, and others again because a few entires "show" off a collection, and help to make it more imposing.

Digby, N.S. (April 7th), and St. John, N.B. (April 13th). Why it took six days to travel from Digby to St. John, a few hours sail, it is difficult to account for.

European stamps, however, offer the biggest field for the collector of original covers, while it is astonishing how really rare some otherwise quite common stamps are in this condition. Of course, I am only writing from my own personal experience, but I have found early Spanish stamps exceptionally hard to find. I have rather a nice lot of the first two or three issues, but they all came from one source.

I illustrate a cover franked with a 6c. of the first issue of Spain, posted at Barcelona, addressed to Igualada, on February 5th, 1850. Igualada is a small town 33 miles N.W. of Barcelona, so that it is not surprising to learn that this letter was delivered the day it was posted.

Some of my Spanish covers, however, were longer on their travels—one, with the stamp cancelled with the date stamp in red, a most unusual thing, was posted at Burgo de Osma, a small town about thirty miles away from Soria, in Old Castile to Igualada (Barcelona) on February 25th, 1850, only arriving at its destination on March 2nd. The distance between the two towns is about 250 miles as the crow flies.

I have a number of Spanish 6c. of the second



Of all groups of stamps on original covers I think that North American are the most popular, possibly, no doubt, because they have no watermarks. I illustrate a very pretty copy of the Nova Scotia 6d., which was posted from Locks Island, Nova Scotia, on April 3rd, 1858, addressed to the United States. *En route* it passed through Shelburne, N.S. (April 3rd), Yarmouth, N.S. (April 5th),

issue on originals, most of which were addressed to Barcelona from Cartagena—a distance of about 350 miles—the average time in transit being seven days; some however were nine days en route!

The Spanish cover I illustrate is very typical of all my early specimens, practically all of which are franked with a 6c. stamp stuck on the left hand side of the cover or envelope.

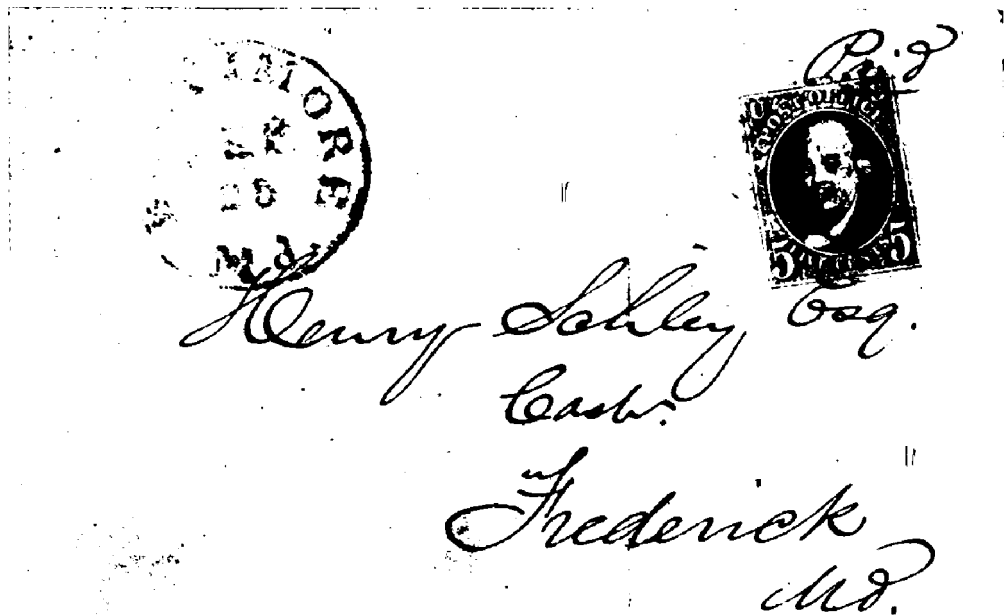
The practice of sticking the stamps on the left hand side was by no means confined to Spaniards, nearly all my early Europeans are so franked.

French entires are fairly common, far more so than Spanish of a corresponding date, at least so my experience teaches, although the catalogue value may be identical. France is a country *par excellence* whose stamps should be collected on original covers, especially by the collector who values "Colonial" postmarks and pin perforations.

I have a number of French stamps used to frank letters from Cairo, Constantinople, Alexandria, La Calle (Algeria), Philippeville (Algeria), and elsewhere. Most of these stamps would be indistinguishable from ordinary specimens which had done duty in France, were they soaked off their covers. The postage on letters from Egypt or Turkey to France was apparently 40c., as I have a

British Colonial stamps of the early days on original covers, are likewise becoming scarce, especially some of the Australian Colonies. West Australians and Queensland stamps are notoriously hard to find, while New Zealand's and Tasmanians are only a little more common. South Australians, New South Wales and Victorians are fairly plentiful, that is, of course, of certain issues. Looking up my Australian covers, I find that some of them spent a goodly time on their original journey, while the usual time in transit from Australia to London was from 52 to 80 days, it depending whether a letter was posted at Albany W.A. or from the N. of Queensland.

One cover I have before me, franked with an imperf. sixpenny London print, was posted at Adelaide, South Australia, on Sept. 10th, 1858, arriving in London on Nov. 13th; while another, posted earlier the same year and franked with a sixpenny slate blue, Colonial



number of entires dated between 1868 and 1873 bearing stamps of this denomination, while I also have some franked with 80c. stamps. I have also a number of entires franked with the 20c. (Ceres type) stamp of 1870 showing pin, or unofficial perforations; these covers are of interest inasmuch as they come from different towns, but are all post-marked during the early months of 1871.

Many European stamps, although common off the entire covers, are, as I have already stated, exceedingly scarce on originals.

Roumania, Norway, Holland, and Finland have all proved difficult countries, in my search for covers, not to mention of course many of the German and Balkan States, which in any case, off or on the envelope, are difficult to procure in good condition.

print, was sixty-two days making the journey. West Australians, of course, took a few days less, from port of departure, but I notice that one franked with a 6d. C.C. 12½ stamp, posted at Albany, May 24th, 1874, did not reach Chester, England, until July 21st, a journey that is comfortably made in thirty days at the present time.

Were I to write about my various entires I could doubtless fill many pages, but my object in writing is to try and interest the general collector, not bore him, so I must bring my remarks to an end. One or two brief facts however remain, the chief of which is that many forged stamps are sold on entires, in the hope that the defects of the forged stamps may partly escape detection. The usual method is to procure a genuine cover, soak

off the stamp, usually a common one, replace it with a forgery, clean off the cancellation, if possible, or otherwise, fake it and there you are, an undoubted old envelope and stamp!

A very frequent argument, why stamps should be soaked off their covers is that they "look better" off, certainly they do in some instances, especially when the main portion of the postmark is on the envelope and not on the stamp, also when the cover itself is dirty.

By all means, under these circumstances, soak the stamps off, if you want them for your collections, but for goodness sake do not peel a good stamp off a clean envelope, simply because it takes up less room.

Space is limited, so I will only produce one more argument in favour of the entire, and that is that a number of old stamps on covers are far more likely to interest a non-collecting friend, than would the same stamps, off the covers.

New Issues and Varieties.

(We shall be glad to receive any new issues or new varieties from our readers for description in this column. Letters should be addressed to THE EDITOR OF THE PHILATELIC JOURNAL OF GREAT BRITAIN, c/o MESSRS. P. L. PEMBERTON & Co., 68, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.)

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Canada. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. tell us that they have been officially informed that of the Quebec Tercentenary stamps the only values now remaining in the Post-office department are the 10c., 15c. and 20c. values—all the lower denominations being exhausted.

Dominica. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. kindly sends us specimens of the 1d. and 2½d. pictorial stamps, printed in one colour.

Adhesives. Multiple C.A., ordinary paper. Perf. 14.
1d. red.
2½d. blue.

Federated Malay States. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the current 1c. stamp in a much darker shade.

Adhesive. Wmk. multiple C.A., ordinary paper.
1c. dark green.

Natal. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. very kindly supply us with the following information:

"The Postmaster-General informs us that the new stamps for postage only will consist of the following values: 6d., 1/-, 2/- and 2/6 in the small size, 5/-, 10/- and 20/- in the larger size. You will remember that a short time ago an announcement was made that the colours of all the high value Natal stamps were to be changed, the 30/- having already appeared in the altered colours, but of the old type inscribed 'Postage and Revenue.' Now it is a question whether the 'Postage and Revenue' stamps of the other values in altered colours will appear before the new 'Postage' only. A separate issue of revenue stamps only will consist of the following values: 6d., 1/-, 2/-, 2/6, 5/-, 10/-, 20/-, 30/-, £5, £10 and £20."

Newfoundland. *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp*

News chronicles the following novelty as follows:—

"While there have been frequent rumours of a new issue from this Colony, the first actually seen has appeared unannounced and without flourish, the 2c. having appeared in an entirely new design and a new shade. The prominent feature of the new design is a map of the Island in white on a lined background, formed by the surrounding waters. At the top, 'Newfoundland,' 'Postage' and '2' appear above the map, the first two, being arranged in a curved line, upon the arched top of the frame. Square tablets in the lower corners contain the figures of value, with the value in words between. All inscriptions are colourless. The stamps bear the imprint of the American Bank Note Co., New York, with the usual perforation."

Adhesive.
2c. rose-carmine.

New Zealand. Mr. Charlick has shown us a complete sheet of the 4d. pictorial stamp, in which the last eight stamps of the top row show mixed perfs., i.e., 11 and 14. Mr. Leon has also shown us a block of four of the 2/- with mixed perfs. From the same source we have to chronicle the 6d. stamp, reduced size, in the following perfs. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* also chronicles the 1/- stamp, perf. 14 × 15.

Adhesives.
Perf. 14 × 15.
6d. rose.
1/- red.
Perf. 14 × 13-13½.
6d. rose.
Mixed perfs 11 × 14.
2/- green.

Nyasaland Protectorate. In the May number of this journal we were able to publish particulars concerning the forthcoming new issue of stamps for this Protectorate.

In *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* we now find that the following varieties have now been actually issued.

Adhesives.
 King's Head, single C.A., chalky paper.
 1/- black on green.
 Multiple C.A., ordinary paper.
 3d. green.
 id. carmine.
 Multiple C.A., chalky paper.
 3d. purple on yellow.
 4d. black and red on yellow.
 6d. lilac and mauve.
 2/8 black and red on blue.
 4/- carmine and black.

Mr. W. H. Regan tells us that the 1/- value contains a variety on the sheet, in which the shading to the right of the eye is not continued up to the eye, thus leaving a white space.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. tell us that they have been officially informed that immediately after the issue of the new Nyasaland Protectorate stamps, the entire stock on hand of the old British Central Africa stamps was destroyed. That being the case, the 6d. value with multiple watermark is likely to be a scarce stamp.

Papua. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 2½d. stamp, permanent type. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the same stamp, but perforated 12½.

Adhesives. Wmk. Crown and A. Perf. 11.
 2½ blue, centre black.
 Perf. 12½.
 2½ blue and centre black.

Ewen's Weekly Stamp News also chronicles the 2/6 B.N.G. stamp with the small "Papua" surcharge, vertically instead of horizontally; also the same stamp with two vertical surcharges, one at each side.

St. Vincent. A correspondent to *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* reports the 5/- King's Head on chalky paper.

Adhesive. King's Head, multiple wmk., chalky paper.
 5/- green and blue.

South Australia. Mr. Charlick tells us he has the following list of stamps, all "thin postage" type on paper intended for other values.

2d. on 1d. paper.
 2d. on 3d. ..
 4d. on 1d. ..
 6d. on 2d. ..
 8d. on 1d. ..
 9d. on 2d. ..
 10/- on 1d. ..
 20/- on 2d. ..

We have also seen the 3d. stamp with the control number barred out and a fresh number inserted.

Mr. Boys has sent us the current 4d. in a new colour.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly chronicles the 10/- stamp with large Postage, on Crown and SA paper.

Adhesives.
 4d. orange-yellow, Crown and A.
 10/- green, Crown and S.A.

Tonga. Mr. Kay, of Messrs. Bridger and Kay, tells us that he has discovered that the current Tongan pictorial stamps are printed on two distinct papers, thick and thin, with the added charm that on the thick paper issue the turtles heads in the watermark, all point the same way, while in the thin paper stamps the turtles heads point alternately up and down. Surely Mr. Kay made this discovery after a visit to Earl's Court Exhibition, where I believe you could "turtle the turt" in the arena.

Victoria. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the 5/- stamp with the 12½ perforation.

Adhesive. Wmk. Crown and A. perf. 12½.
 5/- red and blue.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

France. *New Hebrides.* *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*, on the authority of *Le Journal des Philatelistes*, states that a set of stamps has appeared here, consisting of the 5, 10, 25, 50c., and 1f., of the 1905 set of New Caledonia, surcharged NOUVELLES-HEBRIDES. The surcharge is in blue on the 10c. and in red on the other values. On the 1f. it is in one line and on the other values in two.

German Empire. *Levant.* The *Philatelic Adviser* chronicles the following novelties, describing them as follows:—

"A Continental contemporary announces the issue of a new overprinted series for these offices but in a new currency. The overprint is diagonal, reading upwards, and is in 'centimes.' We understand that the reason for this change is the new system of the Turkish Post Office giving the purchasers of stamps for use on foreign correspondence 20% reduction on the face value. This overprint reduces the face value of the German stamps in a like proportion."

5c. on 5pf. green.
 10c. on 20pf. carmine.
 25c. on 20pf. blue.
 50c. on 40pf. black and carmine.
 100c. on 80pf. black and carmine on rose.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have kindly sent us a set of these stamps. They agree with the above particulars.

Holland. Mr. W. Ward has kindly shewn us the new 1½c. value. Mr. Ward tells us that these stamps were issued to the public at 8 a.m. on October 1st, and are to prepay a new post card rate. We are also indebted to Mr. W. Van Oppen, Mr. Roberts and others for news of this stamp.

Adhesive. Numeral in centre. Perf. 12½.
 1½c. ultramarine.

Iceland. Mr. W. T. Wilson has kindly sent us specimens of the new 15 aur stamps; also the new official 15 aur stamp.

Adhesives.
1907 Design, perf. 12½.
15 aur, red and green.
Official Stamp.
15 aur, blue, with grey-black centre.

Italy. Levant. Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us the following novelties. All the stamps surcharged belong to the current set of Italy.

Adhesives.
Surcharged for use in the Levant.
30 para in red on 15c. slate.
4 pias in black on 1 lira brown and green.
20 5 lire rose and blue.
Express stamp surcharged "Levante."
PIASTRA 1

Rio de Oro. Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. kindly supply us with the following interesting information:

"There is a shortage of several values in this place, and as the new stamps (one set for the whole of the Spanish West African Colonies) which were expected some months ago, are not likely to be issued until January next, it is likely that more provisionals may be issued before the end of the year. Some Continental journals have stated that the Rio de Oro surcharged stamps originated from Madrid and were not issued in the Colony, this we are able to say is absolutely false as all our supplies come direct, and the last order we sent to our agent for complete sets of the current issue could not be filled, because of several values being sold out."

Russia. The *Philatelic Adviser* says:—"Mr. H. G. S. Barrett sends us the current 7 kopeck value with the background omitted. We understand that the 2 kop. also exists in this form."

Switzerland. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles the 30c. and 50c. stamps, similar in design to the 40c. described by us two months ago.

Adhesives.
Wmk. Large Cross, granite paper.
30c. pale green and brown.
50c. yellow-green and deep green.

We were in error in describing the 40c. on unwatermarked paper; it should read wmkd. Large Cross.

Tunis. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us specimens of the following surcharges.

Adhesives. 1888-1902 stamps surcharged.
"10" in red on 15c. grey.
"35" 1f. pale green.
"40" in blue on 2f. violet.
"75" 5f. lilac.

The surcharge is similar to the 25 on 15c. surcharge of 1902.

Turkey. Mr. Charlick has shown us the following varieties of perforation:

Adhesives. 1884-86 Issue.
Perf. 13½ x 11½.
1p. blue and 2p. yellow.
Perf. 11½ x 13½.
20 paras, carmine.
1905 Issue (type 23).
20 paras, rose, perf. 12 x 13½.
1p. blue, .. 12 x 13½.
1p. blue, .. 13½.
1905 Issue, with overprint.
10 paras, green, perf. 13½.
10 13½ x 12.
20 .. red .. 13½ x 12.
20 12 x 13½.
21 13½.
1p. blue .. 13½ x 12.
1p. .. 13½.
2p. slate .. 13½.

Uruguay. Mr. H. Tanner very kindly sends us specimens of the three new commemorative stamps. These stamps are of most crude production and the following details, extracted from a recent number of *Gibbons Weekly*, will be found interesting:—

"The Government has decided on the issue of a commemorative set of 300,000 stamps of the 1c., 2c. and 5c. values for internal postage only. The occasion is the celebration of the Declaration of Uruguayan Independence on 25th August, 1825, and also to signalise the opening of the new municipal electric light works, in the construction of which a million dollars have been spent. The original intention was to have placed the order with a Buenos Aires firm, but at the last moment the local firm of Barreiro y Ramos has been entrusted with the work. The stamps are to be of large design, and are to be printed in panes of twenty-five. The centre of the stamp is taken from a painting by Larravide of the Bay of Montevideo, in which the Uruguayan navy, consisting of the gunboats *Montevideo* and *18 de Julio* profusely beflagged, appears. These stamps will be on sale only on the 23rd, 24th and 25th instant, and after that date they will be useless for postal services, but the Post Office will accept them in exchange for the current issue. In order to give every one a chance of acquiring a few of these stamps a supply is to be sent to all sub-offices in the Republic, and no one is to be allowed to buy more than fifty of each value at a time. It may be mentioned that the style of manufacture is peculiar. There is a background of fine meshwork, which together with the central picture seems to have been printed in one operation, probably from separate clichés, made by a photographic half-tone process, clamped together. The frame looks as if it had been lithographed, but it is difficult to decide from single specimens."

Commemoratives. Centre and background in grey-black, rouletted.
1c. carmine.
2c. green.
5c. orange.



October 1908, Report.

List of Officers and Committee, 1908-9.

Hon. President: HIS HONOUR JUDGE PHILBRICK, K.C.

Hon. Vice-Presidents:

W. DORNING BECKTON. H. L. HAYMAN. H. R. OLDFIELD.
VERNON ROBERTS.

President: J. C. SIDEBOTHAM.

Vice-Presidents:

W. SCHWABACHER. L. W. FULCHER. W. SCHWARTZ.

Committee:

P. P. BROWN.	A. B. KAY.	W. E. LINCOLN.
W. J. BOVILL.	W. S. KING.	DR. MARX, M.A.
W. HADLOW.	MAJOR LAFFAN, R.E.	F. H. OLIVER.
J. E. JOSLIN.	F. F. LAMB.	P. L. PEMBERTON.
	E. W. WETHERELL.	

Hon. Sec. & Treasurer: T. H. HINTON.

Hon. Exchange Superintendent: DR. E. F. MARX, M.A.

Hon. Counterfeit Detector: W. HADLOW.

Hon. Librarian: W. S. KING.

Hon. Solicitors: MESSRS. OLDFIELDS.

MEMBERSHIP.

Candidates for admission must be over 18 years of age, and supply at least two satisfactory references. They will then be proposed for election, and if no objection be lodged within fourteen days, be duly elected. The Entrance Fee, 2/6, and Subscription, 5/-, should accompany the application, and will be refunded in the event of the non-election of the applicant. (The Committee are empowered to elect Life Members, not exceeding ten in number, at a fee of Two Guineas.)

The following are now proposed in accordance with the above:

J. S. G. Telfer, Chancery Lane, W.C. Proposed by P. L. Pemberton, seconded by T. H. Hinton.

A. H. L. Giles, R.N., London. Proposed by P. L. Pemberton, seconded by F. F. Lamb.

A. G. Harrison, Herne Hill. Proposed by W. H. Regan, seconded by T. H. Hinton.

A. J. Sefi, London, N.W. Proposed by F. F. Lamb, Seconded by P. L. Pemberton.

NEW MEMBER.

G. E. STRONG, Hanwell, Middlesex.

NOTICES.

The season was opened on Monday, Oct. 5, by a Smoking Concert, held at the Villa Villa Restaurant, which, thanks to the untiring efforts of the Sub-Committee, including the most able support of Mr. W. E. Lincoln in securing talent, was a great success. A full report appears in another column.

The next meeting will be held at Essex Hall on Thursday, Nov. 12, at 8 p.m., when Mr. J. A. Leon will give a Display of the Pictorial Stamps of New Zealand.

Programme for the remainder of the season:
Thursday, Dec. 10th, 7.15 p.m. — Special Meeting of the Committee and Delegates from other Societies and Clubs.
1909.

Thursday, Jan. 14th, 8 p.m. — Display, "English Stamps Used Abroad." W. H. Moore.

Thursday, Feb. 11th, 8 p.m. — Display, "Trinidad." R. B. Yardley.

Thursday, Mar. 11th, 8 p.m. — Paper on a Subject of Philatelic Interest.
P. L. Pemberton.

Wednesday, April 14th, 8 p.m. — Display, "Uruguay." T. W. Hall.

Thursday, May 15th, 7.30 p.m. — Annual General Meeting and displays of interesting stamps by Members present.

A copy of this programme has been sent to all members, who are cordially invited to attend; also to introduce new members, and send along any spare forgeries they may have for the Society's Collection.

EXCHANGE PACKET SECTION.

Circulation of Packets is resumed this month. All members are requested to support Dr. Marx in making them a success.

THOS. H. HINTON,

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Int. Phil. Union.
26, Cromford Road, East Putney, S.W.

October 12th, 1908.

Current Chatter.

BY ANGUS McTAVISH.

RUMOUR hath it that there are a lot of forged V.R.I. Transvaal stamps about, made to defraud the Transvaal Post Office. Mr. Ansell, President of the Transvaal Society, whom I had the pleasure of meeting last month, told me that he had detected a number of these bogus overprints, with the result that he informed the Post Office authorities and they issued, a few months ago, a Government notice to the effect that after the end of this year V.R.I. and E.R.I. stamps will not be available for postage.

Bravo, Mr. Ansell. Once again has virtue remained triumphant.

Writing of "fakes" reminds me that I have recently seen quite a number of early Indians with "added" gum. I should like to meet the gummiferous gentleman who so kindly improved on nature and gently explain to him that sometimes a little knowledge is a dangerous thing.

All really great men have enemies, so it is not to be wondered at that *puir wee* McTavish has a few. One, a great believer in Ju-Jitsu, impiously expressed the wish that he hoped the *puir wee* innocent would die. In fact so ferocious was he that I now go in terror of my life, for I firmly believe that the trucidation of the *wee bit* Angus would give him much pleasure. The only way in which I can apparently save myself is to get some good friend to suggest to the bloodthirsty one that he doesn't read the McTavish, but who *could* make such a heartless suggestion?

Tancred, in the *Philatelic Adviser*, wants to know the value of a stamp which he describes as follows:

"Very fine and bright on the upper half, and very much faded on the lower half, with two large margins soiled through inadvertently slipping into a sardine tin, or falling off a 'bus.'"

Unfortunately Tancred does not mention the country of origin of his stamp, but if he cares to exchange it for a slightly damaged sea green, which was rescued from the bottom bucket of a Thames mud hopper after it had been immersed off Gravesend for a couple of fortnights, he is welcome.

The I.P.U. people have been going it strong of late, no fewer than three meetings, I am told, were held in September. Two of these were solemn conclaves, held either to consider the desirability of dethroning Mr. Buxton and running the British Postal Service on strictly I.P.U. methods (members of other societies would doubtless have the first refusal of postmen's billets), or to consider the question of wearing a top hat with brown boots at the then-to-be held Smoking Concert, or whether it wouldn't be more correct to have the brown boots with a top hat, intervening articles of attire, of course, to be strictly *en règle*, as they say in the Balkan States. Personally, I believe they discussed neither of these schemes.

Some little time ago I met a well known collector who is famous for his collections of one or two African countries. He was bubbling over with excitement at the fact that he had written out to the Cayman Post Office, sending a small remittance, and had received two or three of the recently issued 2½d. on 4d. stamps.

Lucky man, but is it quite fair for him to sit down in the editorial arm chair and spit at

minor varieties and new issues, especially damning the *wee bit* blobs of Cayman Islands, where, after all, the postal authorities only cater for an unhealthy demand for speculative varieties.

In June last I related that some proud purchaser had bought at Plumridge's a used strip of *three* King Edward's VII. Land "stamps," and had paid 32/- for his wonderful bargain. Early this month I strolled into Plumridge's, where a very good sale was being held, and saw *four* good copies of these wonderful stamps sold for 11/-! Some more experience bought, and possibly another disappointed would-be speculator, who will now get on his hind legs and waggle, waggle, all about the decadence of stamp collecting.

Since Mr. K — discovered that some of the Tongan turtles have their heads where their tails ought to be, there have been other sensational discoveries. Mr. D. S. Windell, of Harlesden, writes to say that he was recently examining a book of Mr. P's (the well-known dealer); when it arrived it certainly contained twelve unused 1850 pelure British Guianas—when he returned it they had disappeared. He writes suggesting that these stamps are printed in fugitive ink on disappearing paper. Mr. Foster Hobbs writing from Woolloomooloo, N.S.W. says he has a fine copy of the 1d. Sydney View on which one of the rain clouds has burst causing a flood, he wants to know if I should recommend blotting paper to soak up the superfluous moisture; while Mr. Jackson Phipps, writing from Holly Lodge — —, says he has recently discovered that the crocodile depicted on the 12c. North Borneo has one of his back molars slightly chipped!

Some genius calculated the other day that it costs £700 odd to send a ton of letters to the U.S.A., while a ton of merchandise only costs a couple of pounds. Basing his argument on these figures, he reckons that 1d. is too much to pay for a letter! Oh, brainy one, what a good time you could have with the mixed Continentals at an auction sale.

So innocent and bonny was the McTavish looking on the night of the Smoking Concert, that Mr. S., a well known Strand man, said he thought I looked "sweet twenty-three." Well, well, even so "simple" a compliment is gratifying, only marred by the knowledge that friend S is so in the habit of buying, that it comes second nature to deduct 25%.

The recently held I.P.U. Smoking Concert was an unqualified success; needless to say I was present and enjoyed myself immensely. The credit of the whole show was undoubtedly due to Messrs. Lincoln and Pemberton, mostly Lincoln, although I am told that Mr. Pemberton was responsible for the fusing of the telephone wires at the G.P.O. and the

breakdown of the postal service—through constant reminders to I.P.U'ers to be present.

The only disappointing feature was the fact that so few I.P.U. members were there, when they stood up to drink the visitors toast they were heavily outnumbered. A possible theory of course is that many of the I.P.U. people were present but an inborn modesty, coupled with a great disinclination to rise may have prevented them standing up, and some of those rotten angular round tables won't keep quiet when you hang on to them will they? Visitors however were plentiful and very welcome, especially a happy and jovial party of "Little Ones," under the pastorship of their president.

Rather decent of the Serbs and the Bulgars to wait until the Earl's Court Exhibition was closed before they commenced festivities, wasn't it? But what will the next few months bring forth? There are possibilities galore, any one of which will be deplorable. It may be a case of exit Bosnia and Servia, also Roumania, Montenegro and Bulgaria, while F.P.O.'s may spring up like mushrooms. Crete, apparently, has already departed the philatelic world, but in an island where the people have never settled down since St. Paul stirred things up (many years before *my* time), there is no saying what may happen.

In the meantime, if Mr. Peckitt or Mr. Ewen would like to send out a special Balkan State stamp correspondent, who would corner the daily new issues of possible war stamps, etc., Mac is the boy who will go. I should want an outfit of nine pistols, four belts, a turban, two coloured sashes, a paid up life insurance policy, a C.P. van to transport the new issues to head-quarters in, and last, but not least, a year's salary in advance. (P.S., letters and wires may be addressed to me, c/o the Editor *P.J.G.B.*) To go to Turkey, my terms would be more moderate, say a pistol and sash less, as I understand that Turkey is, in some respect, no so bad.

Correspondence.

WE have received the following well written and interesting effusion from a well known Northern collector. Needless to say, we do not altogether agree with our correspondent.

CAYMANS AGAIN.

TO THE EDITOR, *P.J. of G.B.*

DEAR SIR,

Of late there have been many "dealer inspired" paragraphs in some of your contemporaries regarding Cayman Islands provisionals. The reason is not far to seek. It may perhaps be summed up in the words "disappointed greed." If a dealer can secure

at face an ample supply of a provisional issue, there is in his attempt to make a corner, no limit to the desirability of his wares. On the other hand, if he is disappointed and sees the profit going into the pocket of the collector he howls, or attempts to howl, down the issue and depreciate the market in the hope of buying in cheaply when the timid holders are frightened into selling. Along with the feeling of disappointed greed there is an element of resentment at post office officials who refuse to sell to dealers in bulk and this element adds to the virulence of the attack on the unfortunate infant provisional.

It has been the same with all Colonial provisionals since the King ascended the throne and even those before that event though perhaps not in so marked a degree. Now no sooner are the poor little things born than the hunt begins and they are hounded down right and left unless they find their way in bulk into the dealer's pouch. Then they become valuable pets.

In my view dealers know as little about Cayman or any other provisionals as the average collector, or to put it another way as little as a stockbroker knows about South African mines! Indeed they know less as witness the attitude of several dealers towards the 1d. on 4d. fiscal proudly included by them in their lists as a postage stamp, although outsiders knew so far back as June last that they were purely fiscals and not allowed to be used for postage or passed through the post.

Personally I am inclined to the belief that the Cayman provisionals were quite *bona-fide* and necessary. In February last I had official information that the supply of 2½d. had run out, and that to supply the requirements of the mail, two sheets of 2½d. on 4d. were for sale at the Georgetown office. Again on 19th May I was informed that the supply of ½d. and 1d. stamps had run out, and that letters were being stamped "paid" in the corner of the envelope and dispatched stampless. That does not point to a mania for provisionals, does it?

It may interest your readers to know that the ½d. issue has already given birth to a variety! The third stamp on the bottom row of the pane is the happy mother, and the variety is a dot close to the letter "N" in the word "Islands." It may also be noted that some of the stamps in the pane show the letters "M" and "A" in Cayman joined (in the manner of Queensland), while the others show a distinct space between. These are, no doubt, minor varieties, but they are as well-born as many that find their way to that Valhalla of Varieties, familiarly termed, "S.G."

One thing I would wish your readers to remember, viz.: That there are two sides to every question, and as yet we have only heard the Dealers.

Yours faithfully,

K. MANN.

Well-known Philatelists.

NO. 105.—MR. J. R. M. ALBRECHT.

THE subject of our present sketch is a collector whose name, in the near future, will be better known than it is at present.

As Hon. Exhibition Secretary of the forthcoming Manchester Exhibition, Mr. Albrecht, already well known as an active and enthusiastic collector, will be a very busy man, one whose services will be requisitioned by a very great number of collectors. Born at Pendleton, Manchester, in 1883, Mr. Albrecht is yet a young collector. To make amends for his youthfulness, he commenced collecting no fewer than twelve years ago! with the result that he has gained a splendid knowledge of stamps at an age when many of the present day collectors are learning the difference between a line engraved and a surface printed stamp.

Mr. Albrecht is a member of the Royal Society and is also Hon. Librarian to the Manchester Society, which he joined in 1904. The appointment of Hon. Librarian was a particularly happy one as the new officer is very fond of books and will no doubt be able to shortly report much progress in his branch of the executive.

Fond of Central American Stamps, Mr. Albrecht has gathered together a very fine lot of these stamps, with the result that when he exhibited his collection of Guatemala stamps at the Royal Society's Exhibition, in 1906, he was awarded a medal. Concerning these stamps he says:—

"Many of my philatelic friends have often, good humouredly, laughed at me for taking these countries, but it appears to me that to get a good collection of the later issues of this country, postally used on originals, is as good philately as the collecting of many of the later Colonials. They are undoubtedly difficult to obtain in this condition, and no one, I think, disputes the interest of the early issues. I have rather a weakness for complete sheets, but consider they should only be shown when necessary, and not collected simply with the idea of accumulating."

A general collector, Mr. Albrecht also collects the entires of the world and rightly considers them of great interest. Like all

other stamp collectors the subject of this sketch has other hobbies, he says:—

"I am a member of the Manchester Antiquarian, and Field Naturalists Societies, and take an interest in the branches of study indicated in the titles of these Societies."

Regarding the future of philately Mr. Albrecht does not care to voice his views, not that he has any pessimistic feelings, far from it, but he thinks that his opinions are not of sufficient value to interest our readers; a modesty with which, by-the-by, we do not agree. He tells us, however, that he considers that the "philatelic press and philatelic societies deserve much more support from the general body of collectors. Personally, I have gained invaluable knowledge from the articles in the various papers and the advice and expert opinions of members of the Manchester Society, always so kindly and readily given."

Mr. Albrecht, of course, is very busy at present, already arranging matters in connection with the forthcoming Manchester Exhibition. He says:—The Stamp Exhibition and Congress to be held in Manchester, in February next, promises to be a great success. Thanks being already profusely due to a hard working committee, various societies, the philatelic press, and individual collectors all over the country, who have so kindly assisted to make the good work known and spread the good news of philatelic brotherhood. Many fine collections (although the

Exhibition is non competitive) will be shown in Manchester next February, any of which will be well worth a visit to Cottonopolis to inspect, while a cordial welcome from the Executive will await all visitors who make Manchester their headquarters on February 18th, 19th and 20th next, and, as Mr. Albrecht remarks, "the Exhibition should result in many new members for the Manchester Junior Philatelic Society." We cordially hope so and feel sure that the efforts of Mr. Albrecht and his brother officers will be liberally rewarded.

It is expected that the International Conference on the Balkan situation will lead to Crete being incorporated with Greece and also to the abolition of foreign post offices in Turkey. This would considerably lighten the new issue columns of future stamp journals.



New Leaves to Cut.

MAURY (ARTHUR) Histoire des Timbres-poste Français. Seconde partie.

When we received the first part of this work some time ago, we mentioned that a second part was promised, bringing it down to date, and this has now appeared, and is given gratis to the purchasers of the first part, in exchange for the voucher attached thereto. Of this fine volume of over 200 pages we have nothing to say in additional praise to what we said of the first volume. Text, paper, typography are all of the finest, and the whole work of 658 pages, at the price of five francs, holds a place quite apart in philatelic literature.

This second volume treats of the issues from 1879 to 1908, with the same wealth of detail and illustration as before, with extracts of postal ordinances and regulations, and even criticisms and opinions of lay journals on the designs adopted; full descriptions and reproductions are given of sketches and many beautiful essays, and nothing has been omitted to make the whole work a complete exposition of the history of the stamps of France.

One fact alone in connection with the issue of this great work we have to regret—that this author should have died before the work upon which he spent laborious years had entirely appeared.

THE NEW YVERT & TELLIER.

We remarked, twelve months ago, when reviewing the 1908 edition of Messrs. Yvert and Tellier's catalogue, upon the great strides the principal French catalogue was making, both in comprehensiveness and accuracy. In the 1909 edition, now before us, we find this improvement so well maintained that we can expect no more, unless, indeed, the scope of the work be increased; and this we are not anxious to see, as we regard the catalogue as the best in existence for the ordinary general collector to follow.

While not so elaborate as Kohl or Gibbons it goes quite far enough for a general collector; varieties of perforation, shade and types of surcharge, are noted, as in Scott's catalogue, in smaller type, so that the standard varieties (which are in ordinary type) can be picked out at a glance. It is no doubt because Yvert et Tellier's catalogue is used so much in France that general collecting is still very widespread there; just as the preponderance of Gibbons has turned nearly every collector in England into a specialist.

It must not be supposed that Yvert et Tellier's catalogue is a simplified one on the lines of Whitfield King's. It is far more advanced than that of the Ipswich firm, even without the italicised portions, while with the latter and the numerous notes it will be found useful even by the specialist.

In this edition we note that the lists of some of the French Colonies have been somewhat shortened. As explained in the preface, this has been done in order to keep the size of the volume within bounds, and because they are treated of very fully in the special catalogue of France and Colonies, published by the same firm. This small economy has not prevented a year's new issues expanding the volume by 40 pages! No doubt the two French firms who are joint publishers of the catalogue, namely, Messrs. Yvert and Tellier (of Amiens) and Messrs. Champion & Co. (of Paris), will soon have to consider some other way of shortening the lists, and then, perhaps, the envelopes and wrappers will have to go.

In one direction Yvert & Tellier's Catalogue is in advance of all others, as it includes all telegraph stamps. Comparatively few countries have issued special stamps for the telegraphic services and the complete list is not a very long one. French people should find England a good hunting ground for telegraph stamps, as very little is known about them here, and, certainly, their value is not understood. The Russian telegraph stamp, for instance, which is catalogued at 150 francs, would be tossed on one side by 99 collectors out of 100 on this side of the Channel.

The French catalogue gives long lists, which appear to be accurate, of all recent Australian stamps perforated with letters for use as officials. These varieties are almost ignored in England, but they seem to be greatly prized on the continent, judging by the prices asked for some of the varieties.

With regard to pricing generally we find that, compared with last year's catalogue, a very general advance has taken place; this is especially noticeable with medium British Colonials and with good class Europeans, particularly in the German section. We have looked diligently to see if any prices have come down and have only succeeded in finding two or three instances where small reductions have been made. This says much for the buoyancy of the stamp trade on the continent and confirms what we have heard on all sides, namely, that philately has never been so healthy in France as at the present time.

THE NEW KOHL.

We have received a copy of Kohl's Advanced Catalogue for 1909, which appears to be built exactly on the plan of former editions, but with one important addition. This is a complete catalogue of all known reprints, arranged under the headings of the different countries, after the ordinary issues. Many of the reprints are quoted, in some cases at a higher price than the original stamps. These lists, which cannot fail to be of great value for reference, were all that was needed to make Kohl's the most elaborate and complete

catalogue in existence. The amount of information crammed into the 1484 closely printed pages which make up this work is almost incredible.

It is only by the system of condensing which is followed that it is possible to get everything into the one volume. At a moderate computation there must be 100,000 varieties of all sorts indicated. Much space is saved by pricing the various perforations of an issue in parallel columns instead of giving each a separate heading for each perforation and then repeating each stamp. It is true that this space is saved at the expense of clearness and, though very rarely, of accuracy, but the information is all there, though it may take anyone unaccustomed to the work some time to find. Not only is the information that one seeks nearly always found in "Kohl" but a great amount of information which one would never expect to find, as well.

A very good point which has for some time been a feature of this Catalogue is the list of the principal works of reference and articles, which is given after each country. Some of these lists might be amplified (and some shortened) with advantage, but the feature is a very good one.

As is only to be expected the prices of British Colonials are based on Gibbons, frequently being exactly the same and more frequently a little higher. The prices for foreign countries, however, reveal a large amount of independence, the fluctuations, either in excess or below the prices ruling in England, being, in many cases, really astonishing. This is particularly noticeable in the case of European stamps.

Having lavished a good deal of deserving praise on this remarkable catalogue, we can do no harm in saying that some countries are not so accurately catalogued as they might be, to wit, Transvaal, Greece and some of the Australian Colonies. The system of tabulating perforations leads to a good deal of confusion in a country like South Australia, where we find no fewer than ten values of the first types chronicled as existing with the remarkable combination, roulette by 10½, not to mention other glaring inaccuracies.

Such mistakes, however, are quite the exception, and it must be remembered that for European stamps there is no catalogue which approaches Kohl's *Grosser Katalog*, to give it its full title. If any one doubt this let him turn up such countries as Austria and Bosnia, and he will be speedily convinced.

The I.P.U. Smoker.

THE International Philatelic Society started he present season with a most successful Smoking Concert, held at the Villa Villa Restaurant, on October 5th last. For several

years now the I.P.U. has thus commenced its programme, with the result that their annual concert is eagerly anticipated by an increasingly growing number of collectors.

Those present at the Smoker were one and all unanimous in saying that the 1908 programme was far and away the best that the I.P.U. Committee has yet presented to its members and visitors, a fact indeed, that needed no corroboration, for, thanks to the strenuous work put in by Mr. W. E. Lincoln, an entertainment was provided that could not have been excelled. We have not the slightest hesitation in saying that no London society, whether philatelic or otherwise, would have provided its members and visitors with a better array of musical talent.

The genial President of the I.P.U., Mr. J. C. Sidebotham, was in the chair, supported by Mr. W. Schwarte, while members and visitors, numbering nearly a hundred, were present. With our limited space it would be quite impossible to give a detailed account of the evening's entertainment, while it is only necessary to mention the names of the various artists who so kindly assisted, to make those of our readers who were not present, and who read the daily papers, or are cognizant of what takes place in the musical world, realise that the programme was the best that could have been drawn up.

The names of Mesdames Amy Brook, Haidee Hamilton, Ada Wheeler, Messrs. Fred Rome, Chas. Cheshir, J. F. Noakes, and W. Myles, are so well known, that it is quiet unnecessary for us to say that they, one and all, received vociferous applause.

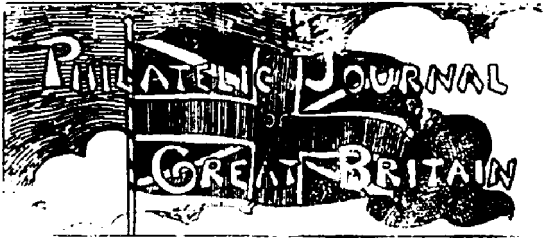
Mr. W. E. Lincoln, so well known in the stamp world, and second to none as a reciter, gave two capital recitations, a fact alone which would have made any entertainment an immediate success. His second recital in particular, relating the adventures that befel a canal bargee, was excruciatingly funny.

A Quartette from the Chirpers' Musical Society rendered valuable and muchly appreciated aid, and altogether a rattling good time was spent.

Several toasts were honoured, in the good old way, while the speeches of Messrs. Sidebotham, Hinton, Lincoln (who responded on behalf of the Sub-Committee and the Artistes), and Melville (who responded for the Visitors), were masterpieces of brevity and wit.

The only regret we feel is that so few members of the I.P.U. should have turned up to support their Society, a fact emphasized by the I.P.U. people present being only in the ratio of one to eight!

We regret this very much and agree with a remark we heard *en passant*, namely, "that if the I.P.U. people won't willingly attend such a capital entertainment, they wouldn't attend anything—even a free distribution of the Tapling Collection."



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Societies' Doings.

[As we are unable to devote the space necessary to printing full reports and programmes of the various Societies, we take the following method of letting our readers know what is going on in the Stamp Club world.]

The International Philatelic Union had a most successful meeting on October 5th, when a Smoking Concert was held at the Villa Villa Restaurant. The next meeting will be held at Essex Hall, Strand, on November 12th, when Mr. J. A. Leon has very kindly promised to display his highly specialised collection of Pictorial New Zealands. All members should try and make a point of being present, while any visitors will be cordially welcomed.

The Junior Philatelic Society held a most successful gathering at their new abode on Saturday evening, October 3rd. There were nearly a hundred members and visitors present, all of whom immensely enjoyed Mr. W. E. Lincoln's paper.

* * *

The next J.P.S. meeting will be held on Nov. 7th, at 17 Fleet Street, when Mr. Douglas Ellis will display his collection of Cyprus Stamps, followed by a paper entitled "The Simple Life in Philately," read by Mr. C. B. D. Purdom.

* * *

The Manchester Philatelic Society has published a most attractive syllabus. Meetings are held at the Rooms of the Manchester Geographical Society, 16 St. Mary's Parsonage, every Friday evening at 7.30. On October 23rd, Mr. J. H. Abbott will read a paper, entitled "The Making of a Stamp," dealing exclusively with the materials used in paper-making, and other members, later on in the season, will describe the other processes which the paper goes through. On October 30th, Mr. A. P. Walker, of the Birmingham Society, will display a superb collection of Italian States on Entires. The following week, Mr. J. K. King will read a paper, followed, a week later, with a display of West Australian stamps, by Mr. W. W. Munn.

* * *

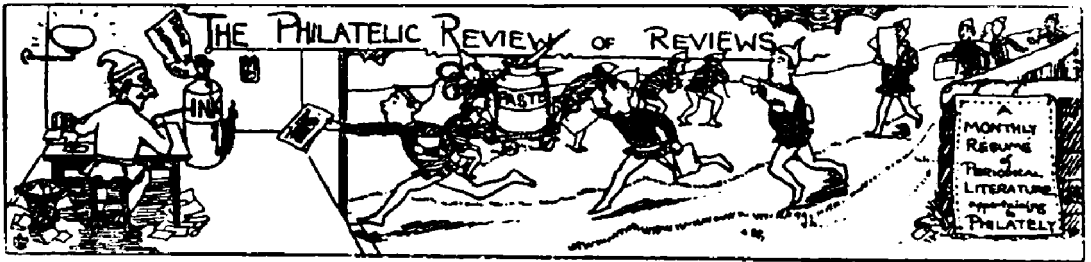
The Royal Philatelic Society will hold their first 1908-9 meeting at 2, Cavendish Square, the town residence of the Earl of Crawford, who has kindly promised a display of South Australia stamps, including Departmentals. Subsequent meetings will be held at 4, Southampton Row, On November 5th there will be a display of Fiji, lent by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., while on November 19th, Mr. T. Wickham Jones will read a paper on the recent issues of Switzerland. All meetings commence 6 p.m. sharp.

* * *

The City of London Philatelic Society which meets at Mills' Restaurant, 14, Broad Street Place, E.C., every second Wednesday in the month, has drawn up an attractive programme for the 1908-9 season. On November 11th, Mr. W. B. Edwards will display his magnificent collection of pictorial New Zealands (London Prints), followed by a display of "Belgium and Congo" by Mr. G. Loverius.

* * *

The Herts Philatelic Society has drawn up a capital programme for the coming season. On October 20th, the Earl of Crawford will display a portion of his collection, while on November 17th, Mr. M. P. Castle will show his superb collection of St. Vincent and Bahamas stamps. The Herts Society meets at 4, Southampton Row, and their programme is one of the best, if not the best, we have yet seen.



OCT. 20, 1908.

Philately at Home.

The *London Philatelist* for September contains one or two capital articles besides a great deal of other interesting reading. Mr. M. P. Castle contributes some notes on the Perkins, Bacon triangular Cape of Good Hope stamps and we make fairly copious extracts. Dealing with the 1d. and 4d. stamps on blued paper. Mr. Castle says:—

The colours of these two stamps do not really vary. The heaviness of the ink, however, frequently produces shades, while the partial or entire bluing of the paper materially varies the appearance of the colour. The term brick-red accurately describes the 1d., while that of dark blue would be applicable to the 4d., the general tone of these latter stamps being less bright than those that succeeded them in 1855 on the white paper.

It will be noted that in the colour of the pigments employed and in the subsequent bluing of the paper these two stamps closely approximate to the then current 1d. and 2d. of Great Britain; and I think a comparison of dated specimens of the latter with the Capes would be of considerable interest. The varieties of the Great Britain bleuté 1d. stamp with the silvery-blue outline to the head, and that of the ivoryed appearance on the reverse side, occur equally with the Capes, as do all the complete and partial blueings. Hence I think the comparison of the two synchronic issues would help to fix the priority of the various printings as despatched by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.

A very large proportion of these 1d. stamps in brick-red became bleuté, and I have found unused specimens thereof (that do not show the blue paper) exceedingly difficult to obtain. With the 4d. it is of course difficult to differentiate, though, as I have said, I consider the darker (and less bright) blue are those of the 1853 issue. Both the 1d. and 4d. on really blued paper are quite rare unused—hardly to be wondered at, as they have been out of use for half a century! The quotations of the catalogues hereon are quite misleading. Either of these stamps is several times rarer than any unused 1s. The 4d. is far the better stamp of the two, and I can recollect that it was a much-sought stamp thirty years since; nor do I ever recollect seeing a pair of either value in fine unused condition except in the Tapling Collection which contains two pairs of the 1d. and one of the 4d., and a block of four of the former in Mr. H. J. Duveen's collection.

We think the idea of comparison, between English 1d. and 2d. stamps and Cape stamps of the same date, most

excellent. It is an idea that might be very much enlarged on. Mr. Castle tabulates the total quantities of all the triangular Cape stamps and the following is his list.

	PERKINS BACON & CO.	DE LA RUE & CO.
	1d.	
Blued ..	1,970,000	
White ..	3,880,000	
	5,850,000	1,223,040
	4d.	
Blued ..	440,000	
White ..	6,470,000	
	6,910,000	1,263,840
	6d.	
	920,000	95,520
	1s.	
	380,160	37,920

This gives the proportionate quantities of the issues by the two firms approximately as under:—

1d.,	5 Perkins Bacon to 1 De La Rue.
4d.,	5½ " " " "
6d.,	10 " " " "
1s.,	10 " " " "

The De La Rue issues, however, were in use ten years after the earliest Perkins Bacon, and at this period, 1863-4, interest was already awakened in postage stamp collecting, and the stamps were doubtless imported by the leading firms, such as J. B. Moens, Young and Stockall, Pemberton, Stanley Gibbons, Alfred Smith, and others.

Mr. Castle's collection of Cape stamps is, of course, well known and we shall welcome its owner's future notes.

A short paper deals with the Emblems Issue of Victoria. Mr. Castle, who has examined a huge accumulation of these stamps, draws the following deductions from his studies.

Taken generally, it was found that the fourpenny was immeasurably commoner than the other two values. The rose shades, watermark Star, and the deep rose, perforated, on unwatermarked and horizontally laid paper, were found in such profusion as to indicate that they are undoubtedly sufficiently highly priced in modern catalogues. The one penny varieties, taken as a whole, were fewer than the two-penny, and are certainly as a whole better worth their quoted prices. The twopenny on wove paper, imperforate, and on horizontally laid paper were both largely represented, but the watermarked varieties, notably those with the single-lined figures, were very much scarcer than is indicated by modern quotations.

We should place the several varieties in the following order of rarity:—

1. No watermark, rouletted.

2. Laid, perforated.
3. Wove, perforated.
4. Watermark numeral of value.
5. Watermark of value in words.
6. Watermark Star.
7. No watermark, imperforate.

The conclusion of Mr. E. W. Wetherell's paper, read before the Royal Society on February 6th last, entitled "The Stamps of Spain and Cuba, April, 1855, to February 1860," a goodly budget of "Occasional Notes," two pages of reviews, and a new issue list, complete a capital number of our contemporary.

Gibbons' Stamp Weekly for September 26th, the number entirely edited by Major Evans, contains a long instalment of Mons. L. Hanciau's article entitled "The Postal Issues of Italy and the Italian Colonies," the current paper deals mostly with essays and proofs. The same writer also contributes some more of his interesting "Old-Time Memories." Major Evans reviews the recently issued Afghanistan handbook, contributes a short article entitled "Ocean Penny Postage" and also an interesting budget of "Philatelic Notes and Queries." From the latter we make the following extract, which, although not dealing with exactly an original subject, is most readable.

The vexed question of the minor variety and what shall we do with it, is always with us, and probably always will be. It is even a disputed point, in some cases, what is a minor variety and what is a major. Incidentally, I may remark that I have never yet met with anyone who collects majors, there seems to be no demand for them, but perhaps this is irrelevant. The question at the present day is not as to the existence of minor varieties, of that there is no possible doubt, neither is it altogether a question of collectability. Anything that exists is collectable, and besides collectors are free, if they only knew it, to collect what they please, regardless of catalogues. The real question is, are all these minor varieties to be catalogued, or not, and if not all, which are to be admitted and which excluded? There are advocates on both sides and there are good arguments for both sides. Some people say that a catalogue should be as comprehensive as possible, should include everything, and collectors should be left to choose for themselves what they will take and what they will leave; others maintain that a catalogue should give some guidance to collectors and enable them to discriminate between the important varieties and those of less importance, leaving the latter to the specialist, who requires no catalogue, or can make one for himself.

I confess that I see excellent reasons for agreeing with both and for disagreeing with both. A catalogue, a dealer's catalogue (no others are talked of now-a-days), is in the first place a list of what the publisher has or may have for sale, and as a matter of business it is to his interest to make it as comprehensive as possible, seeing that so many collectors collect by the catalogue, and accept what is in it and reject what is not. Such a catalogue should, of course, be consistent in its comprehensiveness, which as a rule is not the case. On the other hand, there is a great deal to be said in favour of making the dealer's catalogue a guide to the general collector, and leaving the

specialist to the stock books, where he may sometimes pick up bargains! But will the majority of collectors be pleased with this? I very much doubt it. The inclusion of minor varieties is not by any means solely due to the greed of the dealer, who wants to sell as many stamps as possible. There are collectors who are anxious to see in the catalogue every minor variety that they possess, especially if they happen to have a duplicate or two of it—curious, but perhaps not entirely unnatural, for it is wonderful what a difference inclusion in a catalogue makes in the market value of a minor variety.

The every day—weekly—numbers of *Gibbons' Weekly* all contain a good deal of interestingly written matter. The copy dated October 3rd contains an interview with Mr. George Robey, the well-known comedian, who is a strong stamp collector; a capital South American letter contributed by Mr. A. H. Davis, of Montevideo, an article from "Uncle Nemo" relating to the "Young Writer in Philately" warning him of the danger of inexperience, a good budget of Notes relating to Chili stamps, and topics of general interest from Mr. C. J. Phillip's pen. Messrs. W. P. Barnsdall, I. J. Bernstein, and C. Nissen all likewise contribute their weekly share, likewise Mr. Frank Phillips, all of which writers help to make our weekly Strand visitor very welcome.

The following extracts from Mr. Davis's South American letter throw a good deal of light upon South American postal methods.

A few years ago a treasurer of the Post Office helped himself to stamps to the value of \$41,152, and vanished to Buenos Aires, where he manages to raise funds by selling a few of the stamps at a time. I see by the papers that the Director-General has been authorised by the Executive to write off the above-mentioned sum. The authorities are now very strict in postal matters, and, as delinquents are liable to heavy penalties, there is little likelihood of such a thing occurring again.

In order to supplement the salaries of the postal clerks, the Director-General allows them to hold periodical sales of all the stamps which are returned by the Dead Letter Office, and amongst a lot of these stamps a friend came across a few specimens of the 20c. of the 1904-5 issue (grey-blue) in black; but I suppose the change of the colour is due either to chemical action or to exposure. I am unable to discover any more minor varieties of this issue, although I have diligently searched for them.

The *Philatelic Record* for September contains a few notes from Mr. Yardley's pen dealing with two Uruguayan varieties of great rarity, namely the rare type of the "Diligencia" stamp (S.G. No. 8) and the 1 peso stamp 1879 issue with quarterings reversed. Concerning the first stamp, Mr. Yardley says:—

As regards Type II. of the 60 centavos, very little is known. According to Dr. Wonner, it was found by Señor Vasconcellos and Señor Durante on old letters of 1856 and 1859. The specimen from which Illustration

A is taken is on a small piece of blue letter paper, and I am told that recently two specimens have been found on letters. There is no evidence one way or the other indicating whether it appeared before or after the 60 centavos, Type I. But, although the existence of two distinct types for one particular value may be somewhat puzzling, yet if the letters bearing stamps of type II were actually found as related, there can be no valid reason for regarding them as mere essays. As they, and also the other "Diligencias," were produced by Señor Lapido for his own purposes, it is highly improbable that any official information will be forthcoming, and the only source of information would be in Señor Lapido's own archives, or those of his lithographer, Señor Mége.

The second stamp described by Mr. Yardley should really be classed as an unissued stamp, as no specimens were ever issued to the public.

The following is, however, of great interest.

It should be mentioned that I have seen a specimen of the type with the Arms reversed, which showed a portion of the adjacent stamp; this proves that it was not a die proof, but an impression from the condemned plate. There can be no doubt that the second plate was prepared from a secondary die, made from the first erroneous die, as all the details, except as to the escutcheon and its immediate neighbourhood and surroundings are identical with those of the latter.

The conclusion of Mr. I. J. Bernstein's paper entitled, "The Universal Postal Union," an interview with Mr. D. S. Garson, an old friend of *P.J.G.B.* readers, and a copious supply of "Notes," both editorial and otherwise, all eminently readable complete a good number of the *Record*.

The *Philatelic Adviser* for September contains another chapter of Mr. Wetherell's serial entitled, "The $\frac{1}{2}$ Real Plata of Cuba 1857-60." The current instalment deals with "flaws." The following extract, which clearly shows the painstaking methods employed by Mr. Wetherell, is of interest.

In the first place, having proved certain points by a few thousand specimens, and having selected a few specimens to illustrate the points discovered, the residue (which had been used to substantiate the conclusions arrived at) is now liberated to be used for other purposes, and from these the flaws may be classified.

1. Make six separate heaps
 - a. for those with a nick in top frame,
 - b. " " " right "
 - c. " " " bottom "
 - d. " " " left "
 - e. " with nicks in more than one frame,
 - f. " without any nicks.

Say that there are 150 specimens in heap c.

2. Re-sort this heap and make subordinate piles for those with the cut in various positions (under different letters of the lower label) and it will then be found that there are a dozen or so varieties, and that of some there are ten or a dozen copies—these are the well-marked constant flaws; if with a dozen in some heaps and only one in others, it is very probable that the flaw is accidental—or if found on a late print only,

then it may be one of those formed during the cleaning process. Fairly late printings show so many flaws, that practically there are no stamps whose position on a sheet cannot be ascertained, i.e., the stamp is entirely plateable.

As, however, there are 200 stamps in each sheet, and there are at least three (and probably several more) settings, the labour of plating is very great.

The *Philatelic Adviser* can always be relied upon to provide its readers with a good deal of the lighter side of philately and readers of the current number will be by no means disappointed. A delicious skit on the recently published Afghanistan handbook makes excellent reading, dealing with Afghanistan postmarks the writer (who of course could be no other than our friend Tancred, of universal fame) says:—

"When one of the stamps intended to get itself used, it got somebody to chew a bit out; the chewed-out piece was carefully preserved in the local museum, and the other bit is the stamp as found by collectors. Sometimes it is difficult to say which is which."

This reminds us of a collection, or rather two collections, formed by two small brothers, which we once inspected. The collections had been formed on the co-operative principle as far as very common stamps were concerned, but howling rarities, such as the blue triangular Cape, had been divided, with the result that it was sometimes very hard to say which of the young enthusiasts had had the better of the bargain, or, in other words, which collection contained the stamp and which the repairing material.

A most excellent "New Issue" list, a big assortment of reprinted articles and a page of Tancred's Topicalities completes a most readable number of our contemporary.

The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, dated Oct. 3rd, is the "New Season Number," and a capital number it is, full of good articles and contributions. Mr. J. Bornefeld, of Queensland third type fame, contributes a long and well illustrated article dealing with the various corner letters to be found on the line-engraved stamps of Great Britain. From a rough perusal of his article, Mr. Bornefeld has apparently constructed no fewer than four alphabets, which he describes as follows:

Alphabet I. (small) 1840-1852.

" II. (larger, broader, and heavier) 1852 till 1864.

" III. (tall and slender) 1855-64.

" IV. (abnormally large) from 1861-64.

Collectors interested in the minor varieties and intricacies of our own early stamps, will find this article of exceptional interest.

The result of the recent *S.C.F.* competition is announced, and the papers sent in published. As the subject of the competition was one of much interest, namely, "How to distinguish 'Perkins Bacon' and 'De la Rue' Prints of the Cape Triangulars," we think our readers will appreciate our "lifting" the prize essay, sent in by Mr. Burton F. J. Cooper.

The principal means of distinguishing the Triangular Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope, printed respectively by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., and Messrs. De la Rue & Co., is undoubtedly by the colour. In the 1d., 6d., and 1/- values this is usually a comparatively easy matter to decide, but the 4d. value I have found certainly more difficult to separate into the two printings.

Mr. E. D. Bacon has done more to throw light on these beautiful early Cape stamps than any one else, and in January, 1892, he embodied the results of his investigations into the data preserved by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., in a paper read before the London Philatelic Society and published together with further notes in Vol. II. of the *London Philatelist*.

For our present purpose the salient facts are that on January 28th, 1863, Messrs. De la Rue & Co. first received the four steel plates from which these stamps were printed and shortly afterwards Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. transferred their whole remaining stock of the "Anchor" watermark paper to the new contractors. Consequently all stamps printed after this date were by the latter firm (De La Rue) only. It appears that they first despatched a parcel of stamps to the Colony on January 31st, 1863, consisting of 6d. and 1/- values only. On April 17th, 1863, there followed their first printing of the 4d. value, while the 1d. was not sent out until December 2nd, 1863. Allowing a clear month to have elapsed before the stamps could have been put into circulation at Cape Town, it follows that a comparison of stamps on dated entires would afford the best means of distinguishing between the stamps of the two firms, that remains to us.

The large majority of stamps on entires dated one month after each of the dates given above for the respective values would be "De La Rue prints" and of course all prior dates would be "Perkins Bacon prints."

According to Captain Norris-Newman in some "Notes" on these stamps in the *London Philatelist* Vol V. there is a slight difference in the character of the gum (a point of but little assistance to the average collector), and of the paper which he describes as thinner and more glazed in the later prints, but personally, I consider the difference to be quite unreliable. One point however may be of assistance in the attempt to distinguish the issues. As will be found to be the case in most of the instances where the transfer of contract from Perkins Bacon to De la Rue occurred, the latter firm appear to have used less colour for their printings, with the result that some specimens look rougher and even coarse beside the more highly finished work of Perkins Bacon. This is especially noticeable in 4d. slate blue and the 6d. bright mauve.

The following table of colours will, I think, enable a division of these beautiful engravings to be made, which will be approximately accurate.

Value.	Perkins Bacon.	De la Rue.
1d.	Lake-red, on blue paper.	Carmine (bright to deep).
	Brick-red.	Brown-red.
	Rose-red, on white paper.	(on white paper).
	Carmine-rose	"
	Pale rose	"
	Lake-red	"

4d.	Dull blue, on blue paper.	Bright blue.
	Dull blue, on white "	Deep violet blue.
	Dark blue.	Slate blue.
6d.	Lilac (pale to dark).	Bright mauve.
	Grey to slate-lilac.	
	Dull lilac-mauve.	
1/-	Deep green.	Emerald green.
	Yellow-green (pale to deep).	(pale to deep).

Altogether the "New Season" *Fortnightly* is a most interesting production, may there be many more like it.

The *Postage Stamp*, dated October 3rd, commences a new volume, from which we learn that our contemporary is now a year old, and like most healthy youngsters, is making itself heard. Mr. Nankivell has inaugurated several minor improvements, all of which will, we are sure, tend to increase the popularity of our contemporary. Cornelius Wrinkle, late of the Strand, always contributes many little pithy paragraphs. The following is interesting:—

It is no secret that a very large proportion of so called minor varieties are nothing more nor less than printers' waste, waste that would, in the ordinary way, be relegated to the waste heap and burned, but for the fact that a ready market has been found for the rubbish amongst lovers of the minor variety. New Zealand mixed perfs., to wit, are nothing more than printers' waste.

Mr. Nankivell contributes a short, but very readable first instalment of an article on the Stamps of British Honduras, together with some capital "Hints for Beginners" and other good copy. Mr. B. W. H. Poole pegs away at his admirable "Dictionary of Philatelic Terms." The *Postage Stamp* is a welcome weekly visitor, not only because it contains a good deal of information, but also because its editor is one of the few philatelic writers who is capable, and not afraid of stating his convictions.

The *Stamp Lover* for October is a bumper number, containing a great amount of reading matter and advertisements. With the exception of the concluding instalment of Messrs. Bernstein and Melville's article, entitled "The Postage Stamps of Malta," there is very little in this month's *Stamp Lover* to interest the general stamp collector. Those collectors, however, who are interested in philatelic literature and the "associations," if we may so describe them, of philately, will have a great treat.

Major E. B. Evans contributes his paper, read at a recent J.P.S. meeting, entitled "Early Postal Stationery."

Mr. W. G. Menzies contributes a short

paper relating to "The Art of William Mulready."

Mr. Melville writes most interestingly about the inventor of Dickinson paper. Commencing with the early history of John Dickinson we are entertainingly told of the history of the Dickinson firm, together with a great deal about the famous paper, to which Dickinson gave his name.

A further instalment of the article entitled, "The Penny Post of 1680," an article entitled "Contemporary Impressions of the Mulready Envelope" wherein the writer proves, by many extracts from the papers of those days, how the Mulready envelope, as a work of art, was ridiculed.

A page of book reviews, a few well written "Notes" contributed by Mr. W. Ward and a gorgeously illustrated article on "Collecting in Strips and Blocks," written by Mr. R. E. R. Dalwigk, concludes the "itinerary" of the October *Stamp Lover*.

Philately Abroad.

Le Journal des Philatélistes. July—August.

Our French neighbours have received with great approbation the historical testimony to early French colonisation in Canada, which the recently issued postage stamps give. Our contemporary gives pleasant evidence of this appreciation in describing the new issue, and as instances of recognition of the *entente* between the two countries are always welcome, we give a rendering of the remarks made.

The magnificent fêtes which have recently been held at Quebec in commemoration of the foundation of the city, have given an opportunity for a splendid demonstration—greatly to the honour of France—the initiative in which is due to the friendly government of Edward VII. With a delicacy, tactfulness, and largeness of spirit which cannot be too greatly praised, our neighbours across the channel have desired that France should be closely associated with these celebrations. . . .

The historic personages represented on two of the commemorative stamps, the legends of which are in French, comprise three of our countrymen, Cartier, Champlain, and Montcalm, and one Englishman—General Wolfe.

The powerful English nation has perfectly understood that in honouring France, in the person of three of her most celebrated children, she honours herself. She has intended that the recollection of the past, unhappy for more reasons than one, shall not be for us a subject of bitterness, and her chivalrous spirit has suggested the line of her conduct on an occasion when others would have been happy to apply the old adage *Voe victis*.

From the interesting historical details we learn that Cartier, born at St. Malo in 1491, obtained in 1533 an authorisation to explore and take over the territories in North America,

which had already been named possessions of France. In his first voyage he visited Newfoundland and the mouth of St. Lawrence, but was forced by lateness of the season to return to France, taking with him two Aborigines. In the following year, under the direct patronage of the King, three vessels were fitted out for the second voyage, and the personnel of this small fleet consisted of only 110 men. Cartier arrived on September 14th at the Indian Settlement of Stadaconé, also known as Canada, situated at the junction of the rivers St. Charles and St. Lawrence, and the spot indicated on the 20 cent stamp now forms part of the city of Quebec. Received amicably by the natives, he wintered in the district and returned to France the following year after formally taking possession in the name of Francis I. A later colonisation was made in 1603 by Samuel de Champlain, who in a second expedition, accompanied by only thirty men, built the fortified "abitation," depicted on the 5 cent stamp, the origin of the city of Quebec, which by the year 1700 had acquired a considerable importance, as is shewn upon the 10 cent stamp. The later history of the settlement is well known to English readers, and the portraits of the two heroes given on the 7 cent stamp commemorates a victory which was hardly less honourable to the conquered than to the conqueror. A dual column erected in 1827 bears a latin motto which translated means "Courage gave them death, history a common glory, posterity this monument."

From the *Echo de Tientsin* is communicated a statement that the Chinese government proposes to take over the foreign post offices established in China, under such conditions as to transfer the present local officials under the central administration, to establish a special "school of posts" and a printing establishment for the production of stamps. China is to enter the Postal Union, and negotiations are to be entered into by the Foreign Minister with the representatives of the powers in China having post offices within the kingdom. The journal from which this announcement is taken sees difficulties in the way, but the Chinese government is stated to have taken a firm attitude on the subject.

Le Postillon.

Yet another catalogue. M. Montader announces in *Le Postillon*, for August, the *Catalogue General*, which will be a "reform" edition of the *Catalogue Officiel*, which we noticed some months ago. "The only criticisms and objections made against the *Catalogue Officiel*," says M. Montader, "related to its complications and its size. The tables of perforations overcome certain collectors, who are lost amidst their variety. We have therefore projected for French philatelists a diminutive of the *Officiel*—the *Catalogue General*." Secondary varieties—double or inverted surcharges, varieties of perforation,

shades—will be eliminated; only such varieties as determine actual issues will find place in the new catalogue. France, being specially of interest, will remain practically as at present. All references of page, etc., will be that of the larger catalogue, and the style and typography will be the same. The work will be in one volume, estimated to occupy about 1000 pages, and the price will be three francs.

French Colonials appeal but little to English collectors, but those interested in the 1894 surcharges will find interesting matter in this journal for 27th September *et seq.*, the various types on the sheet being illustrated and described.

Svensk Filatelistisk Tidskrift. September.

It is with great regret that we learn of the death of Mr. Rudolf Krasemann, the Librarian of the Sveriges Filatelist-Förening, which took place on the 3rd ult. Mr. Krasemann was only 33 years of age and his early death will be a loss not only to the Swedish Society, but to philately in general. He was a keen philatelist, and his vocation as a bookseller doubtless gave him his leaning towards the literature of philately, which led to the compilation of the Bibliography issued last year, now reappearing serially in a German journal. He translated, with Mr. H. Djurling, the Swedish Society's handbook on the Stamps of Sweden, which has just appeared, and was a frequent contributor to the Society's journal.

The Swedish Society is to be congratulated upon the position of its library, some particulars of which are given in this issue. From 757 items listed in the catalogue of 1904 the total has risen to 1560, of which 965 volumes are journals, 57 general handbooks, and 200 special monographs and catalogues.

The catalogue, 18pp., of this fine collection lies before us, and is an excellent testimony to the work of the librarian whose death the Society have to deplore. It would be useful to other Societies and to their librarians to get a copy of this catalogue; we venture to think that few would be able to show similar results in what should be one of the most important departments of the work of philatelic societies.

Philately in the Colonies and Elsewhere.

The *Philatelic Journal of India* for September, an early visitor this month, contains a good deal of capital reading. Mr. Crofton continues his series of notes on Indian Service stamps and also contributes a long instalment of his notes entitled *The Indian Postage Stamps of 1854-55*.

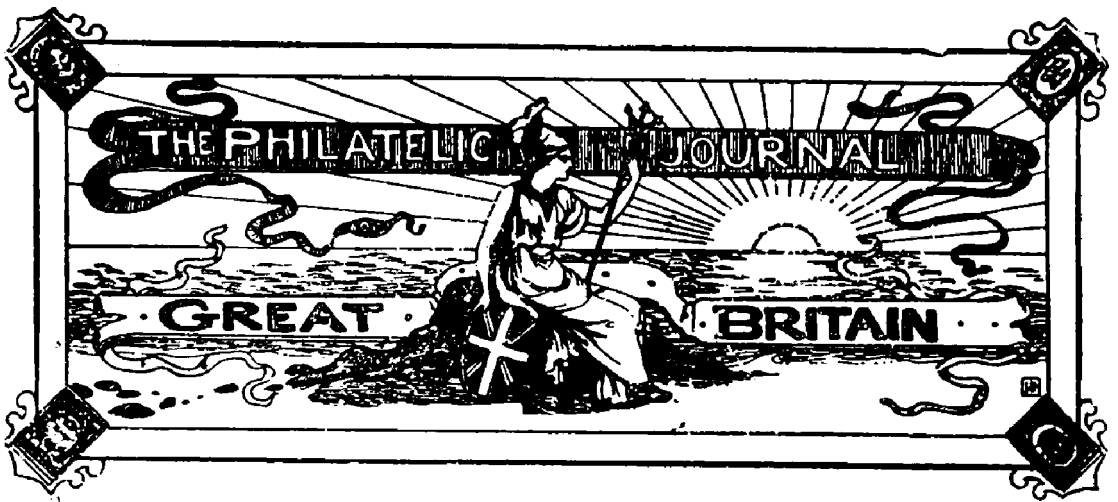
Other articles from the same author deal with *The Indian Fiscal Stamps of 1861*, and with *The Stamps of Bhor and Orcha*. From the latter article we make the following extract, although in doing so we regret not having space wherein to reproduce the excellent arguments that precede it.

We have now to endeavour to account for the prejudice on the part of the Imperial Post Office which has given rise to misleading and inaccurate statements regarding the Bhor issue. It is hardly necessary to state that we do not for a moment believe the inaccuracies are intentional. We look upon them as merely careless, or in the alternative, as inspired by excessive zeal. In the administration of a system of uniform rates, irrespective of distance, over a large area, the loss on the long distances is expected to be made up by the profit on short distances, and when the latter is carried off by any considerable number of local posts, the success of the whole is seriously impeded. It was for this reason that in most European countries the introduction of uniform rates was accompanied by the suppression of local posts. The English Circular Delivery Companies and the Oxford and Cambridge College issues are instances of infractions of the postal laws which were visited by the displeasure of the authorities. In India the Government has not cared to enforce postal laws upon the semi-independent native princes, and the absorption of the local posts is left to amicable and mutual arrangements made by the Post Office Department, with whom the extension of these arrangements has always been a cardinal point of policy. The Imperial Post Office is always trying to get the Native States to give up their own systems, not, as some think, out of tender care for philatelists, but simply for its own profit and efficiency. Much as we sympathise with these endeavours, and much as we wish them success, yet we are bound to say that the official opinion of the Imperial Post Office regarding the necessity or scope of any native issue is the very last opinion we should look to to form our own estimate. The post offices of Bhor and Orcha may at any time succumb to the blandishment of their big neighbour, and collectors of native issues, among whom we do not number ourselves, may find themselves with some awkward blanks to fill.

Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News, dated Sept. 5th, reproduces Mr. Pemberton's article, "The Stamps of Jamaica," published in the June No. of the *P.J.G.B.* We are pleased that our American exchange should show such marked partiality to our Mr. Pemberton's writings, but we should like to point out to our Yankee friends that we much prefer our own style of grammar, to wit, from *Mekeel's* it would appear that Mr. Pemberton penned the following sentence:

"The halfpenny stamp was not issued until Oct. 29th, 1872, and by a decree of the same date the use of half stamps were prohibited."

This is only one example, but it will suffice to prove that Yankee methods are not always the best.



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EDITORIAL.

ELSEWHERE we review the recently published Handbook on Fijian Stamps, which Mr. C. J. Phillips has, after several years of study given to the philatelic world.

Philatelists have been particularly fortunate this year **Philatelic Handbooks.**—as several most important handbooks have been written—chief of which is, undoubtedly, Mr. Phillips's treatise. In compiling such a splendid volume the author—a philatelist in the first rank of the world's collectors, has at various times literally absorbed whole specialized collections, from the study of which he has been able to draw some valuable deductions. Apart, however, from the stamps themselves there has been little else to which to turn for information, no earlier, and possibly incorrect epitomes have been at his disposal, he has had, as a true philatelist should, to study his treasures with the result that he has given the world a most delightful history of Fijian Stamps.

It is true that the local *Fiji Times Express* stamps have been studied by a small school of enthusiasts, but with this exception Mr. Phillips was practically working in virgin soil. His chapter dealing with the Gothic and Roman V.R. overprints is a masterpiece of individual application, while the story of the postal history of the Fiji group which he portrays is an eloquent testimony to its historian's thoroughness.

From a perusal of the book it is quite evident that every scrap of Fijian postal information, from the chronicling of a new variety in the new issues columns of the philatelic press, to the advertisements, official or otherwise, that appeared in the local Fijian papers, has been made use of.

This reference work, needless to say, involves a great expenditure of time—Mr. Phillips has given freely—with the result that an exhaustive handbook has been written, and an extremely valuable collection of Fijian stamps formed. This latter, now that the *raison d'être* of its conception has been fulfilled, will be probably sold, we hope profitably, but no one who has had the pleasure of reading Mr. Phillips's book, could for one moment, imagine that anything but the pure love of a philatelist for philately, had been the motive which actuated the author's pen.

Other important handbooks have been recently published, notably the Indian handbook, Maury's wonderful study of French stamps, the Afghanistan handbook and many more of lesser importance—while several important publications are promised, chief of which will be the Australasian handbook, now rapidly nearing completion. Philatelists should have nothing but praise for their philatelic brothers, whether dealers or not, who so freely give of their leisure, not to gain notoriety, but to further the interests of our hobby, a hobby which binds its devotees closer together than does any other pursuit.

New Issues and Varieties.

(We shall be glad to receive any new issues or new varieties from our readers for description in this column. Letters should be addressed to THE EDITOR OF THE PHILATELIC JOURNAL OF GREAT BRITAIN, c/o MESSRS. P. L. PEMBERTON & Co., 68, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.)

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Australian Commonwealth. From the *Australian Philatelist* we learn that the 5s. Postage Due has been issued with a bar and dash (thus "5/-") instead of the figure "5" only.

Postage Due.
Wmk. Crown and A. Perf. 11½, 12 x 11.
5/- emerald-green.

Bahamas. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the current 1d. pictorial stamp in a new shade, and on much thinner paper.



Adhesive.
Wmk. Crown and CC., ordinary paper.
1d. bright rose and grey black.

Bermuda. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the following novelty:—



Adhesive. Dock Type.
Multiple Crown and CA., ordinary paper.
½d. lilac and brown.

Canada. *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* reports having seen a sheet of one hundred of the current 2c. King's Head stamps in an imperforate condition. The sheet bears an early plate number, No. 18, so it was evidently issued some time ago.

Cayman Islands. *The Colonial Office*

Journal announces the despatch of the following novelty.

Adhesive. King's Head.
Wmk. Crown and CA., multiple chalky.
6d. lilac on white.

Fiji Islands. *The Colonial Office Journal* announces that this Colony has decided to adopt the new colour scheme, without, however, altering the design of the present stamps. The 1/- value on green paper will be despatched shortly.

Grenada. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. kindly send us specimens of the 6d. and 1/- stamps, "Ship" type. *The Philatelic Adviser* chronicles the 2/-, 5/- and 10/- values.



Adhesives. "Ship" type.
Watermark multiple CA., chalky paper.
6d. purple.
2/- purple and blue on blue.
5/- red and green on yellow.
Watermark single CA., chalky paper.
1/- black on green.
10/- red and green on green.

Mauritius. We are indebted to the *Colonial Office Journal* for the following news:

"An entirely new issue of stamps has been arranged. As stated in our October, 1907 issue, several corrections have been made in the Arms of the Colony. The following stamps will be printed from the new "Arms" Keyplate, the existing set of duty plates being used with it:—1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 15 cents. The following values will be printed from the old Universal King's Head Keyplate:—5, 12, 25 and 50 cents, R. 1, Rs. 2.50 and Rs. 5.

"The colours of the above stamps will be those appropriated in the new Colour Scheme to the following values respectively:—Less than ½d., ½d.; ½d., between ½d. and 1d.; 1d., 1½d. and 2½d. for the Arms series, and between ½d. and 1d., 2d., 4d. 8d., 1/-, 2/6 and 5/- for the King's Head series.

"The 4 cents stamp will be sage green with carmine label and the 5 cents stamp grey with carmine label. A supply of 2, 3, 4, 6 and 15 cents stamps will be sent to the Colony towards the end of the current year."

New Zealand. The $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp has followed the 6d. and 1/- values, and now comes over perf. 14×15 . Truly variety is the spice of philately.

Adhesive.
Wmk. N.Z., Star. Perf. 14×15 .
 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. green.

Northern Nigeria. *The Colonial Office Journal* says that the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. stamps will shortly be issued printed all green for the lower value and all red for the penny.

Orange River Colony. *The Colonial Office Journal* chronicles the 1/- stamp on multiple paper.

Adhesive. King's Head.
Multiple C.A., ordinary paper.
1/- bistre and red.

St. Kitts Nevis. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the 3d. stamp on chalky paper.



Adhesive. Multiple C.A. chalky paper.
3d. orange and green.

St. Vincent. *The Colonial Office Journal* says that 6d. and 1/- stamps will shortly be issued, uniform with the low values. (We were apparently in error in August last in reporting the 6d. value.) The 2/- and 5/- values will remain King's Head type and all four values will conform to the new colour scheme.

Last month, on the authority of *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* we chronicled the 5/- King's Head on chalky paper. Our contemporary now says this stamp was listed in error.

Southern Nigeria. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles the 10/- stamp on multiple chalky.

Adhesive. King's Head, Multiple C.A., chalky paper.
10/- purple on yellow.

Straits Settlements. *The Colonial Office Journal* for October contains the following information:

"The Straits Settlements will adopt the new colour scheme for all values except the 3 cents stamp. New plates are in hand for the \$25 to \$100 values. These stamps will be of large size, and will show the King's Head printed from the new large key-plate. The colours of these two values have not yet been decided on."

Ewen's Weekly Stamp News chronicles the current 4c. stamp in a new shade, red-violet instead of dull lilac.

Adhesive King's Head, multiple C.A., ordinary paper.
4c. red-violet.

Tasmania. We very much regret that in the September number of this journal we

chronicled the 9d. stamp *Crown and A* in a bright ultramarine. This was obviously in error for *Crown and V*, which makes all the difference, as the stamp on the obsolete paper in so remarkable a colour, will undoubtedly be of great rarity.

Victoria. *The Australian Philatelist* chronicles the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp on *Crown and A* paper.

Adhesive. Wmk. *Crown and A*. Perf. 12-12 $\frac{1}{2}$.
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. deep blue.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Abyssinia. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us specimens of the recently surcharged $\frac{1}{2}$ guerche stamps. The surcharge consists of the overprint "1 PIASTRE" with an ornament underneath. This surcharge is very crudely done and the ink employed varies considerably in thickness. The following extract from Messrs. Whitfield King's letter is of interest: "The two specimens we send you appear to be printed from the same type, but with different kinds of ink; 7000 of these stamps were overprinted in July and distributed amongst the various post offices in Abyssinia. In a letter from our Abyssinian correspondent, dated September 17th, he states there were remaining in stock no stamps of $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, 1 or 2 guerches of any issue, surcharged or unsurcharged. In consequence of this shortage the Postage Due stamps overprinted 'Taxe à Percevoir' were allowed to be used as ordinary postage stamps, and our consignments were franked with some of them. Abyssinia entered the Postal Union on the 1st inst, on which date all stamps of old issues were to be destroyed and stamps of a new design issued. We are expecting to receive a supply of these in about a fortnight's time."

Provisional. Type 1, surcharged.
1 piastre on $\frac{1}{2}$ g. red.

Austria. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles the following varieties of perforation.

Adhesives. 1890-91. Kreuzer type. Perf. compound of
10, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 11, 12.
1 kr. slate.
20 kr. olive.
1 g. lilac.
Perf. compound of 11, 12 and 12 $\frac{1}{2}$, 13.
3 kr. green.

Brazil. *The Philatelic Adviser*, on the authority of a Continental exchange, chronicles the 100 reis Unpaid Letter stamp of 1905, with watermark.

Gibbons Weekly chronicles the 200r., die II., of the 1900-4 issue, perforated exactly 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Adhesive. 1900-4. Re-engraved Type, perf. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.
200r. blue (Die II.)

Crete. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., kindly informs us "that all the current Cretan stamps have been overprinted with the word 'ELLAS' in Greek letters over the word

'KPHTH.' These overprinted stamps are to remain in use until the annexation with Greece has been finally accomplished, when all Cretan stamps will be withdrawn and ordinary Greek stamps used in Crete."

Danish West Indies. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*, on the authority of *Le Timbre Poste*, chronicles the two following stamps:

Adhesives. Head of King Frederick VIII.
40 bit, vermilion and grey.
50 .. yellow and grey.

France. *Indo China.* Several of our contemporaries chronicle a set of Postage Due stamps. There are thirteen values, all depicting a Chinese dragon.

St. Pierre and Miquelon. Several of our contemporaries chronicle the current 5c. stamp in a new shade.

Adhesive.
5c. bright yellow-green.

German East Africa. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles the 3r. stamp on water-marked paper.

Adhesive.
3 rupee, red and blue-black.

Hungary. We learn from *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* that the watermark on the stamps of Hungary has again been changed. The new type differs from the old in the fact that the "orb and cross at the top lean to the left instead of to the right and that the three 'legs' are shaped like buckles, instead of being straight." There appear to be other differences as well.

Italy. *Gibbons Weekly* chronicles a new 30c. Express Letter stamp, to be used on foreign letters. The design is very similar to the current 25c. Express stamp with the exception that the Head of King Emmanuel is turned to the left.

Foreign Express Letter Stamp.
30c. blue and rose.

Java. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. kindly inform us that their correspondent at Batavia writes as follows:—"All values of the overprinted stamps exist with inverted surcharge, complete sets of all values being offered for about £7 a set, from which fact we should suspect that they are 'errors made on purpose.'"

When, when, will the stamp collecting nocturnal crawler, turn and rend his oppressors?

Norway. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us specimens of the newly issued 15 öre stamps.

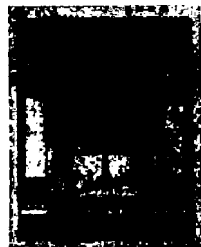


Adhesive. Perf. $14\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.
15 öre brown.

Roumania. *Gibbons Weekly* chronicles two more values to the set we listed in June last, while Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have shown us the 4cb.

Adhesives. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ or $13\frac{1}{2}$ or compound.
40b. green.
1l. brown.
2l. red.

Siam. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. kindly send us the following provisional.



Adhesive. 1906 Type. Perf. 14.
4 (atts?) on 5a. rose and carmine.

The surcharge is very small, consisting of a small 4 over the figure "5" and a small Siamese inscription to the left of the value tablet. On used copies this overprint will be hard to detect.

Switzerland. The 20c., 35c. and 70c. stamps in the new type have now been issued.



Adhesives. Wmkd. large Cross, granite paper.
20c. vermilion and yellow.
35c. emerald and yellow.
70c. purple-brown and yellow.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly, on the authority of a Continental exchange chronicles three of the Postage Dues on the new type of water-marked paper.

Postage Dues. Granite paper. Wmk. upright Cross.
5 (c.) pale green.
10 (c.)
50 (c.)

United States. From *Mekeel's Weekly* we extract the following information:

"The daily papers on Monday, Oct. 12th, treated the philatelic world to a genuine sensation, when they announced in the Washington despatches that the Bureau of Engraving and Printing has completed designs suggested by Postmaster-General Meyer for a new issue of United States postage stamps. The new stamps will be of the following denominations:

1c., 2c., 3c., 4c., 5c., 6c., 8c., 10c., 15c., 50c. and \$1. The 2c. stamp will be the first distributed, and it is expected that shipments to postmasters will commence some time in November.

"The new issue has been designed with the object of obtaining the greatest simplicity commensurate with artistic results. The profile has been taken in each instance, giving a bas-relief effect. In the present 2c. stamp the face of Washington is shown 'full face.' In the new style 2c. stamp Washington's face is in profile. The same change has been made in the face of Franklin on the 1c. stamp. All but the 1c. bear the Houdon portrait of Washington. The scroll work and border designs of laurel leaves are more artistic in the new than in the old stamps. The lettering is very simple."

New Leaves to Cut.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE FIJI ISLANDS.*

BY CHARLES J. PHILLIPS.

FOR some years past Mr. C. J. Phillips, so well known in the stamp world, has been studying the stamps of the Fiji Islands, with the result that he has now enriched the literature of philately with a most elaborate treatise on these stamps. Fijian stamps have ever been popular, although the variety of some of the issues, coupled with the fact that so little has been known about early Fijian postal history, has made their collection a labour of difficulty.

Now, however, the student of these stamps has the wonderful handbook—compiled by Mr. Phillips—at his disposal, with the result that, as light has been brought to bear upon many dark sidepaths, Fijian stamps are now amongst the best described and tabulated of all postal emissions.

The first chapter of Mr. Phillips' monumental work deals with the Fiji group from a geographical and historical point of view. In Chapter II. those interesting labels, known as the "*Fiji Times* Express stamps," are fully dealt with. We learn that, owing to there being no organised postal system, Messrs. Griffiths & Hobson, of Levuka, the proprietors of the local paper, known as the *Fiji Times*, decided to inaugurate a regular system of postal deliveries. Fiji, being at this time an independent Kingdom, all "foreign" residents received their mail through their respective Consular offices. As this necessitated a personal call—after sometimes a journey of fifty or more miles, before the letters were handed over—it naturally followed that the scheme suggested by Messrs. Griffiths & Hobson, met with general approval.

The "stamps" used, to denote that a prepayment had been made, consisted at first of four values, namely 1d., 3d., 6d. and 1/-, all of which were printed from type and printer's "rules" and set up in sheets of twenty-four. Each sheet contained six stamps of each value made up as follows:—

First row, six "stamps" of the 6d. value.	
Second „ „ „	1/- „
Third „ „ „	1d. „
Fourth „ „ „	3d. „

After a time a "ninepenny" value was found necessary, and the demand was met by lifting the figures "3" from the last three stamps on the bottom row of the sheet and substituting the figures "9."

Mr. Phillips has succeeded in plating these "stamps" and illustrates two complete sheets, one made up from specimens on quadrillé paper, and the other from specimens printed on laid bâtonne paper. It is interesting to note that concerning the status of these "stamps" Mr. Phillips says: "I am of the opinion that when first issued the *Fiji Times* Express stamps only paid postage throughout the Fiji group, but that some time later on the proprietors secured their recognition by several of the Australian Colonies." Personally we think that Mr. Phillips is generous in not classing these stamps as locals, pure and simple. It is certainly true that a few letters, franked by them, were admitted into New South Wales without being taxed, but this was an act of business policy and courtesy on the part of that Colony. At that time, as indeed is the case at present, a large portion of the Island trade was in the hands of Sydney firms, with the result that it was considered wise not to always enforce the Colonies rights by inflicting a small but sometimes irritating surcharge on Fijian letters.

In Chapter III. we find the "CR" stamps fully dealt with. These stamps ousted the *Fiji Times* Express labels and were themselves only in use for the limited period of forty-one days. Their date of issue is given as Dec. 3rd, 1871, thus antedating the catalogue date by a fortnight.

This most interesting issue, with its values in "pence" instead of in "cents," the currency of the Fiji Islands, can almost be considered an error—an error quickly rectified by overprinting the three stamps constituting this issue, with their equivalent value in cents.

In Chapter IV. these surcharges are minutely described while we learn that the estimated number of each value overprinted consisted of 55,000 of the "Two cents" on the one penny stamps, and the same numbers of both the 3d. and 6d. values.

With the limited space at our disposal it is quite impossible for us to describe the contents of each chapter of Mr. Phillips' delightful handbook. We must, however, briefly draw attention to the most salient features, chief among them being a description of how the

* Published by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London. 20/.

"C.R." stamps were changed into "V.R." stamps. This was effected (in order to do away with the lithographed "V.R." surcharge) by drilling out the portion of the "die" that contained the letter "C" and substituting a piece of wood, on which was engraved, by hand, the letter "V." while the lines in the background were made to join as well as possible with those on the original die.

It will probably be news to many of our readers to learn that the "V.R." engraved issue of 1879-83 contains a very rare, uncatalogued error, namely the 2d. stamp printed in blue. This stamp was we are told printed in error, and forwarded from Sydney, N.S.W. to Fiji, where the whole consignment, with the exception of a single specimen, was destroyed!

It may also be news to some of our readers to learn that the twopenny and fourpenny un-surcharged stamps of 1881-83 were made from the die used for the 3d. stamp of 1871. The *modus operandi* was as follows—the word "Three" was cut out of the old wooden die of the 3d. stamp and the word "Two" engraved on a new plug of wood and inserted. This procedure was afterwards followed when the 4d. stamp was needed, with the result that the lines above and below the new word "Four" are considerably damaged.

Dealing with the five shilling stamps we learn that those stamps were printed as follows "fifty lithographic transfers were placed upon a stone, from which the required number of stamps were printed." That these stamps were lithographed will be news to many of our readers. Many stamps of this denomination are however found electrotyped, the reason for this we learn, was that the Government Printers evidently printed 264 sheets (50 stamps to a sheet) of this value from the electroplate, in anticipation of an order from the Fijian Government. This order was never given, with the result that these electrotyped stamps were included in the big parcel of Fijian remainders, and post-marked to order.

In reviewing this handbook we have only drawn attention to but a few of the many interesting discoveries that its author describes in its pages, while those collectors interested in Australian stamps, will, in investing in a copy of this book, obtain, we are sure, an immense amount of pleasure from a perusal of its pages.

We may say that the volume contains considerably over one hundred pages, divided into fourteen chapters, none of which contains a single dry sentence, while it is well illustrated throughout, and is accompanied by fifteen plates of photogravure illustrations.

The whole work exemplifies the carefulness of Mr. Phillips' mode of study, while the mass of philatelic *minutiae* which it contains has been so interestingly compiled, that even a beginner in philately would be fascinated in the Fijian postal lore which Mr. Phillips dispenses.

F. F. L.

Illustriertes Handbuch der Postfreimarkenkunde. . . Zweiter Teil: Die Postmarken von Schweden. pp. 116, illustrated, 1908. Leipzig: Hugo Krotzsch. Price M.4.40.

It is now some ten years since any addition has been made to the excellent series of monographs projected by Herr Krotzsch, of which all published are devoted to the German States, except the one on Russia. We welcome the publication in this series of a translation of the Swedish Philatelic Society's work on the stamps of Sweden, which is the joint work of Herr Hilmer Djurling and the late Herr Rudolf Krasemann. The book before us produces practically the whole of the philatelic portion of the Swedish work, and the translation should render the researches of that Society much more generally available to philatelists; furthermore, there has been added a chapter on forgeries, that for obvious reasons did not appear in the original work, which was a literary celebration of the jubilee of the inauguration of postage stamps in Sweden.

We have already referred to the serial issue of this work in the pages of the *Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung*, and from its authoritative source it requires no commendation at our hands; it is only necessary to say that it gives in convenient and cheap form everything of historical and philatelic value and is indispensable to the specialist in this country. Like its predecessors in the same series it is excellently printed and illustrated, though the illustrations are not the fine collotypes which distinguished the previous parts; the arrangement of the volume is also worthy of mention. The adhesive stamps only are treated, but we learn from the preface that a further section on the Swedish entires will appear in the journal above mentioned.

Jean (Sigismund) Les Timbres de l'Uruguay. pp. 111, plates and illustrations, 1908. Paris: Charles Mendel. Price, 2 francs.

This is another reprint, of a series of articles which have appeared in *Le Timbre-Poste*. It gives in a straightforward way a short account of each issue, with epitome of decrees, etc., and should serve as a useful introduction to the stamps of this country, while making no pretensions to be in any way an exhaustive account. Of the most interesting early issues, which have held the esteem of collectors from the earliest years of collecting, the information is very scanty, but as the author cites amongst the sources which he has investigated, those of the archives of the Post Office at Monte Video and the National Library of the capital, besides the publications of Dr. Marco del Pont, it would seem as if the records of those issues are no longer available.

It is a pity that better attention was not paid to the illustrations of the book; in many cases, heavily cancelled copies of stamps have been used for reproduction, which gives a very unsatisfactory appearance to the book

as a whole. In other respects it is very well issued, considering the moderate cost, and there should be much of interest in it to any collector giving special attention to this country. A list of comparative prices of certain stamps is given, as is also one of the postmarks of the different postal divisions.

THE 1909 SENF.

CONTINENTAL stamp dealers believe in publishing their new Catalogues at the beginning of each season, a plan which would appear to be more sensible than that followed by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, who like to launch the two various parts of their eagerly awaited catalogue upon the philatelic world at unstated intervals.

Last month we reviewed Kohl's, and Yvert and Tellier's Catalogues, and now we have been favoured with a copy of Senf's new catalogue for 1909. Few need to be told that Senf is the German Gibbons and is accepted as the standard work on prices, not only in the Fatherland but also in all continental countries, with the exception of France, where, during the last few years Yvert and Tellier's has been steadily replacing it. It will be easily understood, therefore, that Senf's has a larger circulation than that of any other catalogue in the world.

The work is composed of two parts, for adhesives and postal stationery respectively, which may be purchased bound in one volume at 4/6, or separately at 3/6 for the adhesives and 1/6 for the stationery. The fact that there is a sale for the second part is evidence that there is still, on the Continent, some lingering interest in the neglected branch of philately with which it treats, whatever may be the case in England.

As regards the general scope of the adhesives section we may explain, for the benefit of those who have not seen any of Senf's catalogues, that it is nothing like so comprehensive in the matter of minor varieties, such as perforation, paper and types, as Gibbons' or Kohl's, and is, for that reason, a more useful handbook for the general collector.

For European stamps the prices may be accepted as a very exact reflex of the market, especially in the case of the cheaper stamps. Unfortunately the prices of rare stamps are not so reliable, a fact that has been very often remarked upon and which does not appear to have been altered in the new edition. For instance, the quotation of 75/- for the 2½d. on 4d. Cayman Isles will cause our speculators a little uneasiness until they find out that the stamp cannot be obtained at the figure.

We are pleased to note that official stamps are again grouped at the end of each country instead of being interspersed with the ordinary issues in chronological order. The latter system is probably the best one but we are so

unaccustomed to it that when it was tried by Messrs. Senf. Bros., in their edition for last year, it was greeted with such a storm of disapproval that it has been very rapidly abandoned.

Apart from this the Catalogue appears to be very much like the old one with a few prices raised here and there and the new issues added.

Correspondence.

THE CRAZE FOR CONDITION.

TO THE EDITOR *P. J. of G. B.*

DEAR SIR,

As a collector of very many years standing I have recently been much amused by reading the various articles, mostly contributed by budding authors, that have appeared in the various stamp papers of late, on the subject of condition.

Having had a certain amount of experience, extending over forty years of collecting, I have come to the conclusion that the condition crank, very frequently a young gentleman of very youthful years, does an immense deal of harm to our hobby.

By this I do not wish your readers to infer that I, as a very keen collector, would either mount a *damaged* stamp or advise anyone else to do so. What I maintain is, that a stamp slightly off centre, or with a fairly heavily applied postmark is, in lieu of a better specimen, quite worthy to be admitted into any philatelist's collection.

By all means obtain immaculate specimens, if you can, but, remember that an off centred stamp, or one with a blind edge, is the stamp *as issued* by the post office, and, provided it has not lost any of its perforations, or become soiled, faded, or torn, it has, in my opinion, no right to be scorned by the stamp collector, who, failing to obtain a better copy, will very likely decry stamp collecting as an impossible pastime.

I do not intend to trespass on your space by defining my idea of *what* a postage stamp is, but I think that many of the old school of collectors will agree with me in saying that philately shows a retrograde movement when her devotees refuse to take a stamp in the condition that the Post Office authorities issued it.

There are also very many collectors who can not, or will not, realise that many of our older Colonial stamps *can not*, except once in a life time, be obtained in the "superb" condition that many of the present day postmarked to order stamps are found in. In my younger days, a stamp was a little piece of paper, issued for the sole purpose of prepaying postage rates, and, as such, was

subject to the light, or heavy hand of the cancelling clerk.

To my regret shall I say, I have lived to see a generation of collectors who spend their available time in examining the gum on stamps with a powerful glass, to try and ascertain, before they will buy them, whether they were issued before, or after, King Sol warmed up the atmosphere—or whether, in used copies, they were licked on, or stuck on with a dampening pad.

I think that most collectors who have had twenty or so years experience will endorse my remarks, while I feel equally sure that there is many a young collector who will live to regret the days when he carried his nose so highly elevated.

Yours faithfully,

E. A. LINCOLN PECKSON.

CHILIAN STAMPS.

TO THE EDITOR, *P.J. of G.B.*

DEAR SIR,

I see in your journal for August an article on Chilean stamps,* the statements of which are not quite just nor true about the Postage Dues.

Of the current issue of stamps, it is true that whereas some values are attainable at some post offices, at others they are not, but the cause is not far away.

When any post office has run out of stamps they have to send to the Treasury at Santiago for more, and should the stamps asked for be out of stock of the old series, then the new ones are sent, but should any of the old values still exist, then these are sent; so it is quite possible that while in Iquique or Coquimbo the new values are current, we cannot obtain them in Santiago or Valparaiso, because they still have a stock of the old values, and the new series is not sent until the old ones are all sold. *Re* Postage Dues, Stanley Gibbons, Nos. 223-234, it is a gross libel. Here is a brief history of all these stamps.

First, the Post Office of Valparaiso issued a provisory set as a trial, these are S.G. Nos. 202-210. Finding the working good, then a definite issue was printed, S.G. Nos. 211-222, but as the peso value was easily confounded with the 1 cent value, on making the new printing this value \$1 was changed to 100 cents, and of the other four high values, 40, 50, 60 and 80 cents only half the number were printed, as the higher values were not required so much as the lower ones.

But a different coloured paper was used in this second printing, and the perforation 13½,

whereas the first set was perforated 11, and herein lies the great difference between these two issues; but that they were a speculation on the part of a postal official at Valparaiso. I deny, as the Postmaster of Valparaiso who issued them is a very honourable gentleman, and was not dismissed his post, but left it some two years after, to take a far better position.

Again, these Postage Dues were not destroyed but sold here in Santiago by the Government, at auction, after the new general series S.G. Nos. 235-239 were put on sale; and about their being scarcer than the peso series, that also is not true, except the five higher values, 40, 50, 60, 80 and 100 cents, and these are very, very scarce, as only 1000 of each value was printed, whereas the lower values, 1 to 20 cents, were again printed, and a third printing of this set, only the values 1 to 10 cents were printed, and this printing in a *full sheet* is probably the rarest of all.

Hoping that these brief details may serve to clear up the bad idea on Chilean Postage Dues,

I remain, yours very truly,

W. B. CALVERT,

Santiago, Chili.

The Manchester Junior Philatelic Society.

AT an extraordinary general meeting held on the 22nd October, the dissolution of the Branch from the Junior Philatelic Society, London, was unanimously agreed upon and a new Society formed called THE MANCHESTER JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

As the Executive Committee and Exhibition Committee of the late Branch were all re-elected to office and the syllabus for the ensuing season adopted, the change was practically one in name only.

Seattle Exposition Stamps.

ACCORDING to reports the government proposes to issue a set of three Seattle Exposition stamps of the values 1, 2 and 5c. This item of news will cause Editor Nankivell to shudder a great big shudder, but the average collector will be well able to stand up under the news. Definite information is not yet to hand.

—*McKeel's Weekly.*

Mr. Nankivell's shudder won't be a shadow of a shudder compared to our own great, big, large, immense shudder.

* Mr. Calvert refers to an extract we made from *G.S.W.* in the August New Issue columns.

Well-known Philatelists.

No. 106.—MR. ALEXANDER J. SÉFI.

As Editor and Business Manager of the *Philatelic World*, the new stamp paper, of which No. 1 has just been published, we feel sure that the views held by Mr. Séfi, regarding the future of philately and our hobby in general will interest our readers.

Although still on the "right side of thirty," Mr. Séfi may rightly be termed an advanced specialist, for, not only has he collected from his very early days, but he has shown, by his devotion to many intricate and unpopular groups of stamps, that he has the true philatelist's love of original research.

Those of our readers who were present at the last London Exhibition of the Juniors, held at Caxton Hall, will doubtless remember the extensive display of stamps Mr. Séfi exhibited, chief amongst them being a very fine collection of Cashmeres, needless to say it is only a very keen, and very painstaking philatelist, who would attempt to specialize in stamps of such an intricate nature.

Fortunately, however, this has been accomplished, with the result that his collection is the envy of all, while it contains a number of rarities that it would be impossible to duplicate. Relating to one of these rarities Mr. Séfi sometimes tells a little story, which, although it is against our publishers, is far too good not to repeat. The story is very short and consists in the fact that a $\frac{1}{4}$ anna stamp, printed in green, was once priced in one of our publishers' approval books at *threepence*! Needless to say this rarity quickly changed hands. We congratulate Mr. Séfi on being the lucky purchaser, as he appreciates and values his bargain to a far greater extent than would a general collector.

Quite recently Mr. Séfi has been able to pick up, at a nominal figure, a *used* copy of this rarity.

Like all true philatelists, the subject of our present sketch has other loves and other hobbies besides stamps. He is a well-known Rugby and Tennis player, is very partial to amateur theatricals, and when time permits is an ardent devotee of certain branches of natural history and archæology.

Stamps, however, have ever proved the great attraction, with the result that Mr. Séfi is now the owner of a very fine general collection and several very highly specialized single groups or countries, notably Cashmere, Switzerland (the silk thread issues), Canada (the beaver stamps) and many others.

Having travelled a good deal, Mr. Séfi has been able to pick up many bargains in out of the way places, places indeed that few, if indeed any other philatelists have penetrated to, while three years spent in the near East, enabled him to acquire a working knowledge of many languages, including Arabic.

With regard to the future of philately he is quite optimistic; he thinks that we need have no fear for the future. The body of serious collectors is steadily increasing, though there is, perhaps, a falling off in the number

of schoolboy collectors, which, he hopes, is only temporary. In his opinion the thorough philatelist should have at any rate something of a general collection, and then specialise one or more groups or countries. He considers that collectors nowadays are inclined to be too conservative, there are many branches of philately, such as Entires, Postmarks, and Philatelic Literature that do not receive nearly enough attention. Finally, he thinks every philatelist should justify his right to that title by some attempt, however small, at original research.

A member of many of our leading Stamp Societies, and in touch with many of our leading collectors, Mr. Séfi re-

cently came to the conviction that, crowded as the philatelic world is with stamp papers, there was yet room for another monthly magazine.

No. 1 of his paper, the *Philatelic World*, as it is called, has now appeared, and its Editor and Business Manager is very busy booking subscriptions. So many of our readers have doubtless already seen the *Philatelic World* that it will be quite unnecessary for us to define its leading features. It is to be published monthly—by collectors for collectors—and we feel sure all of our readers will join us in wishing Mr. Séfi every success with his new venture.

THE Christmas Number of the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* will be published on December 19th.



[Photo]

[Towers, Hampstead.]

More Faking.

WE have received a long communication from Mr. F. Putney, Jr., the Manager for the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., of New York. We cannot spare space to reproduce the whole of this letter but the following extract will help to warn our readers against yet another fraud.

"We wish to call your attention to the fact that fraudulently perforated copies of the United States 2c. green Navy error are on the market, and have recently been advertised and offered at ridiculously low prices. It appears that some of the well-known imperforate greens have been perforated and sold as the genuine regular error.

"Noticing, recently, that fine copies of the perforated Navy error were being offered at \$32.50 each, which we ourselves would be glad to pay for a fine specimen, and knowing that the really fine copies, as well as practically all the others, of our own original lot, had long since been absorbed into collections, and believing the same to be true of the lot afterwards discovered by Mr. C. F. Rothfuchs in Washington, and knowing, also, that the lot of imperforates existed, we began investigation of the matter.

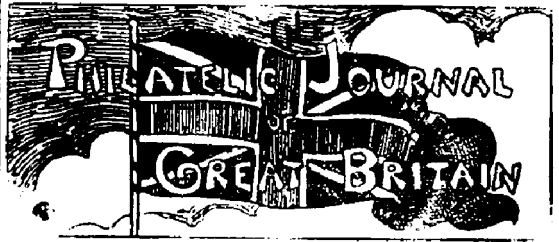
"As a result, the vendor who advertised these stamps has admitted to us that his copies were perforated by a well-known stamp repairer, located in New York since his removal here from Paris.

"When taxed with the matter, the party who offered these stamps gave us the excuse that he understood that most of those on the market had been produced by perforating imperforates, and to us his contention seemed to be that, as long as others were making 'easy' money in this way, he did not see why he should not get his share of the plunder. It is to this intimation, that other dealers also have been quietly selling these fakes, that we wish to draw additional attention."

Messrs. Scott & Co. very kindly offer to examine, free of charge, any of these stamps that have been purchased during the past few years. Any of our readers who have bought this stamp recently, should avail themselves of this kind offer, the only condition being that they mark their stamp or stamps at the back, as a means of identification.

Fortunately this new fake is not a very dangerous one to collectors in this country, but, nevertheless, our thanks are due to the Scott Co. for so kindly putting us on our guard.

WE have received a review copy of Mr. B. W. H. Poole's recently published "Postage Stamps of Hong Kong," also several new stamp papers, all of which we hope to review next month.



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Publishers' Note.

THE December number of the *P.J.G.B.* will be published on December 19th, and will contain a number of special articles, notably one written by Mr. Pemberton dealing with the stamps of the Falkland Islands. Mr. Pemberton has made some important discoveries regarding these stamps, and all collectors of Colonial stamps should make a point of reading his article. We have been compelled to hold over a number of interesting papers this month, owing to pressure on our space, and these will be duly published next month.

Current Chatter.

BY ANGUS MCTAVISH.

REVIEWING the recently published Fiji book—the work of the one and only C. J. Phillips—the *Philatelic Record* accuses the author of reconstructing the “plates of the Fiji Tunis Express” (stamps). Not bad Mr. Printer, when I write my book on the Jherico, Allahabad, Port Moresby locals, I will get you to set up for me.

A few days ago a well known collector was complaining that a 1/- Nova Scotia, described as rubbed on face, was sold at auction for £5, while he had to pay, at a previous sale, £10 for a very fine copy. Hoots mon, what ye' grumblin' at, dinna ye ken that a whole stamp is better than three-quarters. The noble army of repairers evidently think otherwise, for a portion of a 1/- Nova Scotia was sold the other day at auction for 70/-. This being so “gives one to think”—certainly if I had a 1/- N.S., I would quarter it, and offer each quarter at auction, describing it as a 1/- Nova Scotia, very light postmark, superb colour, slight defect in three corners.

In writing the Fiji handbook Mr. C. J. Phillips has conferred an immense boon on stamp collectors; with due deference to that glorious body I think no one but myself knows, and values at its true worth, the immense discovery that Mr. Phillips has made. HE HAS TRACED TWEMLOW. Always modest, Mr. Phillips does not enlarge on his stupendous discovery, he does not tell us how his researches led up to the final great crowning triumph, he simply tells us that he has a Fiji proof “engraved by Twemlow.”

Can it be that Mr. Phillips leaves it to our mutual friend, the wee McTavish, to relate how it was that Twemlow (always modestly hiding his initials) emigrated to New South Wales; how, tired of Podsnaps, tired and bored to death with the Veneerings, he borrowed a £10 note from Eugene Wrayburn, £30 from his “noble relation,” and sailed for the land of the Southern Cross.

This was undoubtedly the case, but how came Twemlow to burst forth into publicity again in 1892, as an engraver of stamps?

I am told that all the current Cretan stamps have been overprinted “ELLAS,” in which condition they will remain until Greece finally absorbs Crete. When this happens, Cretan stamps will be withdrawn and ordinary Greek stamps used. Methinks I can see Mr. Buxtonocolis (the Cretan P.M.) sitting on the Post Office doorstep awaiting the signal to burn or otherwise destroy the “remainders.”

Those of my readers who have forgotten their early Greek studies may like to learn that the word “ELLAS” on the stamps means “McTavish said it”—referring of course to my remarks in last month's *P. J. G. B.*

From the *Philatelic Adviser* I see that our friend “Tancred” suffered slightly from *mal de mer* on his return trip to India. He locates the exact spot as being “half way between Lisbon and Gibraltar.” Future historians please note. Possibly Senor Don Neptune, having worried over the recent discoveries of so many flaws on the early Spanish colonial stamps, prepared a special welcome to celebrate Tancred's arrival in Spanish seas. Never mind Tancred, I too know the exact spot “half way between Lisbon and Gibraltar,” on nearly a dozen different occasions have I marked the place. It was here too, I believe, that that pretty song, “The Return of the Swallow,” was composed.

Writing of “Tancred” reminds me that I see his name still heads the bill of the *Philatelic Adviser* as Editor, and yet methinks the Editorial in the October number came not from “Tancred's” pen. Possibly, methinks wrongly.

The other day a friend (who knows that I know all that can be known about stamps) gave me a club packet to look at. He was under the impression that I would point out the bargains, for his benefit.

There was only one snap and funnily enough Mac got it. What I want, however, to say about that packet is that some very humorous people evidently contribute to it. One dear old soul had a row of 1840 used penny blacks, medium copies, all marked at 5/- each; which were described as “extinct varieties.” Another sweet old innocent marked several small portions of stamps at more than double catalogue, that is, more than twice what a whole specimen would be priced. Some of these stamps were described as “injured,” which was very appropriate, as the casualty ward at Battersea would have been a proper home for all of them. Other forms of endearment applied to various other stamps were, “skinned at back,” “disagreeable” (a foreign contributor), “a lovely copy if genuine,” “back thin,” “mounted on perforated paper,” “cleaned, but genuine.” Truly the nomenclature of club packets is diverting.

In the October Number of the *Australian Philatelist* just to hand, I see that I am accused of smoking the same pipe as does the Editor of the *P. J. G. B.* Really Mr. Smyth, how could you imagine such a thing. The only thing which the great one shares with the puir wee McTavish is sometimes a beverage known as a “soda.” When there is a great corroboree on, Mac sometimes has to share many sodas, and then its usually a case of “Tavish” having to share something else as well.

The Editor of the *Australian Philatelist* grows quite chatty about the wee one—fills a couple or so pages—says he “experiences some difficulty in deciding when he (McTavish) is serious and when he is joking.” Oh, dear! what a dreadful state of mind to be in; surely a trip up the Parramatta River, or a good old bust up at Bondi would be beneficial.

Are you fond of hunting? If so I can recommend a trip to the wilds of the Strand. There is plenty of game to be found there of all kinds, but if you want real fun try and bag a few B.C.A. 6d. mults. Try and put up a few at Peckitt's, or at Bright's, or at any of the other likely looking spots in between. If you can't "pot" a B.C.A. or two, don't despise a 1/- Queen bi-coloured Gambia, or a single 1/- King, in fine used condition. Persevere until you get *something*, C.X. hospital is handy and they have a special ward there reserved for accidents, with a trained staff of nurses who gained their experience when the 2/6 B.N.G., the 4d. Virgin Island, the 1/- King single St. Vincent, and many other epidemics were on.



November 1908, Report.

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Candidates for admission must be over 18 years of age, and supply at least two satisfactory references. They will then be proposed for election, and if no objection be lodged within fourteen days, be duly elected. The Entrance Fee, 2/6, and Subscription, 5/-,

should accompany the application, and will be refunded in the event of the non-election of the applicant. (The Committee are empowered to elect Life Members, not exceeding ten in number, at a fee of Two Guineas.)

NEW MEMBERS.

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A. H. L. Giles, R.N., London.

A. C. Harrison, Herne Hill.

A. J. Séfi, London, N.W.

NOTICES.

The second meeting of the season was held at Essex Hall, on Thursday, Nov. 12th. Present: W. Schwartze (in the chair), L. W. Fulcher, A. B. Kay, W. S. King, Miss Cassels, P. L. Pemberton, W. E. Lincoln, A. H. L. Giles, F. F. Lamb, A. J. Séfi, the Hon. Sec., and Visitors J. A. Leon and D. H. Jackson.

Mr. J. A. Leon gave a display of his fine collection of the Pictorial Stamps of New Zealand, including singles, pairs and blocks in mint condition, of the many varieties of paper, watermark, and perforation. The display was accompanied by many interesting explanatory notes and afforded much interest to those present.

A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Leon, moved by Mr. Fulcher and seconded by Mr. Pemberton, and to the Chairman, concluded a pleasant evening.

On Thursday, Dec. 10, there will be a special meeting of the Committee and Delegates from other Societies and Clubs, at 7.15 p.m.

On Thursday, Jan. 14th, 1909, Mr. W. H. Moore will give a Display of English Stamps Used Abroad.

A full programme of the season has been sent to all members, who are cordially invited to attend, and introduce visiting and new members.

LIBRARY.

The Hon. Librarian acknowledges with thanks "Monthly Report Herts Society," "Journal of Philatelic Literature Society," "Marsh's Weekly Circular," "British Guiana Philatelic Journal," "Briefmarken Offertemplatt." Will be glad to receive and acknowledge any donations to the Library, and hopes to lay a complete Catalogue of the Library on the table at the next General Meeting. Donations to the Forgery Collection from Mr. Giles and some Indian Service Used Cards from Mrs. Young are also acknowledged with thanks.

EXCHANGE PACKET SECTION.

Monthly Packets are now in circulation and Dr. Marx will be pleased to hear from all members interested.

THOS. H. HINTON,

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Int. Phil. Union.
26, Cromford Road, East Putney, S.W.

November 15th, 1908.

British Central Africa and its Mail Services.

By J. GOSLING.

"THERE ain't no busses running from the Bank to Mandalay," nor for that matter will a hansom cab take you to British Central Africa; but steamships going through the Suez canal or round the Cape leave fairly frequently for Chinde, at the mouth of the Zambesi—or rather at one of them. Sternwheeled river steamers take passengers thence to Chiromo, or leave them stranded on the bank halfway, waiting for some other form of conveyance, according to the season of the year and state of the river. From March to August the journey can usually be made in comparative comfort; from August to March one has sometimes to be carried in a hammock for many miles along the bank from the stranded steamer to the "port"!

And having reached "Central Africa," one may realize that many popular conceptions respecting it must be quite put away. The days of "stewed missionary" are long past; and a well ordered community of traders and planters attends to its daily affairs in much the same manner as business is transacted at centres reputedly more civilised. Lions and elephants do *not* regularly take afternoon tea with the inhabitants,—in fact, the majority of the European residents have only met with these beasts at a Zoo; and it will be found that the "deadly malaria" does not always attack with the haste and virulence credited to it.

But, although the realities of life in Nyasaland are apt to fall short of the sometimes rather extravagant expectations of a first visit there is much in the country, and in its postal service—which is the theme proper of this article—that is new and strange. The absence hitherto, of a railway, or of any general provision of vehicular transport has led to the adoption of special modes of conveyance for man and goods; and in the case of mails forwarded overland, the negro has entirely supplanted the place of beast or machine.

Dotted over the country, at intervals of twenty miles or so, along its main roads, are mailmen's resthouses. Here natives wearing the uniform of the Protectorate Post Office wait to perform all allotted tasks, which may consist of conveying a mail bag to the next resthouse every second or third night—the men taking turns and travelling about eighty miles a week in all, or in dealing with the more irregular mail from England, for which they may have to wait a week if the steamer is late. Whichever it be, the mail goes from resthouse to resthouse, night and day, each succeeding gang of men on reaching the hut

which marks the end of their section, handing the bags over to their fellows in waiting. If it be night they awaken them from their slumbers, and lie down alongside the fires in the vacated places.

For the local mails passing between the different settlements two men per section are allowed, whilst the larger mails from countries oversea may require as many as forty. Of course this organized system had a beginning. At one time, the mails were forwarded by day only, and direct from station to station. A native would be sent off with a bag of correspondence and told to take it to its destination, which might be any distance up to a hundred miles. He would travel about twenty miles a day for the longer distances, and perhaps as much as forty miles in twenty-four hours when this completed the journey; but in such cases he would as a rule be fit for little the following day. When the method of conveyance by relays of mailmen travelling mostly at night was first introduced, old settlers said that the men would be eaten by lions; and the men who commenced the new service were accordingly equipped with lanterns and rifles; but after a while the lights were given up as not worth the trouble of carrying; and, although rifles are sometimes still taken, it is generally when a wild beast has been visiting the villages in the district to be traversed. It must not be assumed that lions are not encountered. Cases have occurred where the mailmen have been driven to take refuge in a tree and leave the bags at the foot to be smelled and pawed and discarded as inedible by disappointed beasts of prey, and mails have sometimes been delayed on that account. But there are lions and lions. I know a "White Lion" in a Surrey village, who, to my certain knowledge, has often delayed the mail. It would be incorrect to suppose, however, that the native of British Central Africa is a drunkard, or that, when employed as a mailman, he frequently proves unworthy of his post. As a matter of fact the mail service is conducted with marvellous punctuality; and instances of encounters with the alcoholic lion are comparatively rare.

Experience shows that, provided a route is well travelled by day, it is fairly safe to traverse at night; and the mails have been sent by night for the past five years without any injury to the men employed. Leopards are more common than lions; but they are usually more anxious to steal sheep or other small domestic animals than to encounter men and women.

As a rule the native mailmen are wonderfully faithful and trustworthy. Careful record is kept of the men engaged, even to the marks or scars upon their bodies; but only one case is known where a carrier made off with the bag entrusted to him.—*From St. Martin's le Grand.*

(To be continued).



NOV. 20, 1908.

Philately at Home.

THE *Philatelic Record* for October contains the first instalment of an article dealing with the five Queensland lithographed stamps of 1881. Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg has been able to plate these stamps, while it would appear that there are five types in the case of the 2/- and 20/- values, and ten types of the 2/6, 5/- and 10/- stamps. We, however, extract the whole (with the exception of the description of the minute differences of the various types) of Mr. Hausburg's short article, so further particulars on our part are unnecessary.

It has been known to philatelists for some considerable time (*vide Vindin's Monthly*, vol. vii., p. 112), that the 2s., 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s. and 20s. values of 1881 were lithographed, and that the stones contained a hundred and twenty impressions in twelve rows of ten. Transfers were taken from portions of the 1s. Perkins Bacon plate, and the whole or part of the value, and portions of the scroll work at the sides, were erased, after which the new values were inserted. It is usual in such cases to take a small number of transfers and form a small intermediate stone, from which transfers are again taken and laid on a larger stone. These Queensland stamps were produced in this way. Mr. J. Bornefeld had given some attention to these stamps, but had not completed the plating. He found five types in the case of the 2s. and 20s., and from this he inferred that there were also five types in the case of each of the other values. This, however, is incorrect, and every one of the three—the 2s. 6d., 5s. and 10s.—has ten types, arranged in two rows of five. This number was no doubt chosen to suit the arrangement of the watermarks on the paper which was used for this series: there were a hundred and twenty watermarks (arranged in twelve rows of ten each), so that the sheets of the 2s. and 20s. were each made up of twenty-four strips of five types, while the other values were made up of twelve blocks of ten types. The watermark is the second type of the Crown and Q.

In the following descriptions of the types, the most noticeable features are mentioned, so that it will not be very difficult to plate any stamp. In many cases there are other marks and flaws which do not appear to be constant all over the sheet.

Mr. Hausburg illustrates his article with a transfer (or a strip of five) of the 2/- value and a block of ten of both the

2/6 and 5/- stamps, all shewing the various flaws.

The editorial note is most complimentary to Mr. C. J. Phillips, dealing as it does with his recently published Fiji handbook. Mr. F. Gerhartz, of Bradford, is the "Notable Philatelist," and, like so many of the *Record's* notables, is an old friend of our readers. Unfortunately, Mr. Gerhartz evidently allowed himself to be interviewed at a time when his interest in stamp collecting was below par. He says: "At present I must admit that I am not so well disposed towards the hobby, and what has put me against it is the wilful robbing of stamp collectors by such swindles as 'Cayman Islands,' 'Italians,' surcharged for P.O. in Turkey." Quite so Mr. Gerhartz, we can only repeat the old formula "that if there was no demand for this class of rubbish there would be no supply."

Mr. I. J. Bernstein contributes another instalment of his paper, entitled "The Universal Postal Union," while the usual capital budget of "Notes," "New Issues," etc., help to complete an excellent number of our contemporary.

The *London Philatelist* for October contains a remarkably sound Editorial, dealing, as it does, with the "assumed depreciation of Ceylon stamps. Mr. Castle maintains, and rightly too, that it is only inferior specimens that have deteriorated in value. We have very much pleasure in extracting the following words of wisdom:—

We do not in this journal usually discuss the financial aspects of Philately, but after all, the financial is the most practical appraisal of the philatelic appreciation of a country's issues; and in the case of such fine old stamps as the early issues of Ceylon we gladly enter the lists to break a lance in their defence. Beyond this we would point the moral—once again—of condition. It is the failure to appreciate this which has misled our contemporaries. The standard of the estimation of condition has taken enormous strides

during the present century. The number of really immaculate copies of stamps catalogued, say, from £15 upwards is extraordinarily small, and there are always enough rich Philatelists, in the four quarters of the globe, ready to snatch up these gems—at prices which laugh at catalogue quotations—provided only that the brilliancy of the specimen be undoubted. The swing of the pendulum in the contrary direction has been equally marked. Specimens that are really inferior, *i.e.*, heavily postmarked, with clipped margins, or damaged, hang in the dealers' books until their owners in despair "put them in the auction and let them go for what they will fetch." Records of these two extremes are therefore obviously fallacious, and may well mislead those who are not thoroughly posted in all the details of up-to-date collecting. The moral of our remarks may be summed up in the advice to those Philatelists who spend considerable sums on their stamps—to consider condition, rather than cheapness, in building up their collection.

Mr. F. H. Melland contributes the first instalment of some notes on B.S.A. stamps. The following short extract is interesting:—

However, the Principal Distributor of Stamps for North-Eastern Rhodesia informs me (25.1.08) that "the highest value of stamps generally used for postal purposes is 20s., the largest amount for any package as postage (being on a letter of the maximum weight of 5lb.) would be 33s. 4d., and in the case of parcels 19s. 3d." So that it will appear that only in this issue of 1890 should stamps of over £1 be listed (there were none in the intermediate issues before April, 1897), though as such stamps can be bought at post offices, I have listed them in this article, but it remains for philatelists to decide whether they can be called "postage" stamps or not.

And yet the 1898-1907 issue contains £5 and £10 stamps, which are duly catalogued.

Mr. M. P. Castle concluded his admirable series of "Notes on the Perkins Bacon Issues of the Cape of Good Hope."

A number of capital "Occasional Notes," "Reviews," "New Issues" and other philatelic items make the October *L.P.* a splendid production.

Major Evans' number of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* contains, as usual, a number of capital articles. Mons. L. Hanciau contributes a further instalment of his paper, entitled "The Postal Issues of Denmark and the Danish Colonies." The current contribution deals with wrappers and post-cards. Major Evans contributes a couple of pages on that old, old topic, "Old v. New," wherein he dispenses much wisdom. Mr. B. Gordon Jones contributes a very readable paper, entitled "Indian Convention States," which deals entirely with the various shades that the Queen's Head stamps are found in, and their relative rarity.

Major Evans, evidently in a very controversial frame of mind when he was

at work on the October number, contributes a paper, entitled "The Science of Philately," wherein he combats many of the arguments that a previous writer, in the *Philatelic Journal of India*, has brought forward.

A few notes on the coming Manchester Exhibition, some Reviews, and a New Issue list complete *The Weekly*.

The ordinary numbers of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* all contain a very varied assortment of philatelic and non-philatelic articles. In the copy dated October 17th we find the first instalment of a capital paper on the surcharged stamps of Jamaica, or rather the local overprints on the ½d. green (official) and the 4d. orange-brown.

Dr. Stanley Taylor is the authority on these stamps, so the following extracts should prove of great interest:

There have been three different postmasters since 1890, the date of issue of these surcharges. The postmaster in 1890 was a Mr. Fred Sullivan, but there does not seem to have been any special feature to mark his office until the arrival of these surcharges.

A clerk in the Post Office remembers quite well being ordered to take £50 worth of the ½d., 1885, CA issue to be surcharged OFFICIAL to a local job printer named Camille Vendryes, who possessed a small hand-press. He arrived about two o'clock in the afternoon, and they were finished about twelve o'clock at night, when he took them back to the Post Office. He says that Vendryes had to divide the sheets into the four panes of sixty stamps, because the press was too small to take the lot at a time; he also says that the reason for the errors was, because the man could not get the sheets to stay straight; and to ensure the word OFFICIAL being printed on all the stamps, Vendryes often put the sheets through a second time, hence the great number of these double surcharges. Vendryes is a white man, a printer in a very small way, and believed to be still alive. The clerk cannot remember if Vendryes printed the 2½d. on 4d.; he did not take any of them to him, so they were not done the same day, nor were they done in the same week he is almost certain, but he cannot remember when they were done.

The ½d. stamp is printed in sheets of 240, in four panes of sixty stamps, and £50 worth means 24,000 stamps, which the clerk took to Vendryes to be surcharged. As this local overprinting was only issued as a stop-gap until the overdue De La Rue lot arrived, and as Jamaica is not a very big place, I thought that 24,000 would have been sufficient, and as there are different settings-up of the type, it set me wondering why Vendryes should change his method during a single afternoon; but on enquiry I am told that there is scarcely a department which does not get through a goodly proportion of that number in a year.

The Kingston earthquake, for a time put an end to Dr. Taylor's researches, as the friend, who was working on his behalf, was killed, and Vendryes could not be traced.

Vendryes, the printer, who by-the-bye suffered terribly from the earthquake, being at last found, the following information was gleaned.

He remembers perfectly surcharging the 4d. stamp with the word OFFICIAL and also surcharging the 4d. stamp with 2½d.; the stamps were sent him in batches of £25 or £50 at a time, sometimes from the postal authorities and sometimes from the Stamp Commissioners. The printing machine was only a small hand-press, the "Golding Jobber" platen printing press, 8in. by 12in., made by the Golding Co., printing machine makers, Boston, U.S.A. Each job was machined from a separate setting of the same fount of type. He had only a small fount of display type that had already been much used, and in order to get the requisite number of "C's" he had to cut "G" and "O" to make them look like "C"—in fact, convert the "G" and "O" into "C." In addition he had to improvise cardboard hair-spaces to expand the letters across the stamps, and the quad space between each word OFFICIAL in the line may have been carelessly unequal. Directly the job was done the setting was broken up, and not put together again until required for the next job, so that although he used the same fount of type all the time, the spacing and setting up may have been different. The type printed only two or three rows at a time, and at each new setting he did not trouble whether he set up in vertical or horizontal rows, but just set up as the fancy took him at the time.

Vendryes, we are told, could not remember how many times he set up the type for the various printings, but he believed seven or eight times, at the outside, for the OFFICIAL, and about four times for the 2½d. on 4d. Regarding the numerous errors that exist on both over-printed stamps, Vendryes can account for most, notably the ½d. stamp, overprinted vertically and horizontally. This was due to a "misfeed," which took place when he was working late one night, and he distinctly remembers the occasion.

In *G.S.W.* for November 7th Dr. Taylor continues his article and we learn that he considers there were four distinct settings of the OFFICIAL surcharge. We cannot unfortunately spare the space to reproduce more of Dr. Taylor's article, much as we should like to. Those of our readers who are interested in these stamps will find *G.S.W.* for November 7th an invaluable little paper.

Apropos of the 2½d. on 4d. surcharge it may interest some of our readers to learn that Dr. Taylor considers that a block of twelve of these stamps which our publishers have just sold was, when it was shewn to him a month ago, the largest block on sale in London. This is remarkable considering the number of stamps so surcharged.

The *Philatelic Adviser* for October was a late visitor, nearly a dozen days overdue. The contents, however, are varied and good. Mr. Wetherell, the editor, contributes several pages of the lighter side of philately, notably, a first instalment on

a humorous chronicle of "The Upper Sludgeley Philatelic Club." Friend "Tancred's" chronicle reminds us slightly of the doings of the historic Pickwickians, although, of course, the Master's touch is lacking.

The Editorial, a capital one, deals with the advisability of collecting early European and other stamps in preference to British Colonials, or, perhaps, we should be more correct were we to say that we are advised not to neglect European and other stamps in the general hurry to complete our "Colonials."

Good advice, *Adviser*, there are yet many "undiscovered" countries to collect, some of which, Russia, Bolivia, Brazil and Sweden, to wit, offer many opportunities for the solver of knotty problems.

Mr. Wetherell concludes his article dealing with the "½ Real Plata of Cuba, 1857-60," and also reviews the recently published Afganistan handbook, while Mr. Frank Oliver makes a special study of his capital and exhaustive list of "New Issues."

The *Stamp Lover* for November contains a special article dealing with the Hawaiian stamps belonging to Mr. H. J. Crocker. This proves excellent reading and is illustrated with many blocks illustrating some of Mr. Crocker's gems. Mr. L. W. Crouch contributes a long and most interesting article entitled "Postage Stamps of the Confederate States of America." We have not space wherein to make extracts, but Mr. Crouch writes in an entertaining manner and collectors interested in these stamps would do well to obtain a copy of the *Stamp Lover* containing his article.

The *Stamp Lover* contains several other short contributions, all of which help to make the November number of general interest to members (and non-members) of the J.P.S.

Many other stamp papers are before us for review, notably several copies of the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, a paper, by-the-bye, which has made many improvements in its pages during the past few weeks; evidently friends Bishop and Telfer are going to make many of the new-comers in the philatelic line "sit up." Well, well, there is always room on top and the *S.C.F.* is evidently making a bid for a top rung of the philatelic ladder.

We must not forget our young, old friend the *Postage Stamp*, which is always on time, always interesting and always found to contain many little witticisms, the perusal of which helps to lighten the week's dreary round of everlasting new issues, and other disappointments.

Yet another new arrival, to wit, the *Philatelic World*, edited by Mr. A. J. Séfi. First numbers of any publication are notoriously hard to edit and, in view of this fact, we have nothing but praise to bestow upon our new *confrère*. The *Philatelic World* is to be published monthly and is, so we learn, to be published and managed by a Company of Private Collectors—under no trade influences—and issued in the interests of the serious (apart from the speculative) collector.

The first number, among other good things, contains the first instalment of a capital article, contributed by the editor, on the "‘Silk Thread’ Issues of Switzerland." Another important feature is the first instalment of Captain P. Ohrts' well-known work on "Reprints." The *Philatelic World* has obtained the rights of translation and publication of this important work and a lengthy instalment will be published monthly. Mr. H. Clark contributes a very readable article entitled "Making a Philatelic Library." The *Philatelic World* has, we hope, come to stay, it does not contain a "new issue" list and on this account will not appeal to the "collector" who dabbles only in speculative new issues.

There is only one feature of which we do not approve, namely, the publication of prices that rare stamps have recently realized at auction. For instance, we see it recorded that a New Brunswick 1/- unused was knocked down for £9 15s., while a Newfoundland 1857 6½d. scarlet-vermilion realised £2 10s. It is quite needless to point out to our readers that such prices are *hopelessly* misleading. At auction, as elsewhere, rare stamps in *superb* condition will always sell at considerably more than half catalogue—sometimes full catalogue—and occasionally they top list prices. Newfoundland 6½d. scarlet-vermilion knocked down for 50/-!! What a hopeless wreck it must have been.

Philately Abroad.

Le Timbre Poste. September—October, 1908.

The death is announced of Joseph Michaelsen, the originator of the proposals for a Universal Postal Union, whose suggestion was coldly received by the Danish authorities and he himself transferred from the central bureau to a country district. His proposals were regarded as Utopian, a fate which ever seems to have beset postal reformers. At the Berne Congress in 1874, remarks our contemporary, Michaelsen, who had received permission to attend, was refused admittance by the door keeper! His services were afterwards recognised by a small pension, and he died in all probability almost unknown, though the international system which he suggested has perhaps a wider influence than any other terrestrial bond.

We note the completion of the series of articles by M. Sigismund Jean on the Stamps of Uruguay, noticed elsewhere on its republication in book form.

Echo de la Timbrologie. 31st October, 1908.

In our issue for May last we commented upon the letter distributed by a certain disseminator of forgeries in Givet, France, as something which by its assurance seemed to indicate a new sphere of activity in this direction. The journal under notice devotes a considerable portion of its space to a full description, with photographic plate, of an approval sheet of forged stamps of such deceptiveness that in the opinion of the publishers it deserves the honour of reproduction. While not actually connecting these forgeries with the source above mentioned it seems possible that a well equipped organisation is abroad trafficking in these things. "The photograph," reads the article, "fails entirely to render the admirable perfection of the shades, truly imitated; the close similarity of the paper, with correct watermark," and details are given of some of the forgeries, among which the issues of San Marino figure largely, most cleverly done, watermark, shade, surcharges all most deceptive. "The Gibaltars are magnificent, and the watermark CA and Crown is one of the finest conquests of the forgers' art . . . but the forgeries lack the tone of the De la Rue issues, and give a general idea that something is wrong with them." All the stamps in the sheet are of medium stamps catalogued at from two to fifty francs, and with the exception of five all are forged or faked. The procedure adopted by the vendor is to offer large discounts to collectors whose names are procured through advertising, special attention being given to members of exchange clubs, and as our contemporary remarks, the stamps are sold at rates which should put any collector

on his guard. It is to be hoped that the machinations of this ring of forgers—for it is probable, from the perfection of the output and the considerable resources necessary to its production that it is the work of a syndicate—will be limited to the continent until they are suppressed, which we trust will not be long; but a warning may be given that this new attack is of a kind which will require special attention at the hands of collectors and dealers, and the sheet which is particularly referred to is probably only one of many.

Le Postillon. 8th December, 1908.

Commenting upon the forgeries above referred to, M. Montader has not quite the admiration for their execution as exists elsewhere, and he states that they are not difficult to detect by the application of the method which he recommends in such cases, and of which he believes himself to be the originator, namely exact measurement. "It is" he says, "almost infallible, for in not two cases in a million will imitations be found identical with the original." M. Montader concurs, of course, with the remarks of the *Echo de la Timbrologie* on the futility of huge discounts, if genuine stamps are required, and he adds some remarks upon the difficulties of Exchange Clubs in their endeavours to prevent the circulation of forgeries.

Berliner Briefmarken-Zeitung. 17th Oct., 1908.

Some details are here given of the collection left by the late Herr Fraenkel, the sale of whose library in England moves this journal to the hope that the stamps may not share the same fate. Fraenkel, it is said, viewed his collection rather as a means of study than a scope for accumulation, and his collection represents this attitude to philately. His collection of entires was one of the finest in the world, if not actually the finest, and its value is stated as over 100,000 marks, while that of the postage stamps is given at nearly 180,000 marks. Of the latter, the Europeans and British North American and British Guiana were the principal strength; of the former, his old German States were wonderfully complete and extensive.

In his last number Herr Kosack announced the existence of a block of Russia, 1866, 1 kopeck, with background inverted, as a newly discovered variety. He might have seen this stamp listed in Gibbons' current catalogue, and he states now that he has been inundated with offers of the stamp, including a copy at the "modest" price of 3000 marks. Probably every dealer could provide similar evidence of the exaggerated importance the owners of "rarities" attach to their values, and which is on all fours with a similar idea of value which those who know nothing of stamps place on a worn specimen "on original" which a chance reference in the lay press has brought to the surface. M. Maury gives in the current number of his journal some amusing instances of this latter "little learning."

Illustriertes Briefmarken-Journal. 12th September, 3rd October.

Captain Ohrt gives in these two numbers an elaborate study of the reprints, colour essays, etc., of the Republic of Columbia, with a plate of photographic enlargements and an analysis of each reprint. He registers also a naming against certain reprints postmarked to order, and gives illustrations of the hand stamp used for the obliteration.

Schweizer Briefmarken-Zeitung. August—September, 1908.

We draw the attention of specialists in the stamps of Switzerland to the excellent photograph of a made-up sheet of the 6 rappen Zurich which accompanies this number. This was almost the last work of the late M. Miraband, and is fully described in the last number of this journal. The greater part of the plate is composed of unused copies and the reproduction is very good for process work.

Philately in the Colonies and Elsewhere.

The *Philatelic Journal of India* for Oct. contains a capital editorial, wherein Mr. Crofton most ably points out the anomalous rules that affect amateurs and professionals as regards their membership to that select body known as the Royal Philatelic Society.

We make the following various short extracts, all of which we most emphatically endorse:

In the first place we do not see that any case has been made out for differentiating against the dealer. Certainly not for social reasons, for there is no particular social level laid down by the Royal Philatelic Society for its membership, including, as it does, tradesmen in wares which are not a bit more reputable than stamps.

The Royal Philatelic Society will lunch with dealers, tea with dealers, have its exhibition paid for by dealers and its books published by dealers, in face of which the retention of this rule on the books looks a little ungracious.

There is, however, some sort of indefinite idea that a society which nominally consists only of amateurs is in a strong position to take action against dangers which may threaten our pursuit. This idea is extremely intangible and has never to our knowledge materialised. And the reason is very clear. The interests of the collector and dealer in raising the position of philately are identical, they have never clashed and are never likely to. It is almost impossible to conceive of an amateur society having any cause to take action against the trade. On the other hand who is it who has won the victories of philately? Who got the Government to allow English stamps to be illustrated? Who got them to let us collect unused English official

stamps without committing a crime? Who ran and paid for the CSAR forgeries case? The trade. The society has missed these opportunities and many more besides of standing for the interests of the collector, and its sphere has mainly been confined to the more passive occupation of producing literature, in which the co-operation of the trade has been constantly in evidence.

Turning now to dealing pure and simple, we have a first class which owns a shop window and advertises in the *Philatelic Journal of India*. Next comes the person who has no shop and only an undisplayed ad. in the *Exchange and Mart*. Thirdly comes the man who professes not to be a dealer at all, but nevertheless makes a very comfortable income from stamps. He is well represented in the Royal Philatelic Society. Part of his *modus operandi* is what we may tersely describe as buying on one side of the Strand and selling on the other. He buys good things in a dear market and hopes to sell in a dearer. To do this requires a consummate knowledge of philately and the man who makes it pay is an acquisition to any society though we cannot regard him as an amateur. Not far from the last named is the man who is constantly making new collections in order to sell them at a profit. He again grades himself according to the degree the selling motive is in the ascendant. He may very well be highly accomplished in our science and an ornament to any body that elects him. Then a long way below these is a mixed assortment of private dealers who are no use to anybody. They include speculators in new provisionals and the people who buy remainders of collections at auction in order to dispose of them retail on club sheets.

Bravo, Mr. Crofton, your remarks are to the point, needed, and irrefutable.

The philatelic side of our Indian contemporary is represented by a continuation of "Notes on Indian Official Stamps," a continuation of the article entitled "Somerset House Perforation," and other articles, mostly of interest to the advanced collector. The usual excellent budget of "Notes" and "Reviews" completes a capital number of the *P.J. of I.*

The *Australian Philatelist* for September contains the following short contribution on current South Australian stamps:

Of the small type values—viz., ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d. and 5d.—all except the 2½d., are now issued upon Cr. and A. paper. The 1d. appeared in December, 1905, the 2d. in March, 1906, the ½d. in April, 1907, and the 5d. in March, 1908. There is so little demand for the 2½d. that its early appearance cannot even now be forecasted.

Of the large type values the following were issued on Crown and A. paper on the dates named:

- 1s.—May, 1906.
- 3d.—June, 1906.
- 4d.—September, 1906.
- 9d.—October, 1906.
- 6d.—June, 1907.

Of these the 3d. and 4d. do not exist upon Cr. and S.A. paper, with the word POSTAGE in thick letters—the change in watermark (Cr. and S.A. to Cr. and A.) and the alteration to POSTAGE having been made at the same time. The other three values do, the change having been made in 1904.

The following are still upon Crown and S.A. paper, but have had the type of POSTAGE "thickened" on dates named:—

2s. 6d., 5s. and £1—1905.

8d.—March, 1906.

10d.—August, 1907.

10s.—August, 1908.

The treadle machine which does the perforating of these "long" stamps is not very satisfactory, being very uneven, and resulting in the issue of badly centred stamps. At one end the needles perforate 12½ instead of 12, although the 12½ never comes but a little way on the stamp itself, but can be found always through the uncoloured margin. A new machine is being tendered for, and will probably lead to a new perforation early in the next year.

The 6d., 9d. and 1s. stamps are now printed from new electros, but, except in the 9d., there is not a pronounced difference in the shade of their colours as compared with previous printings. In each case, however, a change has been made in the way the stamps (60) are arranged upon the sheets. The central strip of uncoloured paper has been omitted, thus reverting to the original arrangement. For some time previously all the sheets of the "long" stamp were divided, having three (3) rows of ten (10) stamps each on either side of the division. As now printed from the new electros there are six (6) similar rows without a division.

Our Australian exchange always contains items of interest to collectors of Australian stamps, all of whom should support our little friend from "down under" by sending to Fred Hagen, Ltd., Sydney, a yearly subscription.

No. 4 of "*The North American Collector*" has duly "fetched up." It shews many improvements on the earlier numbers. From a short article entitled "Peru's Foreign Mail Service" we extract the following:—

We are accustomed to think of Peru as a Pacific Coast country and that any foreign mail going out of that country must leave from one of the seaport towns on that coast, of which Callao is the best known. It probably will be news to collectors at large to know that a considerable portion of European and some of the American bound mail never gets any nearer the Pacific coast than the city or village where it may be written. This mail goes to the general post office at Lima. From here it goes over the Central Railway to Oroya, a distance of 128 miles. From Oroya it goes by post boy to Tarma some seventeen miles distant, an entire day being consumed by this stage of the journey. For the better part of a week the same means of transportation is employed, stopping nights at Huacapistana, La Merced, Vista Alegre, Tambo, Eneñas, Azupizu and Puerto Yessup. From this point according to the season the journey is either continued by post boy or by canoe to Puerto Bermudez, at which point it is placed on small governmental steamers for seven days trip down the Pichis, Pachitea and Ucayali rivers until when the latter unites with the Marañon they form the Amazon, down whose headwaters they glide until Iquitos is reached, a voyage of well nigh a thousand miles.

At Iquitos it is transferred aboard ocean going steamships, the Booth, Red Cross and Amazon Navigation Co. reaches this point where by way of the Brazilian seaport Para it reaches the Atlantic Ocean over three thousand miles distant. The single rate postage on a letter sent by this route in about ten cents (twenty-two centavos).

Certainly a most unique, roundabout, and interesting route, but a postal service

carried on under such strenuous circumstances can hardly be profitable.

Several copies of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* to hand. One, dated October 24th, contains a long letter from London, which is headed "Our London Letter." This remarkable effusion takes up about a column and a third, containing *one hundred and thirteen lines* of printed matter. We learn that the President of the Junior Philatelic Society of London suggested the idea of an envelope to commemorate the introduction of Penny Postage between Gt. Britain and the U.S.A.

We continue to learn, until we reach the last paragraph, consisting of *eight lines*, of the wonderful doings of the J.P.S.!

Ye Gods; to call it a *London letter*, no wonder some of the way-back Yaukees think that King Melville is King of Manchester, Gt. Britain (exclusive of Cottonopolis) and Ireland.

The New Colour Scheme.

THE *Colonial Office Journal* publishes a list of the colours that have been chosen for the following values. Many of the Crown Colonies have agreed to conform to this scheme when next they need a supply of stamps.

The colour of the paper, when not mentioned, is white.

Under ½d.	Black.
½d.	Brown.
¾d.	Green.
1d.	Red.
1½d.	Orange.
2d.	Grey.
2½d.	Blue.
3d.	Purple on yellow paper.
4d.	Black and red on yellow paper.
5d.	Purple and sage-green.
6d.	Purple.
7½d.	Purple and yellow.
8d.	Purple and black.
10d.	Purple and red.
1s.	Black on green paper.
1s. 6d.	Green and blue.
2s.	Purple and blue on blue paper.
2s. 6d.	Black and red on blue paper.
3s.	Green and violet.
4s.	Black and red.
5s.	Green and red on yellow paper.
8s.	Purple and emerald green.
10s.	Green and red on green paper.
£1	Purple and black on red paper.
£5	Green and yellow.
£10	Purple and blue.
£25	Green and red.

The *West End Philatelist* says that the current stamps of the Nyasaland Protectorate, Cayman Islands and St. Helena, are all in accordance with this scheme, and other Colonies that have agreed to adopt it are Grenada, Trinidad, St. Vincent, Fiji, Northern Nigeria, Mauritius, and Straits Settlements.

It is also, we believe, the intention of the authorities to employ chalk-surfaced stamps for all values of 3d. and upwards.

A Valuable Forgery.

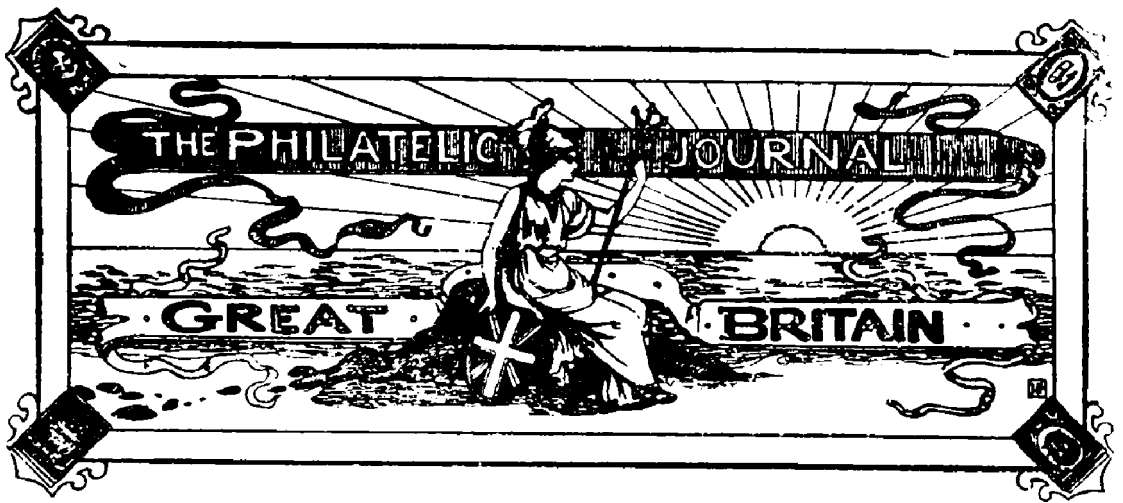
BY SPY-GLASS.

AMONG forged stamps which have done genuine postal duty, having been made to defraud the Post Office, there are few that are not worth more, to specialists, than the genuine stamps which they are intended to represent. The best known instances are the 2d., emu type, of New South Wales, various Spanish 4 cuartos of early issues, some values of the 1858 issue of Naples and the 1/- plate 4 of Great Britain.

There is also another forgery which was somewhat extensively used in France about sixteen years ago, now very rarely seen, and which is of special interest to French specialists. This is the 15c. blue of the Peace and Commerce type. It is said that it was on account of the extensive nature of the fraud that this value was printed, in 1892, on paper watermarked with a quadrillé pattern of lines. The forgery, which is only known postally used, is a very good imitation of the original, quite good enough to deceive postal officials but containing points of difference easily recognizable by philatelists.

In the first place the forgery is perforated 13½ all round, instead of 14×13½. Then in the genuine the olive branch in the hand of the female figure reaches to the third line of shading from the top, while in the forgery it only reaches to the fourth line. In the genuine the lady has a well-formed ear, and a big toe on her right foot, while the forgery represents her without an ear and with a club foot. In seeking further points of difference, the careful observer will note the interesting fact that the map of the world is marked with small dots to represent the capitals London, Paris, Madrid, Berlin, St. Petersburg, Vienna, Rome, Constantinople and New York. I venture to think that very few collectors were aware of this. In some badly printed copies some of the dots are obscure, but a clear impression shows them well enough. The forged stamp only shows Paris and Madrid.

Though the forgery was widely used, collectors will now have to search for a very long time with little hope of ever finding one.



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[PRICE 2D.]

EDITORIAL.

WE claim no originality for the advice we are going to tender. It has doubtless been frequently given and, like so many other free gifts, advice in particular, has been as frequently ignored. Most of our readers will have a few spare

The Pruning Knife. days during the holiday season now with us, some hours of which time many will spend with their stamps. May we suggest that, instead of feverishly transferring whole countries *en bloc* to new albums and instead of mounting up weeks' and months' accumulations of new issues, they should indulge in a little stock-taking? We do not mean the pouring over pages of figures, reckoning up losses or gains, but the, shall we say, moral stock-taking that will lead to a purging of unnecessary specimens. By unnecessary specimens we mean all those stamps that do not in any way lend themselves to the advancement of philately, either by their bogus character, their total motive of necessariness, or their unsightly appearance due to careless handling.

Few collectors can plead not guilty to hoarding a few such undesirables, in fact, we ourselves have a few stored away in various collecting books, stamps that would disgrace any page and which are usually kept with some idea of forming the nucleus of future research, or with

the idea that they will do until better specimens turn up.

There are few, if any, general collections in existence which would not be all the better for a generous application of the pruning knife. Poor copies, except perhaps in the case of the collector who purchases his stamps singly; have a way of accumulating.

These poor copies detract very much from the appearance of any country, and are like (to retain our horticultural metaphor), the broken limb of a tree, which perverts far too large a proportion of sap from its natural channels; in the same way do the poor copies on a page lessen their owner's interest in his stamps.

With a whole day's leisure much could be accomplished, weaklings could be weeded out, groups of stamps, or issues, correctly arranged according to what discoveries the philatelic writers of the present day have made, discoveries undreamed of twelve months ago when the last catalogue was issued. Not only could these things be done but plans of campaign could be drawn up for the coming year. Those countries that present the most chance of completion could be listed, with the result that before another twelve months have passed maybe a specialised collection would have been formed.

Every collector will doubtless find half-a-dozen or more things that require doing but we should like to imagine that all of our readers will start the New Year, by

helping along the science of philately, be it only by changing a poor, for a good, specimen of a halfpenny stamp in their collections

We do not preach the indiscriminate giving of stamp donations to Society's collections, or any other method of

Christmas penitential sacrifice. Charity begins at home, the reward being reaped in the knowledge that a few unnecessary stamps not only spoil the appearance of any page but detract from the philatelic interest which *might* be implanted in some non-collecting friend.

Papers for Moderate Specialists.

BY P. L. PEMBERTON.

XII.—FALKLAND ISLANDS.

THE moderate specialist in the stamps of the Falkland Islands should soon satisfy all his desires, for there is nothing to hinder the collector, with the most modest purse, from completing the country, both used and unused. There is, however, a good deal to study in the stamps, and it will, no doubt, be news to most of my readers to learn that Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. were in the habit of introducing secret marks in their designs for the Falkland Islands, in the same way as they did, at a later date, in the first issue of British South Africa.

THE FRANK STAMPS.

Most collectors, even if they do not include them in their albums, are familiar with the small rectangular oblong and the larger circular franks inscribed FALKLAND ISLANDS PAID, which are included in some catalogues. One or other of these devices was struck by hand on every postal packet on which the postage had been paid, between the years 1858 and 1878. Most countries used hand-stamps of a similar character in their pre-philatelic days, yet these Falkland Islands franks are the only ones which are seriously considered of importance by collectors, and this has always been a mystery to me. They have not even the standing of officially issued stamped envelopes, wrappers and postcards, which are generally rigorously rejected. Collectors who wish to have them, in spite of these disabilities, would do well to remember that, to supply the demand of collectors, the Falkland Islands postmaster struck a number of impressions on blank paper, in the year 1889, and these reprints are what one generally sees.

Specialists would do well to include entires, bearing these marks, in their collections, if they are lucky enough to obtain them, though their scarcity in this condition is such that few will be called upon to decide whether to admit them.

THE NO WMK. ISSUE.

The first issue of stamps took place in 1878 and comprised 1d. and 6d. values; these were supplemented in the following year by stamps of 4d. and 1/-. These were supplied by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., of London, who, at about the same time, were printing the Queen's Head issue for the Transvaal, to which they bear a strong resemblance.

The stamps were produced by the line-engraved process. It is necessary to know something of how this process is worked to understand how the specks and other marks, which I shall presently describe, and which are found on different stamps, can be accounted for. In the first place the artist cuts or etches the design on steel which has been softened for the purpose. This is called the *matrix*, or mother-die. From this, when hardened, an impression is taken on a roller of softened steel, which is pressed firmly backwards and forwards on the die until the design is completely transferred. This roller is then, in its turn, hardened and used for transferring the design to the printing plate itself. In this way as many exact replicas of the design as may be required can be made. After the plate has been hardened it is ready for printing from. A line-engraved plate prints in quite a different way from a typographed one, for the lines which appear in colour on the printing are cut into the plate instead of standing out in relief; the printing ink is applied to the plate and is then wiped off in such a way that ink remains in the engraved lines. The paper to receive the impression is damp and is then pressed upon the plate with force sufficient to extract the ink from the lines and crevices on the plate. It is therefore next to impossible to retouch a line-engraved plate in such a way that any extra uncoloured parts could be added to it, but it is quite possible to add dots or lines to different designs on the plate before it is finally hardened for use.

In the case of the first issue of the Falkland Island stamps, I should say that one die was used for all values, in which the label at bottom for the reception of the value, and the lower corner blocks, where the numerals appear, were left blank. From this one die four intermediate dies would be made on which the respective values 1d., 4d., 6d. and 1/- were engraved by hand. From these finished dies the four plates were prepared.

The 1d. and 6d. stamps, as we have seen, were issued first, and an examination of the former under a glass will reveal two small coloured specks, one in the background immediately behind the head, slightly below the level of the ear, and the other impinging on the white space between the arched band containing the name, at top, and the outer line of the same label, immediately below, and between, the letters "N" and "D" of ISLANDS. These two dots are exaggerated in the accompanying illustration of the 1d. value, in order



to show my readers where to look for them. The 6d. stamp shows neither of these dots. In the two values issued in 1879, viz., the 4d. and 1/-, both dots turn up again. From the fact that the sixpence does not show the specks it is evident that they were not on the mother die, and the inference is that they were purposely inserted on the secondary dies of the other three values. The dots are found in the same positions on all subsequent printings of these values, and show up quite distinctly on some of the later pennies.

At least one of the values, viz., the one penny, has other secret marks which appear on all stamps on each sheet with the exception of those forming the bottom horizontal row. The marks consist in a small coloured dot in the upper part of the down-stroke of the E, and another in the left lower spandrel immediately to the right of the central curl of the conventional leaf-pattern. The omission of the dots from one row of stamps is consistent with all that we know about Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson's secret marks, and I will show that the same plan was followed in the later issues of Falkland Islands. An analogous case is that of the first issue of British South Africa, in which a dot was inserted in the tuft of the tail of the left-hand animal on all stamps, except those in one vertical row. These stamps were also printed by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co., but in this case the dots are much more prominent.

The stamps were printed in sheets of sixty, arranged in six horizontal rows of ten, on thin, hard greyish-toned paper, without watermark. The perforation was done with a single-line machine gauging almost exactly 14. I have seen it stated by a writer on Falkland Islands who ought to have known better that the perforation is $14\frac{1}{2} \times 14$, but as the horizontal and vertical rows were perforated by the same machine this is an obvious impossibility. On each sheet two contiguous marginal rows were always left imperforated so that the stamps in the rows affected have one extended margin and the corner stamp is only perforated on two sides.

If any of my readers should have a chance of examining entire sheets of these values they will observe that there is a coloured dot beneath each stamp in the bottom row, almost in the centre of each stamp, while there is also a much smaller dot 5 mm. to the left of it; but this smaller dot is always missing under the first stamp on each sheet. There are also specks on the margins at the right hand side of the sheets, which are omitted in the margin to the right of the bottom stamp. The omission of these dots in the first or last rows is also consistent with what we know about Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co.'s secret marks.

I do not propose that the moderate collector should provide himself with blocks showing these marks, but it should certainly add to his interest in the stamps, to know that they exist. Even if I did propose such a thing, it would be of little use, as far as the 1d. and 4d. are concerned, as any blocks of these are of extreme rarity, and are among the most desirable things that Falkland Island stamps can offer.

THE CA ISSUE OF 1884.

The contract for printing the stamps passed into the hands of Messrs. De La Rue & Co., in the year 1884, and the plates were handed over to that firm, who continued to use them until the design was superseded by the King's Head set. The 6d. and 1/- stamps were held in the island in such quantities that no new supplies were required for many years, but supplies from the new printers, of the 1d. and 4d. on paper watermarked Crown CA, were issued in 1884. The colour of the lower value is rather similar to that of the unwatermarked stamp, but the 4d. is brighter and has slightly more olive mixed with the grey. Later printings of the 4d., made in the early 90's, may be distinguished from that of 1884, by the colour being more greenish still. No distinction is made in catalogues, but specialists prize the earlier shade, especially in blocks, which are not easy to find. The watermarked paper used for this and all subsequent issues with the Queen's Head was made to fit the sheets printed from plates made by Messrs. De La Rue, which were different in size and

in shape, consequently the watermarks are seldom found in the centre of each stamp, while very frequently the watermarked inscriptions which would come only on the margins around and between panes of correct size, may be found on the stamps themselves. The sheets were perforated by a single-line machine measuring, as before, almost exactly 14.

ISSUE WITH WMK. SIDWAYS.

In an effort to make the watermarks fit the sheets better the printers tried, in 1886, the effect of having the watermarks sideways. The result of this was, if anything, worse than before, so far as the effect on the stamps themselves was concerned, some of the marginal rows almost escaping the watermark altogether. The only benefit was to the printers, who found that the paper did not cut to waste so much. However, the experiment was not repeated. There could only have been a small printing of the 4d., as this value is scarce with watermark sideways. Fairly marked shades of both values are to be found. The perforation was 14 as before.

THE BISECTED PROVISIONAL.

On January 1st, 1891, the half-ounce foreign letter rate was reduced from 4d. to 2½d., but the authorities neglected to provide 2½d. stamps or even ½d. ones. In order to meet the situation the issue of halves of one penny stamps, each surcharged "½d." by a hand-stamp, was authorized. The surcharges were struck on entire sheets and the stamps were sold in singles or block by the post office. Occasionally the surcharge was struck on single specimens after they had been placed on letters, as is evidenced by the fact of specimens being known in which part of the surcharge is on the stamp and part on the envelope itself. Bisected specimens are also known without the hand-stamp. Naturally all sorts of varieties occur, the following are best known:—

- Surcharge inverted.
- Double surcharge.
- Surcharge on the stamp with wmk. sideways.
- " " " " upright.
- " " 1d. orange-brown.
- " without stop after "d."

By a notice dated December 10th, 1891, the use of these provisionals was discontinued on the appearance of the ½d. and 2½d. stamps.

ISSUES FROM 1891-96.

The two new values were printed in green and blue respectively. Although the plates were produced by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. it would seem that only the medallion portion of the original die, bearing the portrait of the late Queen, was made use of, for the ornamentation in the spandrels and the inscription "FALKLAND ISLANDS" differ in small details. The principal difference discernible by the naked eye is the addition of what

I might call a bud to the foliate ornamentation in the right lower spandrel. This is on the outer side of the stem close to where it starts from the oval. There is another noticeable difference between this die and the first one. This is in the uncoloured oval surrounding the head which, instead of being the same width all round, is now wider at the sides than at the top and bottom. This variation seems to have been made at the expense of the medallion which is, in the new values, about ¼mm. narrower than before. It is possible that all these alterations might have been made on an intermediate die taken from the original, but I am inclined to think that all except the profile and background was redrawn, and that a new die was thus made, from which the plates for these two values, and, subsequently, the 2d. and 9d. were constructed.

I now come to some more true secret marks which were inserted (at any rate in the case of the ½d.) on every design on the plate with the exception of those forming the first vertical row. This must have been done on the printing plate itself before it was finally hardened. It consists of a small dot which will be found in the uncoloured oval surrounding the portrait, behind the head and on a level with the ear. In the ½d. the dot is larger than in the 2½d., but it is generally quite distinct in both, and, as I have said, it is purposely omitted from all the stamps in the left vertical row of the ½d. I have not seen an entire sheet of the 2½d., so I cannot say whether it is also left out on the first row of that value and should be glad of information on the point.



Pair, with and without the secret mark, the first stamp being from the left hand vertical row.

Five years later, namely, in 1896, new values of 2d. and 9d. were issued. These were made from the same die as the ½d. and 2½d., having the extra bud in the right lower spandrel. Different secret marks were used. On the 2d. it is a microscopic coloured speck, in the uncoloured oval as before, but this time it is on the right-hand side, opposite the mouth, as shown (with great exaggeration) in the accompanying illustration. This speck is so small that it can only be seen through a good glass, but it is always there, as far as my investigations go, for I have not seen an entire sheet. To be in the same class as the other secret marks, it should be missing from

one entire row, which would most probably be the first vertical one.



The only peculiarity I can find on the 9d. is an extra vertical line inside the frame enclosing the words NINE PENCE, after the letter "E." Again I have not seen an entire sheet, and all the specimens I have seen have the line.

I should point out that in the values, ½d., 2½d. and 9d., which were made from the second die, each lower corner is plugged with a flower-shaped ornament instead of the numeral of value, while the words expressing the value are in colour, instead of in relief as in the earlier stamps.

During the period from 1891 to 1896 the stamps which were most used, viz., the ½d., 1d. and 2½d., appeared in a great variety of shades. The scarcest of these are naturally those which were first used; these are the ½d. blue-green (a colour approaching that of the 6d. no wink.), the 1d. orange-brown (a very marked colour) and the pale blue and pale ultramarine shades of the 2½d.

The following is a list of the most pronounced shades that have come under my notice. I keep to the nomenclature of Gibbons' catalogue as much as possible for the sake of uniformity.

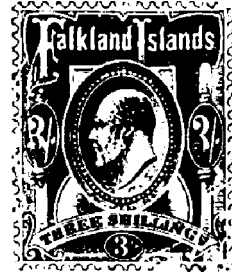
- ½d. blue-green.
- ½d. pale yellow-green.
- ½d. deep yellow-green.
- 1d. orange-brown.
- 1d. bright claret.
- 1d. brown-red.
- 1d. red-brown.
- 1d. pale red.
- 1d. pale orange-red.
- 2d. dull mauve.
- 2½d. pale blue.
- 2½d. dull blue.
- 2½d. pale ultramarine.
- 2½d. bright ultramarine.
- 4d. deep olive-grey.
- 6d. orange-yellow.
- 6d. pale yellow.
- 9d. vermilion.
- 9d. pale vermilion.
- 1/- grey-brown.

There are, of course, many intermediate shades of all the above, and a collection in blocks of four or even singles will be found of great interest.

All the stamps in this group were perforated

on all outer margins, instead of leaving two outer rows of stamps unperforated on one side. Remembrance of this will sometimes assist in locating shades. The perforation was still done by the single-line machine gauging 14. The 1d., 4d., 6d., and 1/-, as they were all printed from the original plates, still show the dots in the margins below the lower stamps, but these are generally punched out by the perforations. The dots in the margins on the right hand side of sheets are too far from the stamps to be seen after the margins are torn off.

In 1898 two high values, 2/6 and 5/-, were issued. These are beautiful stamps, from plates made by Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co., and printed by Messrs. De La Rue. They are on paper watermarked Crown CC, like most stamps of their size. The 5/- is found in slight shades and both, occasionally, on paper slightly tinted bluish.



THE KING'S HEAD STAMP.

I have heard it suggested that these stamps were printed from plates made from the original die used for the previous issue, with the single alteration of the head. This is quite erroneous. It is true that the spandrels and frame work are almost exactly alike in the two issues, but the fact that the design of the King's Head stamps is 14mm. shorter would alone dispose of the theory, without the evidence of other almost equally obvious differences.

The new design, with its elaborate oval frame round the portrait, is nothing like so handsome as the old one. The set consists of the same values as before, with the exception of the 4d. and 9d., which have not yet been issued, and the 2/6, which has evidently been abandoned in favour of the 3/- denomination. All are printed on paper watermarked multiple Crown CA, and the 1d. may be found with this watermark sideways instead of upright.

ANY READERS desiring information about the Manchester-Philatelic Exhibition and Congress, which will be held at the Hulme Town Hall, Manchester, on Feb. 18th, 19th, and 20th, 1909, should write to Mr. J. R. M. ALBRECHT, Exhibition Offices, 9 Albert Square, Manchester.

New Issues and Varieties.

(We shall be glad to receive any new issues or new varieties from our readers for description in this column. Letters should be addressed to THE EDITOR OF THE PHILATELIC JOURNAL OF GREAT BRITAIN, c/o MESSRS. P. L. PEMBERTON & Co., 68, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.)

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Australian Commonwealth. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles the 1/- stamp, with space at foot filled in, on Crown and N.S.W., paper in the 11 perforation.

The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles the 5d. postage due stamp, on Crown and N.S.W., paper, perf. 11.

Postage Due. Perf. 11. Wmkd. Crown and N.S.W.
5d. green.
1/- emerald green.

Bechuanaland Protectorate. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a specimen of the ½d. stamp in the yellow-green shade.



Adhesive. Current type of Gt. Britain overprinted.
½d. yellow-green.

Brunei. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., kindly send us a specimen of the 8c. stamp, all blue.

Adhesive. Wmk. multiple CA., ordinaty paper.
8c. blue.

Canada. A correspondent to *Mekeel's Weekly* reports that the stock of the 50c. blue stamp is nearly exhausted, and that a 50c. King's Head is in preparation, similar in size to the current issue.

Cayman Islands. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* for Nov. 28th contains some very interesting information concerning the Cayman Islands and their stamps. We extract the following information *re* the ½d. stamp:—

"The ½d. stamp appears to be lithographed in sheets of 120, divided as usual into 2 panes

1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4
1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4
1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4
1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4
1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4

of 60, each 10 rows of 6, entirely without marginal lines or marks, except a + on the lower margin. The transfer is made up as shown in the diagram.

"The whole 120 stamps are lithographed

at one pull, so that defects occurring on the left pane are different to those found on the right-hand pane. The principal are:—

No. 19 (left pane, 1st in the 4th row), large white rectangular space to right of crown.

No. 57 (left pane, 3rd in 10th row), white dot under N of "Islands."

No. 108 (right pane, 6th in 8th row), white spot under S of "Postage."

"These defects are of special interest, because they will probably serve to identify the first printing. It depends on what procedure the printers adopted. If the defects were caused in transferring the design to the machining stone, it is very unlikely they will be seen in the second supply.

"The same 4 types may however quite likely occur in future printings, unless the printers decide to preserve no transfers but to start direct from a single die each time.

"Type 2 is easily distinguishable from types 1, 3, 4, as the letters MA of "Cayman" are separated, whereas in the other three types they are touching and more often than not appear to be joined by a white bar. We have not yet discovered a satisfactory means of distinguishing between types 1, 3, 4, but the identity of any specimen can of course be inferred if it is in a block with a specimen of type 2.

"In 10.08 the ½d. stamps became completely exhausted and envelopes had to be franked by the Postmaster, as shown in our illustration, no further provisionals being allowed to be created.

"On one and the same sheet of ½d. stamps, dark and light brown shades are to be found."

Labuan. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles the 2c. Postage Due stamp of 1901, with double overprint.

Postage Due. Variety, with double overprint.
2c. black and green.

Nyasaland Protectorate. The three high values of the current set have now been actually issued, so, on the authority of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, we now chronicle them.

Adhesives. King's Head, multiple CA., chalky paper.
10/- green and red on green.
£1 lilac and black on red.
£10 .. and ultramarine.

Papua. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., kindly send us the two following novelties:—

Adhesives. Permanent type, wmk. Crown and A.
Perf. 12½.
2d. violet and black.
Perf. 11. 1/- orange.

Sierra Leone. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the 2d., 3d., 4d., 5d. and 6d., King's Head stamps, current issues, in paler shades.

Transvaal. In the Sept. number of this journal we were able to announce that we had seen, and examined, a 1d. Transvaal King's Head stamp on Cape of Good Hope paper (i.e. wmkd. Cabled Anchor). To the best of our belief the *P.J.G.B.* was the only paper, with the exception of *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* (which was published on the same date), to chronicle this stamp from an original source. The announcement of the discovery set every dealer and collector in London at work on their 1d. Transvaals with the result that, as far as we know, not another copy has been discovered. In view of this we are therefore pleased to see that a correspondent to a recent number of the *Postage Stamp* announces the fact that he has unearthed another copy. This will be good news for Mr. Joselin, the discoverer, and not likely to be marred by the discovery of many more copies.

Western Australia. The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles the 2d. stamp, Crown and A, with the compound perforation.

Adhesive. Wmk. Crown & A. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 11$.
2d. yellow.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Abysinia. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles the following stamps overprinted with corresponding values in Turkish currency.

Adhesives.

$\frac{1}{2}$	piastre on	$\frac{1}{2}$ g. green.
2	.. ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ g. red.
1	.. ..	1g. blue.
2	.. ..	2g. brown.
4	.. ..	4g. claret.
8	.. ..	8g. lilac.
16	.. ..	16g. black.

Afghanistan. *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles the current 1 abasi stamp in emerald instead of blue green.

Adhesive. 1908. Imperf.
1 abasi emerald green.

Bolivia. From *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* we learn that the plates in use in 1867, have been resurrected. Only one value, namely, the 50c. has yet been printed from them. The colours of the new stamps will differ from those used for the original issue.

Adhesive. 1867 Type. Nine Stars. P. 12.
50c. vermilion.

Belgium. In March and May we made reference to proposed stamps overprinted for use in China. We now extract the following reprinted letter from the November number of the *Philatelic Adviser* :—

"Tientsin, N. China.

"Sept. 17th, 1908.

"Messrs. Koh & Co., Singapore.

"GENTLEMEN,

"Just a valuable item of stamp news for your excellent little periodical.

"Some time ago it was decided by the Belgian Government to start Belgian branch post offices in the various treaty ports of China, as is done at present by the British, French, German, American and Japanese; and a lot of the present Belgian issue stamps were surcharged with 'Chine' and sent out for use; but meanwhile the Wai-wupu protested against this increased competition with the Imperial Chinese post-office, and telegraphic orders were then despatched to the Belgian Consul out here *not to issue* the stamps *but return them* to Brussels. They arrived here about the middle of August, and next day one Belgian gentleman only purchased a couple of sets, being a friend of the Consul, and learning they had just arrived. Next day came the order of recall, and the Consul tried—but in vain—to get the two sets back which he had, in good faith, sold, as my friend had already despatched them on letters to Belgium. So far as I know, therefore, he is the only possessor of such stamps; which, of course, although printed for use, have never been authorised for or put in circulation, so the stamps must be regarded only as philatelic curiosities. But still I wish I had obtained a set myself.

"Yours faithfully,

"LT.-COLONEL NEWMAN,

"Editor *China Critic*, Tientsin."

Whew! What a narrow escape we had.

China. The *Monthly Circular* chronicles the following colour changes.

Adhesives. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$.
2 cents green.
10c. sky blue.

Crete. In addition to the current Cretan stamps overprinted, which we chronicled last month, and of which we now illustrate a specimen, we have to chronicle the Postage Due stamps similarly overprinted.



Danish West Indies. The *Metropolitan Philatelist* chronicles the two following additions to our previous lists of the new King Frederick VIII. stamps

Adhesives. P. $12\frac{1}{2}$, 13.
15 bit purple and brown.
30 .. red-brown and black.

Holland. A new 20c. stamp has been issued printed in two colours.

Adhesive. Current Type. P. 12½.
20c. yellow, green and grey.

Java. The *Philatelic Adviser* says that letters are being received franked with stamps "overprinted either with 'Java,' or with 'BUITEN BEZIT,'" or without either overprint. As all three varieties come on the same envelope the reason given for the overprinting seems to be but an excuse for providing more stamps for collectors."

Some old excuse we suppose "overprinted to simplify book-keeping," or some similar balderdash.

Portugal. *Nyassa.*—*Gibbons Stamp Weekly* chronicles the 2½r. stamp of 1901, with centre inverted.

Siam. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., kindly send us specimens of yet two more new surcharged stamps.

Adhesives. 1887 Type.
2 atts on 24a. purple and blue.

1900 Type.
9 atts on 10a. ultramarine.

Switzerland. Several of our contemporaries chronicle the 3f. stamp in the new type, as illustrated last month.

Adhesive. Wmk. large Cross. Granite paper.
3fs. yellow and ochre.

United States. *Mekeel's Weekly* chronicles the actual issues of the first of the new series of stamps, namely the 2c., describing it as follows:—

"The design is principally remarkable for its simplicity, the salient features being the Houdon Washington in a large oval with a dark background of crossed lines, the portrait facing the left. There are laurel wreaths on either side, tied with ribbons at the bottom, though the lower ends do not come together. There is a colorless line around the oval. "U. S. Postage" at the top and "Two Cents" imposed in straight lines directly on the horizontally lined background, are the only inscriptions and both are in the same type in white shaded letters extending across the stamp. A heavy colored line, with colorless line just inside runs around the stamp. The size and color is the same as the 1903 issue. The first impression is one of beauty, which increases with study, the universal verdict of those who have seen it is that Postmaster General Von Meyer has designed a beautiful yet dignified stamp, and there will be genuine regret if it has to be withdrawn on account of technicality.

Adhesive.
2c. carmine.

British Central Africa and its Mail Services.

By J. GOSLING.

(Continued from page 221).

They stick to the bags too under circumstances of considerable danger. Man and mail have sometimes been carried away together when crossing a stream in flood; but the only case in which a mail was lost was where the mailman had both bag and rifle, and being unable to retain his hold of both held to the latter as being to his mind the most important.

This system of conveyance of mails by relays of carriers is an essential feature of the postal communication of the Colony. Nearly all local mails are conveyed by night in this manner; and letters posted one evening are delivered the next morning at stations forty miles away.

It is recorded of the British Central Africa mailmen that they once went on strike. The men employed at a certain Post Office presented themselves *en masse* to the Postmaster one morning, and said they were going away to their villages. Asked why they expressed dissatisfaction at receiving less pay than the mailmen employed at an Office some forty miles away. Six shillings a month was not enough for them, they said, as their fellows were paid eight. The matter was "righted" by a reduction of the higher scale; and the original malcontents showed a fine disregard of the ethics of striking by proving themselves very ready "blacklegs" when the men at the second office were inclined to resent the diminution of pay.

The calling of a mailman is rather a popular one with Nyasaland natives. The post is fairly well paid as native pay goes; and in this regard, it is to be remembered that natives do not, as a rule, work for Europeans in order to obtain food—that they get from their gardens—but in order to obtain money to buy clothing for themselves and their wives. They have, further, the advantage that, in order to cover eighty miles or so per week, they have only to perform some four or five journeys, and thus, compared with natives engaged in other spheres of labour, they have abundant leisure.

In addition to the mailmen, there are a fair number of natives engaged as indoor assistants. These can in most instances read and write, and sometimes speak English. They are often capable of sorting the letters and making up the mails, but are not as a rule allowed to do this without the supervision either of an Indian clerk or of the Postmaster.

The correspondence conveyed in the mails

of Nyasaland is for the most part posted by the European settlers; but there is a fairly large native correspondence also. At one time the native did not make use of the post office, or, if he did so, did it in an irregular way by getting the mailmen to carry letters unofficially. Even now it is often found that a letter sent by a native in one village to a friend in another contains enclosures from almost every person in the community who can write, and, indeed, from some who cannot—a sort of village secretary filling the breach where necessary.

Comparatively few of the natives can read and write at present. Some write in Suahili, but the majority in their own language, using European characters. The mailmen as a rule cannot read or write; and sometimes this leads to complications, as, for example, where a mail has to be passed on a "relay" at a resthouse remote from European supervision, and the arriving mailmen are late. The men who are to take the bags on to their destination know full well that unless they can make up the time there will be trouble when they arrive; and formerly it was the practice to insist on the delinquents going through to the end of the journey—another twenty miles or so—to admit and explain their fault. As this arrangement, although calculated to ensure punctuality, was apt to delay the return mail, it was explained that the uniforms which, are numbered, would do as well; and the clothing is now taken instead of the men. That is to say, the late arrival has to surrender his uniform jacket, which is taken through to the next post office in order that a note may be made of the number, and the matter "suitably noticed." For the addresses of the bags too, special provision has to be made; and coloured labels, or brass tablets of different shapes and design, serve to indicate to the untutored savage the particular destination for which the bag entrusted to him for conveyance is intended.

The relations between the Postmaster and his staff in Central Africa frequently assume a more personal character than is generally the case in England; and all sorts of petty and private matters are brought to him for decision. Does a mailman fall out with one of his wives and the lady seek another spouse, or the opposite happen and the mailman be the Don Juan of the piece—a by no means uncommon occurrence—the resultant trouble is usually brought in the first instance to his master. In case of death in his family also he almost invariably comes to ask for an advance of pay to buy calico for a winding sheet, a request that is never refused. The writer was once visiting a small Administrative Station (and post office) where there was temporarily only an "educated" native in charge. He had, it transpired, been adjudicating in natives disputes; for he had made the following note regarding the matter of an elopement which has been brought before him,

—"Njokomera take Massie daughter of Chokabwino to wife without pay for her. Now this Court sentence Njokomera to pay Chokabwino one cow. Cow paid—case dismissed. Japeth."

In addition to the overland services by relays of natives, mails are conveyed by steamers on the Zambesi and Shire rivers and on lake Nyasa. They are small screw steamers carrying a few passengers, and make the passage round the lake every now and again, as occasion requires. Gunboats were placed on the lake when its coasts were the headquarters of slavers, and slave dhows used to carry living cargoes between its shores. Times, however, have changed, and instead of criticising the "inactivity of the Nyasa gunboats" in the matter of slavery suppression, the missionaries around the shores of the lake are now apt to grumble that these vessels are not used to bring their mails so frequently as they would wish.

—*St. Martin's le Grand.*

New Zealand Pictorials.

SOME RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.

THE reduction in size of the 3d., 6d., and 1/- values is now a matter of ancient history, but the reason which brought it about is not quite apparent. It is merely a question of the stamps fitting the watermark. The single-lined NZ Star watermarked paper exists in two varieties, (1) 240 to the sheet with a space of 9mm. between adjoining watermarks, and (2) 120 to the sheet with a space of 24mm. The former exactly fits the small size stamps (½d., 1d., 2d., 4d.*) and the latter the large stampst (2½d., 5d., 9d., 2/-). For the small stamps from the original (unreduced) Waterlow plates (3d., 6d., 8d., 1/-) the first was used sideways, but in consequence of the watermark not being in register with the stamp, the marginal rows and columns did not bear the watermark at all, but portions of the marginal watermark of the sheet, "New Zealand Postage," and the corner stamps were generally without any watermark whatever. It was to remedy this defect that the three above-mentioned values were reduced in size. The reduction was carried out by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., Ltd., and in each case the design of the stamp was slightly altered. In addition to this the 3d. and 6d. values have a minute dot between the stamps in the horizontal rows.

The 6d. stamp made its appearance in March, 1907, and was perforated 14. About February, 1908, this perforation gave way to

* The 4d. plate only contains 80 stamps, and the sheet is cut up to print it.

† The 1½d. and 5/- stamps are of still larger size, and for their production the first paper is used; two watermarks fall to every stamp.

a comb producing a perforation 14×13 , $13\frac{1}{2}$, and this in its turn was superseded a few months later by a new comb of 14×15 . In the first comb perforation it bids fair to become one of the rarities of the series.

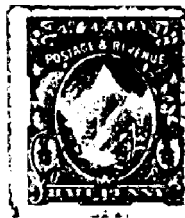
The 3d. appeared in July, 1907, perf. 14, and with the first comb perforation about February, 1908. It has not yet been met with in the second comb perforation.

The 1/- was issued at the end of December of last year in the first comb perforation, and in the second about August last.

The only other stamps that have appeared in the new comb perforations are the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 4d. values. The former has appeared in both, and the latter in the first one only.

These are not the first comb machines that have been used for these stamps. As far back as May, 1906, a comb machine gauging $14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ was used for a short time for the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. values, and then for some reason or other abandoned. The stamps are very scarce in unused condition and well worth looking for.

Some little time ago I was examining a number of halfpenny stamps, and was struck with the very worn impression of some, whereas others had the appearance of a *première gravure*. On looking into the matter rather more closely, I found that the wearing process had been going on ever since the days of the later stamps on Waterlow paper. In 1906 it had increased to such an extent that the engraved lines immediately to the left of the P of Postage had become quite worn



away, and that portion of the stamp shows a series of white patches. This must have come under the notice of the authorities, for in 1907 a new plate was brought into use. In this new plate these patches have completely disappeared, and the lettering and lines of shading, which had also become somewhat worn, have resumed their original freshness. In addition to this there is a minute dot between the stamps in the horizontal rows, by means of which the new plate can easily be identified. Gibbons No. 257a, an olive-green, is from this new plate, and it would be more correctly placed immediately in front of No. 303. It also exists in the normal green shade. About September, 1907, it appeared in the first comb perforation, and about July last in the second. This stamp perf. 14 should be scarce.

I have recently had the opportunity of

examining a number of stamps "imperf. between," and it would perhaps not be inopportune to give a list of such of them as have come under my notice. The list makes no claim to completeness, as fresh varieties are continually cropping up.

Imperf. Vertically.

- 1d. London print.
- 2d. " "
- 3d. Colonial print, no watermark, bright gum.
- 6d. brick-red, Colonial print, no watermark, dull gum.
- 1d. Universal Postage, Waterlow paper, perf. 11, bright gum.
- 1d. Universal Postage, Waterlow paper, perf. 14.
- 1d. " " Basted Mills paper, perf. 14.
- 6d. rose-red, watermarked, perf. 11.
- 4d. deep blue and chestnut, perf. 14.
- 6d. pink, perf. 14.

Imperf. Horizontally.

- 2d. London print.
- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Colonial print, no watermark.
- 1d. carmine (S.G. 258), white gum.

I also take this opportunity to give a list of compound and mixed perforations (other than the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d., which are all duly catalogued) as I can vouch for, with my authority for each. All of them are, of course, on watermarked Cowan paper.

Compound Perforations.

- 2d. purple (catalogue).
- 4d. deep blue and chestnut on bluish (author's collection).
- 6d. rose-carmine (catalogue).
- 5/- bright vermilion (catalogue).

Mixed Perforations.

- 2d. purple (shown the author by Mr. W. S. Lincoln)
- 4d. deep blue and chestnut on bluish (catalogue).
- 4d. blue and yellow-brown on bluish (author's collection).
- 2/- green (author's collection).
- 5/- bright vermilion (catalogue).

The 9d. perf. 11 also exists patched on the back and re-perforated 11 (Mr. D. H. Jackson's collection).



Some time ago in the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, Mr. W. B. Edwards drew attention to a slight flaw* occurring on the second stamp in the second row of the fourpenny plate. We give an illustration of this flaw*, showing the position of the stamp on the sheet.

J.A.L.

*Owing to the fact that blue is a hard colour to reproduce, we have substituted a used copy of this stamp and have outlined, in ink, the flaw, which will be seen over the N of Zealand.

Well-known Philatelists.

No. 107.—MR. J. BORNEFELD.

THE subject of this sketch, being very much to the fore at the present time, we think stamp collectors will greatly appreciate the following interview.

Those of our readers who take an intelligent interest in current philatelic subjects need hardly be reminded that collectors in general are greatly indebted to Mr. Bornefeld for many valuable contributions to contemporary philatelic literature. His recently published researches dealing with the electrotyped stamps of Queensland, which appeared at the beginning of the year in the *Monthly Journal*, would alone entitle him to rank with our leading philatelists. The time and labour spent over his Queensland studies, is, however, dwarfed in comparison with his researches into the history of the early line engraved British stamps.

For many years now he has been at work on these stamps, with the result that he has made some wonderful and most interesting discoveries, chief among them being the classification of four entirely different alphabets of the check letters used for the early penny and twopenny stamps. Needless to say, when Mr. Bornefeld first published the result of his researches, there was more than one scoffer who ridiculed the idea, but further discoveries have absolutely left no loophole of doubt, but that four entirely different general classes of alphabets were used, which in turn have various sub-divisions.

For all intents and purposes of the specialist in general however, the four alphabets are sufficient, they are undoubtedly *intended* changes and much more collectible than mere separation methods of perforation. Worn plates? Well, Mr. Bornefeld says that what are known as worn plates of the 1d. Black do not come from worn plates at all, but are caused by unskilled manipulation of plates and printers ink. The bulk of such stamps are from Plates 1 and 2, and were issued before August, 1840!

When Mr. Bornefeld mounts his hobby horse he startles the listener by his wonderful knowledge of the intricacies of early printing, the result being, that in nine cases out of ten,

he sets a new disciple to work to separate his early English stamps into hitherto undreamed of issues, and thereby makes the possibility of reconstructing each and all the plates a comparatively easy task.

Mr. Bornefeld is always willing to assist the searcher after knowledge and those of our readers who would like to compare the four alphabets can, he tells us, easily do so by taking the four following stamps—2d. blue, imperf.; 2d. blue, perf., say 14 L.C., and known as plate 5; 2d. blue, perf., with thin line above "Postage," known as plate 6; and the extraordinary large letterings to be found among the rose shades of the 1d., perforated 14, on white paper; these stamps illustrating the respective alphabets. The classification of the different alphabets, which are as distinct to Mr. Bornefeld, as the different corner

letterings on the surface printed stamps are to the general collector, does not exhaust his discoveries, and when collectors have digested the alphabets, which several members of his club have already done, with the result that they can correctly allot their stamps to their respective alphabets; Mr. Bornefeld is going to surprise them with other discoveries, which, at present, are still under investigation. Speaking about his club for specialists in line-engraved English stamps, which, by-the-bye, has the novel and interesting feature of including with the sheets a question and answer book, to which each member is at liberty to contribute, Mr. Bornefeld grows very enthusi-

astic. As Founder and Secretary he certainly falls heir to a lot of work, but his labours find their reward in the fact that many of his members have proved apt and intelligent disciples, so much so that we can confidently recommend all specialists in British stamps to join the club.

When Mr. Bornefeld can be induced to talk about subjects other than "punches," "rollers," "dies," "plates," and the many other fascinating adjuncts of line-engraved stamps, he can regale his listeners with many a varied anecdote. Born in Germany, he left the Fatherland in the late seventies to take up an official position in Australia, where he resided until two or three years ago. As a mining expert and director of a number of mining concerns, his duties took him to all parts of the Commonwealth, and, were he to



write a resumé of his many interesting experiences, we feel sure he would have a big circle of readers. One little experience, very typical of the comparatively early days of Melbourne, is interesting, it was while the land boom was at its height, when one morning Mr. Bornefeld was persuaded to join an auctioneer's party and was driven a few miles out of the city to some paddock land that had recently been placed on the market. The first block, a corner one, being put up for sale there was for a few minutes no bidder until Mr. Bornefeld offered £400, at which figure it was knocked down to him. That so shrewd an investor should buy the first block resulted in the sale of the second block for the sum of £500, and the third at a still much higher figure. Mr.

Bornefeld had evidently exercised a great deal of judgment exemplified by the fact that before the sale was concluded he was offered, and accepted, a cheque for a £100 more for his bargain than he gave for it.

Regarding the future of our hobby Mr. Bornefeld is hopeful, but he emphasises the fact that collectors must study their treasures. He is no believer in the current "made for collectors" rubbish, and strongly believes in the future that good old stamps have before them. Many of the leading collectors of British stamps in England are interested in Mr. Bornefeld's discoveries and we feel sure our readers will join us in wishing him success with his future researches.

The Stamps of Saxony.

By D. C. GRAY.

THE first stamp issued by the kingdom of Saxony was the 3 pfennige, red-brown, which was put on sale to the public on 29th June, 1850, although its use was not permitted until 1st July of that year. Its similarity in general appearance to the Bavarian stamps current at that time is accounted for by the fact that the authorities in Saxony consulted the Bavarian post office, which had begun to issue stamps the year before, so soon as they decided to do the same. Only the one low value stamp was put into use, as it was desired to test the practicability of the use of stamps for the prepayment of postage by first using them only to frank newspapers, and then, if the system worked well, to extend it to letters and correspondence of all kinds.



Accordingly the use of the first 3 pfennige stamp was discontinued in June, 1851, after a total of 500,000 specimens had been delivered by the printer. Of this number, 36,922 stamps then remained unsold, and these were all destroyed. Twenty stamps (one sheet) had been previously sent to the Treasury at Dresden as specimens, and apparently these were sold at a few shillings for each stamp in the early nineties.

The fact that the stamp was used on newspapers, and so almost invariably destroyed,

has not unnaturally made it scarce even in used condition, and unused it is of course far more rare.

It may be noted that while the stamp in used condition was priced at only 1/6 in 1864 and 3/- in 1884, in 1894 its value had risen to 90/-, while in the 1908 catalogues it is quoted at £7 10s.

This stamp is usually found obliterated with a circular postmark with the town-name and date, but is occasionally to be met with cancelled by crossed lines drawn with pen and ink, a method of defacement authorised for a short time after the stamp had been issued. The authorities, however, soon found that the ink cancellation could be removed with the aid of chemicals and the stamps used a second time. It was therefore ordered that the stamps should be obliterated with the regular dated cancellation mark. Besides the postmark with the town-name, the grille type of obliteration sometimes occurs on the 3 pfennige, as well as other later types of postmark. The reason of this is that though the sale of the stamp at the post office was discontinued in June, 1851, the use of the stamp was still permitted after the next issue with the King's Head had appeared.

The 3 pfennige stamp was typographed in sheets of twenty, four rows of five, on unwatermarked wove paper, by J. B. Hirschfeld, of Leipsic, and plating is possible, owing to small differences in the stamps and in the arrangement of the coloured lines between them. One entire unused sheet is known, which, however, is probably unique. There are at least three fairly distinct shades of the stamp.

While they had been making this experi-

ment with the 3 pfennige stamp, the postal authorities had been investigating thoroughly the best means of producing the permanent issue which was to follow. Various methods of production were considered and numerous essays were submitted by Hirschfeld. The contract for the higher values of the set was given to Meinhold & Sons, and not to Hirschfeld, apparently because they were able to manufacture the stamps by the glyphographic process, while Hirschfeld produced his stamps by ordinary typography. The 3 pfennige green



stamp, bearing the Arms of Saxony, was printed in sheets of 120, and as the intervals between the stamps were very small, it is not easy to obtain specimens with good margins. The four remaining values of the set $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2 and 3 neu-groschen, which bore the portrait of King Frederick Augustus II., were printed in black on grey, rose, blue, and yellow paper respectively. They too, apparently, were printed in sheets of 120, but, at any rate at first, the sheets were sub-divided (usually into horizontal strips of ten stamps, though sometimes into vertical strips) by the printers before delivery. These stamps were spaced further apart than was the 3 pfennige value, so that specimens with good margins are more easily obtainable.



The $\frac{1}{2}$ neu-groschen may be found on paper varying from almost white to bluish grey, the bluish shades being the scarcer. The paper of the 1 neu-groschen is sometimes deep and sometimes quite pale rose; that of the 3 neu-groschen varies from very deep to quite pale yellow; while the 2 neu-groschen occurs printed on pale blue and on very dark blue paper. Some of the shades of the $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, and 3 neu-groschen may be due to fading, although, considering the large numbers of printings which took place a variation in the colour of the papers used is not surprising. The change of the 2 neu-groschen from pale to very dark blue however was certainly not accidental, but was due to definite instructions given to the

printers by the postal authorities in June, 1852.

The reason for this order was that a post-master had complained to the head office that if the 2 neu-groschen stamps (printed in pale blue) were much exposed to the light they faded into approximately the colour of the $\frac{1}{2}$ neu-groschen. By the adoption of the dark blue paper any mistakes arising from such a cause were entirely obviated. These stamps were all put on sale on 29th July, and were to frank letters from 1st August, 1851. The quantities printed of each value of this set were as follows:—

3 neu-groschen, 12,500,000; $\frac{1}{2}$ neu-groschen, 5,100,000; 1 neu-groschen, 5,700,000; 2 neu-groschen, light blue, 700,000; 2 neu-groschen, dark blue, 1,500,000; 3 neu-groschen, 2,350,000. There were twenty-four printings of the 3 pfennige, seventeen of the $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 neu-groschen, and sixteen of the 2 and 3 neu-groschen.

By far the rarest stamp of Saxony, is, of course, the $\frac{1}{2}$ neu-groschen printed in error on the pale blue paper intended for the 2 neu-groschen stamp. The history of this error seems to be as follows:

One sheet of 120 stamps of the $\frac{1}{2}$ neu-groschen value was by mistake printed on the paper of the 2 neu-groschen. Sixty-three of the stamps were duly issued and used for postage before the error was discovered. The remaining 57 stamps were returned to the head office and were all apparently included in the remainders disposed of by the postal authorities. At the present day there are in well known collections and in the hands of dealers a few single specimens, two or three pairs, a strip of five, a strip of four, and one block of four in unused condition. The last mentioned block was in the Mann collection and is believed to be unique. The stamp is even scarcer used. There is a pair in the Tapling Collection, a pair in a German collection, and a few single used specimens are known. Attempts have been made to produce this error by changing the colour of the ordinary 2 neu-groschen stamps by means of chemicals, but none of these forgeries is really like the genuine error in colour.

The next issue of August 1855 (not 1856, the date still given in some catalogues) was rendered necessary by the death of King Frederick Augustus II. in August 1854, and the accession of King John. The 3 pfennige value, since it bore the Arms of Saxony and not the portrait of the King, remained unchanged.

The 3 pfennige stamp continued to be produced by Hirschfeld, while Meinhold & Sons retained the contract for the other values. The framework of the other values of the set was very little altered, but the profile of King John appeared in the centre, instead of the head of his predecessor. The stamps were printed in black on coloured paper as before, with the exception of the two new values of 5 and 10 neu-groschen, which were in colour on

white paper. The two last-mentioned stamps were not issued until 1856. These stamps were printed in sheets of 100, and more than one plate was used for some of the values. The numerals indicating the value vary a good deal, especially in the case of the $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 neu-groschen.



All the stamps of this set vary considerably in shade, as is only to be expected in the case of a long lived series. The following are the principal variations :

$\frac{1}{2}$	neu-groschen,	black on pearl-grey, grey, lilac-grey, jet-black on grey.
1	„	deep rose, rose, pale rose.
2	„	blue, deep blue, greenish blue.
3	„	deep yellow, yellow, pale yellow.
5	„	pale red, russet-brown, red-brown, vermilion.
10	„	blue, deep blue.

Some of the shades of the $\frac{1}{2}$ neu-groschen are much scarcer than others ; the greenish-blue shade of the 2 neu-groschen is scarce used, though common unused, and the russet-brown 5 neu-groschen is very scarce. Apparently this colour was used by mistake, and though some of the stamps printed in this shade were issued, the printer was compelled to supply others instead, printed in the proper colour, and the balance of the russet-brown stamps was destroyed by the postal authorities.

The 5 neu-groschen is found on thick and on thin paper and is also known double printed (an uncatalogued variety). For the first printing of the 10 neu-groschen stamp thinner paper was used than for the two later printings. The quantities printed of these stamps were as follows :

$\frac{1}{2}$	neu-groschen	..	..	17,705,000
1	„	..	..	17,345,000
2	„	..	..	5,980,000
3	„	..	..	7,880,000
5	„	(verm. and pale red)	..	200,000
5	„	(russet-brown)	..	66,200
5	„	(red-brown)	..	823,800
10	„	..	..	250,000

There were twenty-four printings of the $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, and 3 neu-groschen stamps, one of the russet-brown 5 neu-groschen and three of the 10 neu-groschen. The number of printings of the other shades of the 5 neu-groschen seems not to be ascertainable. There were remainders of this, as well as of some values of the preceding issue, which were sold by the postal authorities, but they were not nearly so numerous as those of the last (perforated)

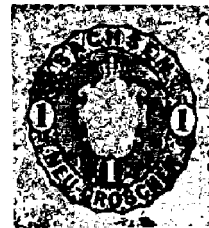
issue, and in the case of some of the values they appear to have been quite small.

The next issue was due to an endeavour to make all the stamps used by the States, belonging to the German-Austrian Postal Union, uniform in colour for the corresponding value of each set.

The designs of several firms were considered, with the result that the contract was given to Giesecke and Devrient, of Leipzig. The new stamps had the Arms of Saxony embossed in white in the centre, and were certainly inferior in appearance to the preceding issues, though the cost of their production was less.



With this issue, perforation was introduced for the first time. The set of stamps consisted of the same values as before, except that the 10 neu-groschen was omitted. The stamps were printed in sheets of 100, and were issued on 1st July, 1863. In the case of the two lowest values the design extends to the corners of the stamp, but in the other stamps it is oval and a white space is left all round. There were fifteen printings of the 5 neu-groschen, sixteen of the 2 neu-groschen, and seventeen of each of the remaining values. The quantities printed of these stamps were as follows:—3 pfennige, 10,850,000; $\frac{1}{2}$ neu-groschen, 17,100,000; 1 neu-groschen, 15,175,000; 2 neu-groschen, 4,870,000; 3 neu-groschen, 5,870,000; 5 neu-groschen, 950,000; 5 neu-groschen (grey and grey-lilac shades), 250,000.



There are four shades of the 3 pfennige stamp—yellow-green, green, blue-green and grey-green; the $\frac{1}{2}$ neu-groschen is either pale or deep orange, orange-vermilion, or yellow; the 1 neu-groschen occurs in rose, pale rose, and lilac-rose; the 2 neu-groschen is blue, Prussian blue or ultramarine; the 3 neu-groschen is yellow-brown, reddish-brown, or light brown; and the 5 neu-groschen is dull lilac, lilac, grey-lilac, grey, or bluish-grey. The last three printings of the 5 neu-groschen, in January, March and May, 1867, were all in the greyish shades, in consequence of com-

plaints made by the postal authorities as to the colour used for that value. As the post office of Saxony was made part of the postal system of the North German Confederation in January 1868, and the stamps of Saxony withdrawn, the greyish shades of the 5 neugroschen are rather scarce used. The 1 neugroschen is known imperforate vertically.*

Postmarks to Search For.

Now that so much attention is being paid to British stamps used abroad, we think it is time somebody made a study of Indian stamps used outside India. The study would be of great historic and philatelic interest and by no means a simple matter. Indian stamps were used by our armies in the Persian, Abyssinian, Chinese and Somali wars, and also occasionally in South Africa, but in the latter it is doubtful whether they were officially authorized. In times of peace they were used in the Straits Settlements, which were part of India till the middle sixties, in Zanzibar, B. E. A., Uganda, Somaliland, Persian Gulf ports, e.g., Bushire, Muscat, Bunder Abbas, and in Baghdad and Teheran. Outlying portions of the Indian Empire as at present constituted should also be attended to, for instance, Aden, Perim, Andamans, the former of which has at various times recently been on the verge of going over to the Foreign Office. Both service and ordinary postage were in use wherever Indian stamps were current after 1866.

—*Philatelic Journal of India.*

1d. Blacks Wanted.

MR. BORNEFELD, our Well-known Philatelist this month, will be greatly indebted to any of our readers who, having pairs, blocks or strips of 1d. blacks, would send them to him for inspection.

Mr. Bornefeld is very busy at work re-constructing the eleven plates of the 1d. black and, although he has many thousands of specimens, still lacks a few necessary for his plates.

All sendings will be carefully returned, unless of course the stamps are for sale, in which case doubtless Mr. Bornefeld would find some he requires.

Address: 59, Thurlow Park Road, Dulwich.

*The chief works on the stamps of Saxony are the following: "Geschichte der Post-Werthzeichen des Königreichs Sachsen," by Dr. Kloss and "Geschichte der Sächsischen Zeitungsmarke 3 pfennige rot," by Dr. Rommel, to which the writer is indebted; and Moen's book on the "Stamps of Saxony," which, however, is not so authoritative as some of the other handbooks published by Moens.

A fairly full account of the stamps of Saxony has lately appeared (since the present article was written) in the *Berliner Briefmarken Zeitung*, which deals fully with the various postmarks.

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR, *P.J. of G.B.*

New Zealand,

10th Oct. 1908.

DEAR SIR,

SHIPWRECKED *P.J.G.B.'s.*

I shall be glad if you will cancel my letter re the June No. of *P.J.G.B.* as I have since received it on the 8th of October.

The cause of the delay was that it was on board the "Aeon" which was wrecked on Christmas Island, on July 18th, the passengers and mails remaining there for nearly two months until relief came, so that it has had rather an eventful voyage.

Yours faithfully,

G. M. POTTINGER.

TO THE EDITOR, *P.J. of G.B.*

DEAR SIR,

N.Z. "OFFICIALS."

In a recent number of your journal you asserted that there was "no earthly use for such an absurdity," alluding to the New Zealand £1 Official.

Allow us to inform you that we have seen two copies legitimately used to Europe. The main use for this value, however, is to pay for bulk parcels of letters and circulars from departments, the 5/- being far too small a value to go on back of a docket 3½in. by 2½in. to pay for say £6 or £9 postage. The stamp, like all our Officials, could never have been printed for collectors, as the sale of officials is forbidden to the public, though a few are always leaking out, like the British Officials.

Yours, &c.,

WILCOX, SMITH & Co.

A New Year's Greeting.

THE I.P.U. founded in 1881 is the Pioneer of the many societies since formed on similar lines, and which have adopted the rules and exchange packet system inaugurated by this Society.

During an existence of over a quarter of a century, this Society has had it ups and downs, but has never been in a better position than to-day to serve its members, to whom it offers all the advantages held out by competing societies.

The Officers and Committee spare no efforts to maintain the Society's efficiency and success, but this can only be attained by the whole-hearted support of the members they represent.

May we therefore ask you during the coming

year, to extend to us your encouragement and support, by attending the meetings when possible, assisting with papers or displays, patronising the Exchange Section now excellently managed by Dr. Marx, and by introducing new members.

The Library and Forgery Collection stand in need of anything you may have to spare, and it would facilitate the work of the Hon. Sec., if members would kindly note that subscriptions are due on January 1st, and that a remittance as soon as convenient after that date would oblige.

With all good wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

On behalf of the Committee,
I am, yours faithfully,
THOS. H. HINTON, *Hon. Sec.*



December 1908, Report.

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MEMBERSHIP.

Candidates for admission must be over 18 years of age, and supply at least two satisfactory references. They will then be proposed for election, and if no objection be lodged within fourteen days, be duly elected. The Entrance Fee, 2/6, and Subscription, 5/., should accompany the application, and will be refunded in the event of the non-election of the applicant. (The Committee are empowered to elect Life Members, not exceeding ten in number, at a fee of Two Guineas.)

NOTICES.

As announced the Special Meeting of the Committee and Representatives of other Societies was held on December 10th, and a full report of same appears in another column.

The next Meeting will be held at Essex Hall on Thursday, January 14th, 1909, at 8 p.m. (Committee Meeting 7.15) when Mr. W. H. Moore will give a Display of English stamps used abroad. All Members are invited to attend and any visitors will be welcome.

Now is the time to introduce New Members, send along your proposals. The Society has to cordially thank Mr. W. H. Peckitt for a handsome donation to the Forgery Collection. It is hoped others will follow his good example. We shall shortly have our duplicates in order for exchange. Don't forget the Library and the Exchange Packet Section. A hearty New Year's Greeting to all appears in another part of this Christmas number, as the Hon. Sec. has had it whispered to him that this corner of the Journal does not always receive the attention that his efforts would lead him to expect.

THOS. H. HINTON,

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Int. Phil. Union.
26, Cromford Road, East Putney, S.W.

December 12th, 1908.

New Leaves to Cut.

THE STAMPS OF HONG KONG.*

BY B. W. H. POOLE.

WE have received a review copy of Mr. Poole's brochure, dealing with the stamps of Hong Kong. The author of this booklet has not been able to bring very much original matter to light, but he has compiled a useful little work, which, besides being extremely well written, is of genuine interest.

Dealing with the three new values, the 4c., 6c., and 30c. C.C. stamps (which did not appear on unwatermarked paper), Mr. Poole says:

"The design of the new values—4c., 6c. and 30c. is, generally speaking, the same as that of the others—i.e., the special dies for each denomination were produced from the same 'mother' die, but they differ from each other and also from all those previously issued in many minor details. This, as we pointed out before, proves beyond doubt that a separate 'die' and plate was made for each value, the central or portrait portion being taken from a 'common' die, and then touched up."

Mr. Poole describes the various minute differences, none of which is of great importance.

In chapter VI. we find the provisional stamps of 1879-80 dealt with. We are told that blocks and strips of these stamps are scarce, which is undoubtedly the case, while the following slight varieties may be found:

*Published by D. Field, 4 & 5, Royal Arcade, Old Bond Street, W. Price 6d.

"The 5c. on 18c. with the serif at the right of the 's' of 'cents' omitted, and the top of the letter bent downwards; the 10c. on 12c. with a broken 't'; and the 10c. on 16c. with the stop omitted."

As is pointed out, the last variety was probably caused by a small piece of paper intervening between the stamp and type at the time of printing.

Each issue of stamps is dealt with, in many cases Mr. Poole being able to relate some little anecdote—to wit—we are told that the \$1 on 96c. stamps of 1891 were withdrawn from sale in a hurry, in September, 1897, owing to the fact that a number of 10c. stamps were surcharged by a local postmaster with "1 Dollar" in similar type to that appearing on the genuine stamps. The "cute" official evidently relying on the similarity of the colours of the two stamps to avoid detection.

The concluding chapters of Mr. Poole's little book deal with the King's Head stamps and the Postal Fiscals. In tabulating the former we notice that the letters "U.," or "S.," or both, are used; these mystic symbols indicate whether the stamps are on ordinary or chalky paper, surely "O." or "C." would have been better understood.

We must certainly congratulate Mr. Poole on the result of his labours; he has written a brief, concise story of the stamps of Hong Kong, which will be of interest to all general collectors of Colonial stamps.

The specialist, however, will find this latest addition to philatelic literature of little value; but, fortunately we are not all advanced specialists. We must certainly confess to having enjoyed reading this little handbook, an enjoyment only marred by finding that the various issues described, have, in nearly every case, a price marked against the stamps, such price being, we presume, the figure at which the publisher of the book can sell the stamps. We certainly wish this feature had been omitted.

THE STAMP COLLECTORS' ANNUAL.

This hardy annual, an early and welcome visitor this year, fully maintains the traditions its five predecessors have established, in fact, we may safely say that the present number is the best yet published.

The editors of the "Annual," Messrs. P. C. Bishop and C. Nissen have served up a very appetising bill of fare, which, although not containing all the courses which the advanced philatelic epicure would desire, is of interest, and likely to be of service to the general collector. Perhaps the most useful feature is a capitally compiled philatelic index of articles which have appeared during the past nine months in the English speaking philatelic press. If a fault is to be found with this index it is certainly the fault of admission and not

of omission. Mr. Bishop contributes a long and interesting chapter entitled "The Story of the Year"—wherein he tells of all the most important events that have taken place in the world of stamps during the past twelve months. Other chapters deal with the coning Manchester Exhibition. Postmarks and their collection. The Circular Delivery stamps of Great Britain, the "Skilling Banco" stamps of Sweden, the Stamps of the Chinese Treaty Ports, and other topics, all of which are likely to appeal to the general collector. As in previous years the Annual contains a handy reference list of stamp societies and stamp clubs. A few inaccuracies have crept in and there are a few omissions, but notwithstanding this, the 1909 Annual is well worth investing in and will prove of interest to all classes of stamp collectors.

Zumstein (Ernst) Spezial-Katalog und Handbuch über die Briefmarken der Schweiz. Pp. 207+56. Plates and illustrations. Berne: Published by the Author. Price 3f. 50.

Notwithstanding the perennial popularity of the stamps of Switzerland in the estimation of collectors from the earliest days of philately, it is strange that no convenient and authoritative handbook has been published upon the country, although periodical literature bears full witness to the study which the stamps have received. The magnificent work of Mirabaud and de Reuterskiöld is not only (by reason of its limited issue and high price) unattainable by the general collector, but its scope is limited to the earlier and middle issues, and this is so of several smaller monographs published in German, the only general handbook being that by Pfenniger, issued in 1890. The publication of Herr Zumstein's work is therefore attended by more than ordinary interest, and we venture to assert that it will be received by collectors with an equal degree of satisfaction. This is, we consider, a model of what philatelic monographs should be; its production is typographically excellent, particularly when the modest price is considered, and it bears wherever examined the marks of studious care.

In his preface Herr Zumstein forecasts the intention of the book, and he claims that the most complete examination of the stamps of his country has been made. Full references have been made to official documents, and we are pleased to see that useful statistics of numbers issued and similar details have been included and tabulated. Particular attention has been bestowed upon the issues after 1881, and some most interesting information is given for the first time in consecutive form, to which we refer later. What is more unusual in a publication of this kind is rendered possible by Herr Zumstein's commercial advantages, *i.e.*, the inclusion of prices, not merely for ordinary stamps used and unused, but for the

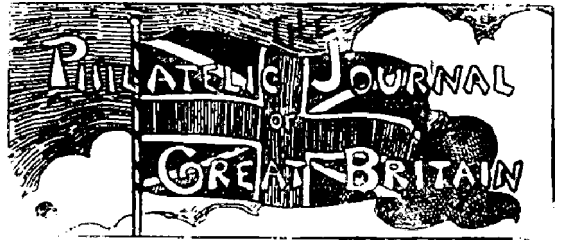
many minor varieties, for stamps on original cover, with special postmark, etc. These prices have been based, we read, upon personal experience and a careful average of value now current in Switzerland, and they may be taken as a more or less standard reflection of the market in the stamps to which they refer, and they gain additional significance as the prices of a dealer. While on this matter it may not be out of place to refer to the announcement made by continental advertisements that the famous Mirabaud collection of Switzerland has been acquired by Herr Zumstein, and from such indications as we can derive the prices quoted of certain stamps from this collection compare without comment with those given in the volume under review.

The division of the handbook is in several parts. The two first treat of the Cantonal issues, particular and general, and occupy 22 pages. The third part includes the rest of the issues, and the remainder of the work deals with postage due, reprints, telegraph stamps, private stamps, an excellent section on proofs and essays with interesting illustrations, and envelopes. There are also 55 pages devoted to postmarks, and this can be strongly commended to collectors, as one side of the page gives good reproductions, while the other gives prices of specimens with certain postmarks.

While the whole volume bears every evidence of thoroughness, the portion which will probably raise most interest is that relating to the issues from 1882, the standing figure of Helvetia. Numerous varieties of these issues are given (some of which we think might have been omitted, at least from illustration), as mere printer's waste, and much information is given as to retouching of many of the plates, which, owing to defective methods and manufacture, were often very bare in places, and were worked upon by the engraver, usually without official authorisation.

The perforations of these issues are also worked out in detail, and as practically the whole of these stamps are priced, we can imagine a good deal of hunting will result among the common stamps, in order to discover some of the varieties. Of the retouches many are unimportant and very difficult to detect, but there are some stamps bearing very marked retouching, particularly in the background.

We cannot do more than give a general idea of this exhaustive work, and every collector interested in the stamps of Switzerland should obtain a copy; even if he is unable to read German, he will find the prices of great value, and as a French edition is announced to appear, we may perhaps expect that an English one may follow. This volume is still another instance of the debt which collectors owe to dealers in philatelic research.



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Current Chatter.

BY ANGUS MCTAVISH.

"His hobby was rare stamps, and his cabin was filled with cases containing valuable specimens. Every day he went over his collection, labelling, classifying, and docketing the new ones which he had purchased at the last port."

The above extract is from the Christmas number of the *Wide World Magazine* and refers to a stamp collecting sea captain. Shades of "Tancred" what a description; I

can picture the havoc that a storm would make in the worthy sea dogs "cases." Perchance the docket on his latest acquired *Caymanacus gumpapacorom* would get shifted, or the pin through the centre of his unique *Newguniacus twoandsixpenus* would work loose, while the havoc caused amongst the killing bottles and the drying boxes would be great. I wonder if the *Wide World's* captain prefers to take his specimens on the wing, whether he "sugars" for them at night, or whether he breeds them from the *larvæ*?

From the agony column of the *Daily Telegraph* 25/11/08.

ANGUS.—Come back to me. All will be forgiven. Your secret is safe.

Sounds enticing, but I don't think I will face it yet. The wee bit Angus is too canny a burd to be caught so easily.

Curious some coincidences are, are they not? In last month's *P.J.G.B.* was reprinted the first half of an article, entitled "British Central Africa and its Mail Services," taken from an old number of *St. Martin's le Grand*, published I believe, at least five years ago. In the *Postage Stamp* dated November 28th, I notice an article headed "Nyasaland Local Mails" which, on perusal, I find is our B.C.A. friend under a different title. Funny isn't it? Editor Nankivell evidently knows a good thing when he spots it, without much expenditure of brain fag either.

As many of my readers will have a few spare minutes at Xmas time, they may care to digest the following statistics. They are all guaranteed original, with full gum, and perfectly genuine in every respect.

(1) That the Chancery Lane stamp auctioneers use 9lbs. of butter for their afternoon teas.

(2) That the average collector measures three miles 189 yards and ten inches of perforation in the course of the year.

(3) That the muscular energy expended by amateur dealers in looking over mixed lots at auction sales, would, if concentrated, launch three battleships.

(4) That the combined lifting power of London collectors' tweezers, would, it is estimated, equal the lifting capacity of two full grown balloons.

(5) That if a certain well advertised collector could sell his collection at his own valuation, there would be a sum realized big enough to pay off three-eighths of the National Debt, feed an army corps for seven months and endow a special ward with padded tweezers at Hanwell.

(6) That the courtesy extended to unknown visitors at a certain dealer's (*within* the four mile radius), would, if extended very much, fill the hole in a telegraphically used Spanish stamp.

I have a lot more facts stored away in the McTavish brain department, but even at Xmas time I dare not trot any more out. Selections, however, could be sent out on approval at 18/6 per dozen.

In the November *Philatelic Adviser* I see it chronicled that the correspondence received at the *Adviser* office from the Dutch West Indies is franked with stamps overprinted either with "Java" or with "Buiten Bezit" or without either overprint. Really Mr. Oliver you musn't sit up doing the new issues after returning from a whist drive, or one of these fine mornings you will be chronicling Hong Kong stamps overprinted Cayman Islands or New Zealand Pictorials surcharged in piastres.

The correspondent who so kindly contributed a letter on the subject of "Condition" to last month's *P.J.G.B.*, has asked me to reply, on his behalf, to some remarks made by one, Cornelius Wrinkle, in the *Postage Stamp*. The callow youth Cornelius asks if the "correspondent" can name a single great collector, or writer, who is not a so-called condition crank. Yes, Wrinkle, I can. To begin with, there is McTavish, who although keen as keen can be on condition, does not, nevertheless, turn his nose up at badly centred stamps, when a well centred copy is unprocurable.

Apart from Mac, who, of course, is so gullible, there are many well-known collectors and writers (although the terms are not synonymous) who are not condition cranks. I could certainly name half-a-dozen of our leading specialists who collect "poor" copies, *not* in preference to "superb" specimens, but simply because from a philatelist's point of view a poor specimen is sometimes as helpful as is an immaculate copy.

It is generally speaking, the Cayman, the Sudan, or the Solomon Islands collector who makes such a fuss about condition and not the older philatelist who thoroughly realizes the almost impossibility of obtaining certain old issues (not necessary howling rarities) in picked condition. To wit, Oh great Cornelius, have you seen many well centred copies of the perf. 14, 1861, West Australians?

From another of the columns of the *Postage Stamp* I see that that great adviser of the young, Mr. O. Reginald Gum, states that Prices have languished at auctions, and Competition has not been keen. Really, Mr. Cornelius Gum—I mean Mr. Reginald Wrinkle—no, I mean Mr. Gum, how can you tell your young gunsuckers such a tarradiddle. Prices languishing—oh dear, how sad—but, happy thought, perhaps O! Gum refers to Tunbridge-Wells stamp auctions and not those held in the neighbouring village of London. Prices languishing! By Gum—if they *were*, I would do without *another* yard on the new kilt that is to be, and would go a buster on one of the "mixed bundles" of entires at the next sale.

I have recently seen a little leaflet called "B. & K. Items," published by Bridger and Kay, of Fleet Street. Mr. Kay, the explorer and discoverer of the Tongan Islands (or was it the Tongan turtle?) tells me that a perusal of this pamphlet will interest all collectors. I don't like the title, it reminds me too forcibly of those nasty little B and S items which have a way of adding themselves to hotel bills when the wanderer wanders east of Suez in a dry and thirsty clime. The "B. & K. Items," however, are sent free, so hurry up with your application postcards.

Some people are born famous, etc., etc. Some achieve additional fame by reading a paper about War stamps before a Philatelic Society. I see that our esteemed friend, Mr. W. E. Lincoln, so well known in the stamp world, has now included the letters W. A. R. (among others) in his initials. According to the *S.C.F.* of December 12th, Mr. Lincoln is now known as W. E. W. A. R. W. S. Lincoln. Sounds something like "We want votes," doesn't it? I guess the *S.C.F.* people will have to trot out one of their gold medals as a slight recompense. At least that is what I should expect if they tacked most of the alphabet *before* my name.

The other day I heard rather a good thing. Said a dealer, "my mounts lick creation and all creation lick my mounts." Not bad, eh? P.S.—The addresses of the fifty-five dealers who originated this witticism can be sent on application.

Next week—X'mas—I hope all my readers will have a right good time, may their festive boards groan and may the demons called Care and Worry be conspicuous by their absence. McTavish hath said it.

Death of Sir W. B. Avery, Bt.

IT is with great regret that we have to report the death of so well known a collector as was the late Sir W. B. Avery. Sir William passed away on the 28th of October, at his town residence in Portland Place. President of the Birmingham Philatelic Society, and a member of the Royal, Sir William was a well-known figure in the active collecting world and his demise will be keenly felt by a large number of collectors. We had the pleasure of interviewing Mr. W. B. Avery, as he was then, nearly eight years ago, on behalf of the readers of this journal, so there is no need to refer here to his various philatelic treasures. Sir William was a very well-known figure, both in the social and commercial world, so his loss will be mourned by a large circle of friends.

Should Damaged Stamps be Exchanged by the Post Office?

AN interesting point of discussion has been raised by Mr. J. A. Leon, a collector who makes a speciality of pictorial New Zealand stamps. In an effort to procure the current issue in different shades, he wrote to several correspondents in various parts of the Dominion, enclosing remittances for the purchase of blocks of stamps. Owing to careless packing some of the stamps reached him stuck together, and in trying to separate them without removing the gum, he damaged them in such a way that they were useless either for postage or for putting in a collection. He sent the stamps so spoiled, which were in blocks, to the face value of 7/2, to the Secretary of the General Post Office at Wellington, explaining the circumstances and asking if they might be exchanged for perfect specimens. The debatable point is whether this request was an unreasonable one. The New Zealand Post Office evidently thought it was as the reply was as follows:—

"Referring to your letter of the 26th June last, asking that the New Zealand damaged postage stamps to the value of 7/2 enclosed herein, be exchanged for perfect specimens, I have to express regret that your request cannot be complied with.

"Your stamped addressed envelope is used for this letter, as desired.

Yours obediently,
(Signed) D. ROBERTSON,
Secretary."

We know that our own Post Office will exchange damaged stamps for perfect ones, and thinking it would be interesting to know the usages of other countries in such cases, we wrote to the Directors of the Posts in Germany, France and Norway, for information on the point. Germany and Norway replied to the effect that damaged stamps would be exchanged for stamps of the same value, but the Director of the French Post Office informed us that they had no regulations under which such a request could be entertained.

We should be glad to hear from any of our readers who can tell us the rules in any other countries, as it seems to us that a stamp that has been accidentally damaged in such a way that it is impossible to use it for postage, and yet is *undoubtedly unused*, should be exchanged for specimens that the post office would recognise.



Proposed Philatelic Club.

As announced, a meeting of representatives of a number of leading Societies and Clubs was held at Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, on Thursday, Dec. 10th, when there were present: J. C. Sidebotham (in the chair), F. Reichenheim, W. Cool, J. E. Joselin, A. B. Kay, T. Widdowson, D. H. Jackson, C. J. Phillips, W. S. King, A. Selinger, P. L. Pemberton, F. F. Lamb, P. P. Brown, J. L. Eastwood, A. C. Constantinides, and T. H. Hinton.

A brief resume of the previous meetings having been given, after an animated discussion, it was proposed by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Joselin, and carried with two dissentients: "That it is desirable to form a Philatelic Club in London, under the auspices of existing Societies and Clubs"; and the follow-

ing provisional committee was appointed to formulate a scheme and report to a future meeting: Messrs. W. Cool (Herts), D. H. Jackson (City of London), J. E. Joselin (Birmingham), A. B. Kay (Fiscal), P. L. Pemberton (I.P.U.), C. J. Phillips (King Edward VII.), A. Selinger (Juniors), T. Widdowson (Leicester), and T. H. Hinton (Hon. Sec.). This committee will meet at 68, High Holborn, on Thursday, Jan. 7th, 1909, at 6.45 p.m. Meanwhile any suggestion from members of other Societies who were invited to the above meeting, but were unable to be present, will be laid before the committee and carefully considered by them, if forwarded to the Hon. Sec., T. H. HINTON, 26, Cromford Road, East Putney, London, S.W.

The Hobby Club.

"THE attempt to organise a club in the West End for society people with hobbies is meeting with marked success.

Lord Molesworth, one of the honorary secretaries, told our representative that about 800 applications for membership of the Hobby Club had been received, and a committee was now being formed as an elective body to which the applications would be submitted. 'The success of the scheme so far has quite outrun my anticipations.'

Negotiations are being completed for the rental of permanent club premises in the neighbourhood of St. James's Square, and it is hoped that these may be ready for the members early in the spring. One of the club's chief features will be a comprehensive library of reference books relating to various hobbies.

'The range of the Hobby Club's interests will be wide and varied,' say the organisers in their prospectus, 'and will include science, literature, art, music, politics, travel, education, amusements, sport, etc.'

The club will appeal strongly to collectors, for whom it promises to afford useful facilities for the exhibition, purchase, sale, or exchange of their curios. In addition to a committee of honorary experts, the services of an independent and expert valuer will be secured for the benefit of members wishing to know the value of curios and the approximate prices they should give or accept.

Photography and philately are the hobbies most strongly represented by the applicants up to the present."

The above is extracted from a recent number of the *Evening Standard*.

We have no doubt but that such a club will appeal to a large number of wealthy people of both sexes.

We have *not* been consulted, but proffer, all the same, the suggestion that the Committee of Management have power to appoint efficient officers.

For one, we would suggest a resident brain specialist. For another, a well known referee; one capable of amicably deciding as to whether Sir Cuthbert de Haw Haw's diabolio set could be considered a good exchange for the dear Duchess's set of Solomon Islands.

A Clever Post Office Mouse.

THE following copy of a Babu letter appeared in a recent issue of the *Daily Chronicle*;—

"The Sub-Postmaster report that last evening a mice came out from behind the office door, and after walking a little stammered and breathed its last in the presence of the Sub-Postmaster there. As these are the prognostics of plague, I beg you will kindly arrange to have the office disinfected at any early date."

—*St. Martin's le Grand.*

THE *Evening Standard* for Dec. 15th contains the rumour that a few million stamps will shortly be issued by the Turkish Postal Authorities, to commemorate the new Constitution!



DEC. 20, 1908.

Philately at Home.

THE *London Philatelist* for November contains a short article on the 10d. and 1/- Embossed Stamps of Great Britain, being a resumé of the paper read before the Society, by the Earl of Crawford, on November 5th.

Mr. F. H. Melland contributes a further instalment of his article, dealing with the stamps issued by the British South Africa Company. The following extract is of interest:

I have been unable to find any record of the 8d. imperf. (1896-7 issue) as catalogued in Stanley Gibbons, but the facts as to the 3s. are as follows:—Only one sheet was known with this variety, and this sheet had the bottom row imperf., and therefore the adjacent (fifth) row imperf. on one side. This had been in the main stock in the Distributor's office at Fort Jameson for many years, and was eventually issued, in the ordinary course, to the post office at Fort Jameson, when two gentlemen were lucky enough to secure the entire double row containing the variety. Half—the right-hand double row of five—I eventually bought. Unless some of the errors of the Bulawayo provisionals are scarcer, which I doubt, and excepting the 8d. imperf. of which I know nothing, this is the rarest stamp in this country, as there are only ten in existence, and it is, in my opinion, of far more interest than, for instance, a local printer's error, such as the inverted centre "B.C.A." provisional penny of 1898, which was also limited to ten, and is catalogued at £65. An error from such a firm as Perkins Bacon and Co. is beyond suspicion as being "accidentally done on purpose," which all local errors are not—though I do not impute any such design to the particular error in the "B.C.A." quoted though none of that provisional issue were sold over the counter to the public, which accounts for the high price of unused specimens. The 3s., imperforate, is undoubtedly a genuine error, which slipped into the consignment without the consignors' notice, and is entirely free from any suspicion of speculation. It was sold at the post office in the ordinary course of business.

The rest of the *L.P.* is filled with an obituary notice of the late Sir W. B. Avery, a goodly budget of Occasional Notes, Reviews, New Issue List, and the other features usually to be found in the columns of our valued contemporary.

The November number of the *Philatelic Record* contains a continuation of Mr.

L. L. R. Hausburg's article on the Lithographed high value stamps of the 1881 issue of Queensland. The current instalment deals with the minute differences of the ten different types of the 5/- stamps, together with the description of a few of the flaws to be found on the 10/- stamps.

Mr. B. T. K. Smith contributes the first instalment of an interesting article on the stamps of Liberia. Mr. Smith reproduces Dr. Legrand's description of the method of production of the first stamps, which, although written many years ago, is well worthy of reprinting.

There can be no doubt that, as Dr. Legrand wrote, the Liberian stamps must have been produced from three separate line-engraved dies. "The sheets were made up by transferring to the lithographic stone impressions taken from the original dies, and when one stone became too worn, it was easy to make another transfer by the same method"; but, as he went on to point out, these transfers would vary, even if done by the most skilled workman, who would naturally pay more attention to the actual designs than to the minute accuracy of their arrangement.

Regarding the question of perforation of the first issued stamps, Mr. Smith says:

In the case of this issue we are first of all met with the question as to the status of the imperforate stamps. Were these ever in use? As far as I am aware, no; undoubtedly used specimens are known, and all we can say of them is that they seem to have been regarded by the early authorities as a separate issue. Writing of them in 1867, E. L. Pemberton described them as being far rarer than the perforated set, adding that "they can only be secured now on the breaking up of an old collection."

How strange it seems to read of "old collections" in the year 1867! Mr. Smith's article contains a lot of interesting information, mostly derived from the writings of early philatelists, concerning the first type of Liberian stamps. These stamps are not very popular but no doubt Mr. Smith's researches will help to popularise them, at any rate collectors will welcome fresh information, as philatelists and dealers alike have yet a lot to learn concerning their history.

Mr. W. Dorning Beckton, the well-known Manchester collector, is the November notable Philatelist, and, like so many of the *Record's* notables, is an old friend of our readers, as he was "interviewed" by us some years ago.

A short Editorial note, a rather belated detailed report of the Postmaster-General's, and the usual "New Issues" (sometimes anything but *new*) and "Notes" complete a very good number of our contemporary.

In *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, dated November 14th, we find the conclusion of Dr. Stanley Taylor's admirable article dealing with the locally overprinted Jamaica stamps, namely the 2½d. on 4d. surcharge and the thin "Official" overprint on the halfpenny stamp.

Concerning the 2½d. surcharge, Dr. Taylor has fixed the date of issue as 29th May, 1890. On this date it was announced in the *Colonial Standard* and other newspapers that, under certain conditions, letters would be posted to America for 2½d. each (against the previous rate of 4d.)

Dr. Taylor states that there are two different and quite distinct settings up of the type used in surcharging this stamp. We make the following extracts:

Setting I. Plate F, No. 2.

The words TWO PENCE HALF-PENNY were printed in two lines across the lower part of the 4d. stamp of 1883, viz.—

TWO PENCE
HALF-PENNY

The length of the TWO PENCE is 14·14½mm. The length of the HALF-PENNY is 15·15½mm. The height of the letters is 2½mm.

I have placed this setting first on account of the errors it contains; my earliest dated specimen is unimportant—20 September, 1890.

The words TWO PENCE HALF-PENNY were set up in type twelve times in two horizontal rows of six, and printed five times down each pane of the 4d. stamp, and I am happy to say that the whole of the twelve types can be plated. The arrangement is as follows—

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12

The first important fact to be noticed is that the spacing between TWO PENCE and HALF-PENNY in the first row of six stamps is 1mm. In the second row it is 1½mm.

Dr. Taylor proceeds to describe the minute differences to be found. In the

second setting it would appear that the type was set up as follows:—

Setting II. Plate G.

In this setting the type was put up in a single vertical line of ten types repeated six times across the pane, thus—

1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9
10	10	10	10	10	10

The length of the two lines of the surcharge and the height of the letters are the same as in the first setting; but the spacing between the two lines of the surcharge is always 1mm., and the distance from the surcharge on one stamp to that on the stamp above or below it is 18mm., except between Nos. 5 and 6 of the vertical strip, when the distance is only 17½mm.

In concluding his article, Dr. Taylor says, concerning the "official" stamps.

Of these stamps I consider the following is the order in point of rarity:—

- Double surcharge, one vertical } equal.
- Double "blind" }
- Single "blind."
- Double surcharges, one inverted.
- Double surcharges, ordinary.
- Inverted surcharges.

We have very much enjoyed Dr. Taylor's articles, and should like to see many more—of equal interest—in the pages of our weekly Strand contemporary.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly, dated November 28th, the number wholly edited by Major Evans, is not a particularly interesting number from the general collector's point of view. Major Evans contributes a further instalment of his article on Nowanuggur stamps, likewise a short article dealing with Bhopai stamps, both of which, although doubtless of supreme interest to the advanced specialist, are dreadfully heavy from the general collector, or medium specialist's point of view.

Mons. L. Hanciau is still at work on his monumental article, entitled "The Postal Issues of Italy and the Italian Colonies." This article contains a vast amount of information, but we must confess, that it is commencing to weary us, although we have certainly maintained our interest for more than a couple of years! A couple of pages of excellent "Philatelic Notes and Queries" and the usual "New Issue" list complete the contents of *The Weekly*.

The *Philatelic Adviser* for November does not contain a very great amount of philatelic research. The Editorial deals with the question recently resuscitated in the *P. J. of I.*, by Mr. Crofton, as to the advisability of the R.P.S. permitting dealers to become members. The writer in the *Philatelic Adviser* expresses his views, which are, roughly, as follows: That any philatelist who receives payment for writing in a philatelic paper, or editing a journal, is to be regarded as a professional, as distinct from an amateur, who might do these things for his amusement.

It is pointed out that the statutes of the R.P.S. do not debar the professional philatelist from membership. This being the case, we fail to distinguish the difference between the professional philatelic journalist—who makes capital out of his knowledge—and the professional amateur collector dealer—who either buys a few auction lots, because they would show a profit if resold, or bloats in the stamps of a certain country with the ultimate idea of selling at a profit.

If writing for payment constitutes a professional, why should not buying and selling stamps constitute a professional dealer? Look at it from any point of view that you will, it seems to us that by excluding dealers from membership of the R.P.S., the Fellows of that Society impute a slur on dealers which is very unjust. We agree, however, with the writer in the *Philatelic Adviser* to this extent that "the whole question is best as it is," by which we mean that sooner than allow certain individuals who masquerade as professional dealers to enjoy the social benefits of the Royal Society, it would be better to exclude all dealers. Fortunately, dealers on the whole are a most straightforward, kindly and highly educated class of men and as such should be eligible as members to any Society. Unfortunately, however, there are exceptions to this rule, and these exceptions, themselves beyond the pale of the benefits derived from the association with honest men, are the real reason why dealers are excluded from membership. Mr. Wetherell contributes a very short instalment of his paper dealing with the 1870 issue of Spain. The same writer under the heading "A Controversial

Question," deals with the question of "Used Abroads." His deductions are very sound and well worth reproducing.

The stamps of Great Britain used abroad have no status as varieties of British stamps, and are only of interest in a collection of British stamps to show the extent of the work of the British post offices in other parts of world at different times.

But as representing a period in the history of the postal arrangements of another land, they have a philatelic status under that particular country, and should, therefore, be collected as specimens of that country.

One stamp (the 2½d. for choice) should be shown with the postmark of every different foreign post office, and mounted with the British collection to show the extent of the system, and all the rest should be mounted as the first issue from the post office in that particular country,

To illustrate my meaning—the opponents of the stamps as separate varieties claim that the stamps of Malta (for instance) commence with the Maltese ½d., they do not recognise the stamps sold in Malta prior to that issue, *i.e.*, they do not consider that the change of post office government is of importance, yet they will collect Chilean stamps used in Peru, and pay fancy prices for Iquique postmarks. This does not seem logical, but I think the whole difficulty can be overcome by the three items mentioned above.

A comprehensive review of Mr. C. J. Phillips' recently published Fiji handbook, a page of Topicalities and the usual capital New Issue list are the remaining principal features of the *P.A.*

Several copies of the *Postage Stamp* are before us, all containing a varied selection of original and reprinted articles. Cornelius Wrinkle is always very much to the fore, and, as of old, can safely be relied upon for one or two lightly written philatelic "joaks."

In the copy dated Nov. 28th, Mr. Nankivell concludes his article on Cape of Good Hope stamps, while Mr. Poole pegs away at his *Philatelic Dictionary*. In the copy dated Dec. 5th we find a brief history of the Cayman Islands and their stamps, the weekly dose of Mr. Poole's admirable P.D. and a goodly budget of "Notes," "Reviews," and "New Issues." In the columns headed "In the Stamp Market" we find the following.

I ventured the other day to say that prices were languishing at auctions and considering the times, that was not to be wondered at. But Mr. Telfer writes to the Editor as follows:—"I was astounded to read in the current *Postage Stamp* that 'prices are languishing at auctions,' 'competition is not keen,' etc., and should like to know where your Mr. O. R. Gum gets his information from. My experiences (and I suppose I should know something about the subject) are very different, in fact exactly the reverse. Might I suggest that Mr. Gum wants waking up a bit?"

"Well, I have no objection to be awakened to the fact that I was rather pessimistic, and that as Mr. Telfer would have us believe, prices are booming at the auctions. *But is it so?*"

We have ventured to italicize the last sentence.

Of course, beyond conducting the fortnightly and sometimes weekly stamp sales of Messrs. Plumridge & Co., and being recognised as the smartest stamp auctioneer in London, Mr. Telfer *really* knows nothing about auction prices. How can it be expected that a stamp auctioneer can know anything about prices? when he merely sits at a table and wags a little hammer. Really, Mr. O. Gum, the next time a leading authority takes the trouble to correct an obvious error, you should be a little more thankful.

The November number of the *Monthly Report* contains an instalment and the December number the conclusion of Mr. R. B. Yardley's admirable paper entitled "Collectible Varieties and Curiosities." Throughout the course of his article Mr. Yardley has shown the important part that very minor details, such as flaws, plate numbers, etc., play in the study of philately, not that they are of much importance by themselves, but that they help to link up, link by link, the chain of evidence that every true philatelist delights in forging.

We strongly advise all those of our readers who have not read Mr. Yardley's article to do so. Not only will they assuredly gain much knowledge but they might also possibly realize the charm that scientific philately has for her ardent devotees.

The following extract is all too short.

As further examples of minor varieties not of an accidental nature, I may instance the embossed stamps of Portugal of 1866 and 1870—the so-called "curved labels" and "straight labels." The designs of all these stamps of each class are absolutely identical in every respect except the numerals of value. These numerals of course differ for different values, but besides this it is well known that for the same value the position and even the type of the numerals on the label show slight variations. This has long been recognised in the cases of the 5 reis and 100 reis "curved labels;" and two varieties of each have been listed in the standard catalogues; more recently varieties of the 20 reis and 80 reis of the straight labels have been admitted to catalogues, but as a fact, such variations exist in other values of both classes, "curved labels" as well as "straight labels." See an article on the varieties of the latter class by the late Mr. Robert Ehrenbach in the *London Philatelist* of August, 1902 (Vol. XI., page 182), where it will be seen that in the case of the 50 reis there is a clearly marked variety which is quite as pronounced as some of the others which have attained catalogue rank. The explanation of these varieties is simple enough. One mother die (of each class) was prepared which had a blank space for the value. Secondary dies were prepared from this, and the numerals were added to the blank spaces—

probably by means of hand punches, and their positions would naturally vary slightly on the different dies of the same value. Of course these varieties are collectible as such; moreover, a knowledge of the dates when they respectively appeared, may be of some use in connection with the overprinted stamps used for Azores and Madeira. Before leaving this subject I would point out that reprints, plate proofs, and even die proofs may be of great value in the study of the stamps of a particular group. Other matters of importance as well to the general collector as the student are the papers and ink, and even the gum, employed at different times or by different printers. To these must be added a study of postmarks, and I may add that in some cases—particularly in connection with perforations, and watermarks, a comparison with the fiscal issues produced by the same printers may be of assistance in elucidating some problems.

The *Stamp Lover* for December contains a number of interesting articles, chief of which is the first instalment of a paper on the Postage Stamps and Cards of Hayti, contributed by Mr. L. W. Crouch. Several enlargements of forged stamps help to illustrate this article, which should prove of real value to all students of Haytian stamps.

Mr. T. B. Widdowson contributes a capital article, entitled "Lithography as applied to Stamp Production." This paper, illustrated as it is with a number of well drawn diagrams should prove of great interest to the collector. The following extract is all too short:

Lithography is entirely a chemical process, and all its various operations depend on the action of various agents, but the chief point is that all lithographic inks are composed of a greasy agent, with which is mixed the colouring matter. The agent which is universally used is linseed oil, and this is made into a varnish by boiling and burning only, and the older the oil is the better. It is often stored in large tanks to feet high, and left for from five to ten years to mellow like old wine, and various tricks and dodges are adapted to do away with this lengthy operation; but all such tricks are looked upon more or less as adulteration. After such a tank has stood for a long time, four or five inches of solid fat will accumulate at the bottom, and it has been found that nothing but age can get rid of this properly.

This greasy ink is, by the law of nature, opposed to water, with which it will *not* unite, but is repelled by it, and in this one fact lies the whole process of lithography. This ink is applied to a lithograph stone, and water being spread upon the stone left bare, enables a roller charged with ink to be passed over the stone, and the ink from the roller will feed the drawing from which impressions may be taken. This lithographic stone is (I was going to say "made in Germany") exported from Germany, as the only quarries where suitable stones are found (until a short time ago, when a new quarry was discovered in Italy) was at the Solenhofen Quarries in that country.

The December 12th copy of the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* is a grand Christmas Special. It contains a host of short and long contributions, most of which deal with the lighter side of our hobby, and contain but a modicum of philately.

Other numbers of the *Fortnightly* before us, however, contain some capital philatelic papers, some of which are of real value to the specialist. We welcome very much the recent improvement in the contents of our contemporary, and can now heartily recommend the *S.C.F.* as a good all round paper for the general collector.

Philately Abroad.

L'Annonce Timbrologique. November, 1908.

From our contemporary, which copies from another French journal, we translate an interesting paragraph, relating to a sheet of the current French 10 centimes, which got into circulation imperforate. It is delightful to think, after reading this, that there is in existence one post office official at least possessing philatelic innocence, or perhaps we had better write *was* in existence, for there is little doubt but that if a second sheet came his way he would be by this time rather more conscious of his prize.

Apart from the 5 centimes, Semense type, plain background, imperforate, which have turned up in considerable quantities from no one knows where, and whose appearance is the subject of an official enquiry, we record the existence of the 10 cent Semeuse, current type, imperforate, which was officially issued in error.

A sheet of these stamps was discovered by a young employee of the post office at Mans, and he immediately set himself to cut them up, until he was interrupted by an officer of the garrison, an ardent collector, who appropriated a block of 25 for his collection. Thinking that these unperforated stamps might possibly interest one of his friends at Paris who was a collector, he wrote to him, and received at once a request to send all he had. Having a block of 75 left he sent them to his friend, and had hardly done so when the noise of his find came to the ear of a superior, also a collector, who came too late to get a block of four for his collection, although he ultimately obtained what he wanted from the recipient at Paris.

L'Echo de la Timbrologie. 15th and 30th November.

In antithesis to an article on the forgeries alluded to in our last number, comes one on genuine stamps of high quality, incited by the results of the second auction held under the auspices of Messrs. Gilbert & Köhler, and on examination of some of the results, certainly justify no small amount of surprise. They only bear out a contention which we have ever main-

tained that value as applied to stamps is purely relative, and to those who saw the reproductions alone of some of the items in the recent Koch sale, it would be not at all surprising that high prices would be obtained; their beauty was transcendent. Take the 3d. Sydney View; speaking of this stamp, a well-known London dealer, whose experience in really fine stamps would probably rank with that of any other dealer in the world, said "It was the finest copy I have ever seen in my life." The 3d. Sydney is catalogued at 50 francs; this copy fetched 269 fcs. 50, about £11! Some other high prices may be mentioned, which are distinguished by their variation from catalogue rates: India 1854, 4 annas, showing all the rosettes, 144 fcs. 10; Cape of Good Hope, 1d. woodblock, 203 fcs. 50; ditto, 4d. blue, 143 fcs.; a magnificent copy of Mauritius, Post Paid, 1d., 606 fcs. 10; ditto, 2d., 825 fcs; 2d. with fillet, 770 fcs.; Canada, 6d. deep violet, 178 fcs. 20; several of the Sydney Views realised from fifty to one hundred per cent. over catalogue. Equally in several other countries prices for fine things were very firm.

We note an interesting summary of 1867-8 provisionals of Mexico in the same issue. A correspondent of this journal writes that the open air *Bourse* at Paris is not unique, and instances a similar institution which is held every Sunday morning at Lyons, at which he says "forgeries are not wanting." Further writers add that similar meetings take place at Liège and Brussels, so we may conclude that these *Bourses* still occupy with French collectors a position which has long since passed to oblivion in this country.

In the later number we learn that the Roumanian Jubilees have at last found a buyer in an important banking house, and that the sum paid 200,000 francs; that the purchasers are holding them for the present, and do not intend to sell except in sets and to a value of not less than 5000 fcs. at a time. Our contemporary thinks that if this system of disposal is followed out the stamps may ultimately attain some value; at the expense of an Irishism we hold that they would have attained more value if they had been burnt.

The purchase of the Swiss portion of the Mirabaud collection by Herr Zumstein, of Bern, is announced; the estimated value being 300,000 francs. Some idea may be given of the extent of this great collection if, as the *Echo de la Timbrologie* states, all other countries of the world were represented in similar profusion.



The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain

AND

PHILATELIC REVIEW OF REVIEWS.

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" " 6d. chocolate ..	6	6	5	0
" " 8d. red-brown ..	10	0	4	6
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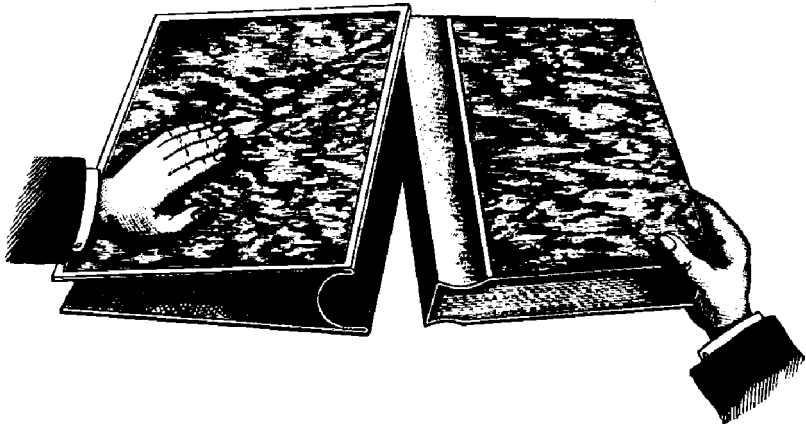
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The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain

— AND —

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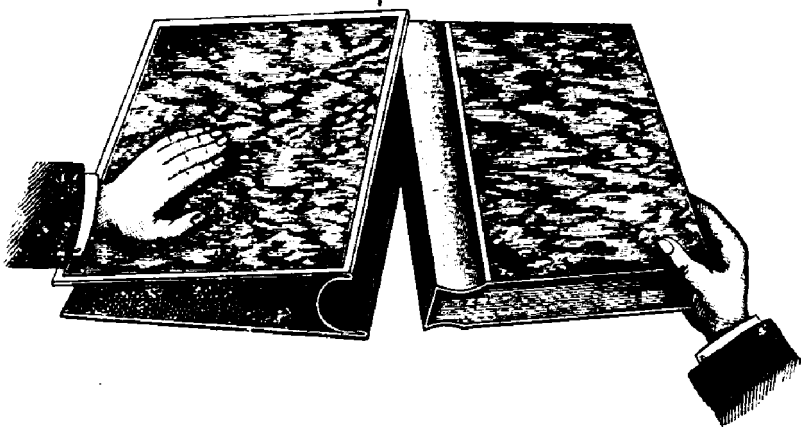
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AND

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4d. brown-orange ..	12	9	3	9	“ “ “ II. ..	16	0	15	6
6d. lilac	—	—	1	9	“ “ “ IV. ..	—	—	30	0
6d. pale lilac	—	—	2	0	1890-97.				
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1/- purple-brown ..	30	0	3	9	6d. deep yellow ..	7	6	—	—
1/- yellow-brown ..	—	—	5	0	6d. orange	1	0	0	4
1/- dull brown	—	—	1	6	1/- brown	1	9	0	8
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1d. blue	3	9	0	2	1d. black and red ..	0	1½	0	0½
2d. rose	6	6	0	2	1903-4.				
3d. green	8	0	2	3	½d. black and green ..	0	1½	0	0½
4d. brown-red	15	0	0	6	1d. “ red	0	2	0	0½
6d. lilac	3	9	0	6	2½d. “ blue	0	4	0	1½
1/- dull brown	2	6	1	3	5d. “ yellow	0	11	0	10
1875.					Errors.				
2/- red-brown	3	3	3	0	½d. black and green ..	2	9	—	—
5/- lilac	12	6	13	0	1d. “ carmine ..	2	9	2	6
1883-86.					2½d. “ blue	5	9	—	—
½d. green	0	1	0	0½	1905. Multiple Wmk.				
1d. blue	—	—	0	3	½d. black and green ..	0	1½	0	1
1d. rose	1	0	0	8	1d. “ carmine ..	0	3	0	1
1d. carmine	0	5	0	1½	3d. green	0	5	0	4
2d. rose	15	0	0	1½	5d. black and orange ..	0	7	0	7
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2d. slate	3	9	0	1	1/- brown	1	3	1	0
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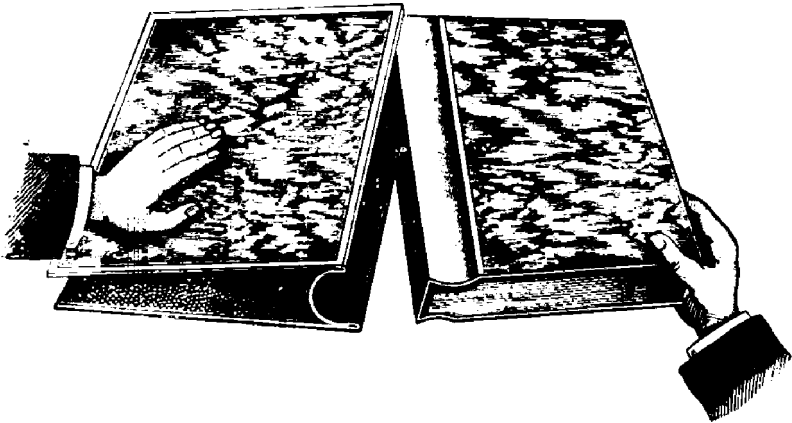
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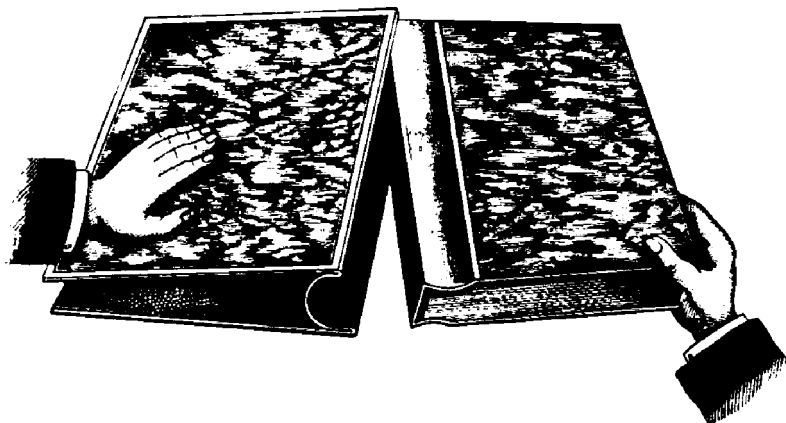
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AND

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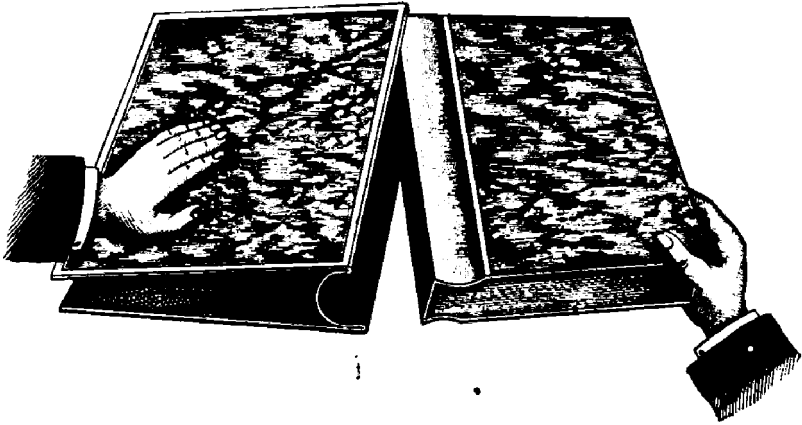
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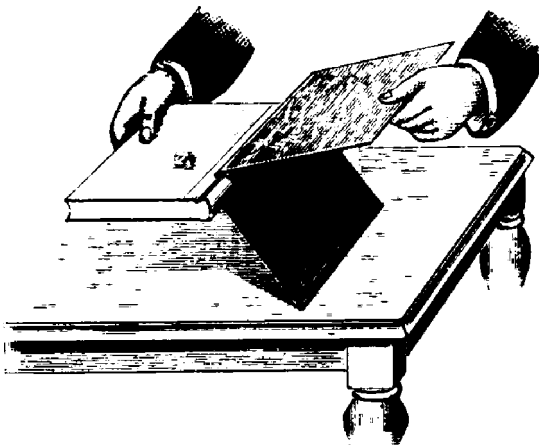
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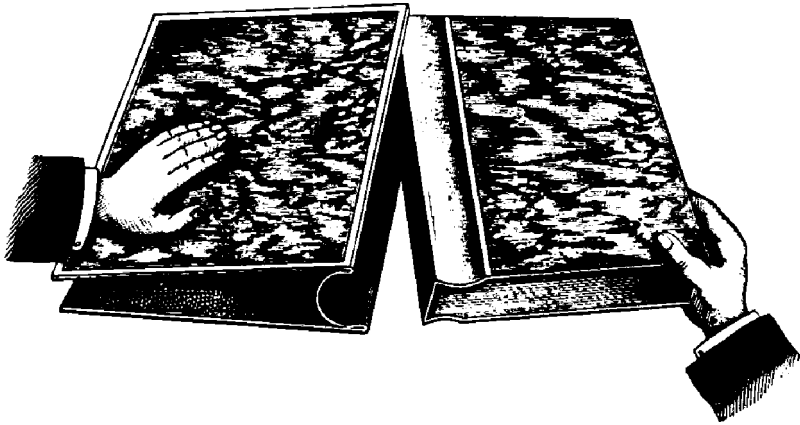
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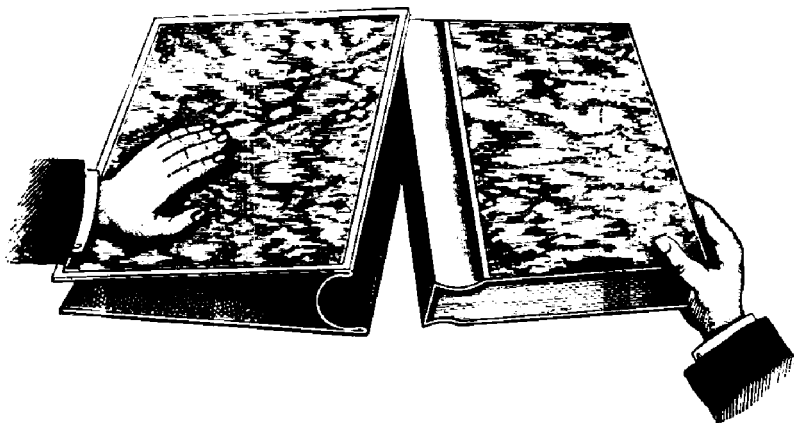
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"	" 8d. brown	130 0	65 0
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"	" 9d. bistre	—	12 6
"	" 10d. orange-verm.	35 0	7 6
"	" 1s. lilac (shades)	12 0	3 9
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"	" 1d. blue	3 0	0 8
"	" 2d. green	7 0	3 0
"	" 2d. emerald	45 0	20 0
"	" 2d. yellow	7 0	2 6
"	" 2d. maize	8 6	3 0
"	" 4d. rose	6 6	3 9
"	" 5d. purple-brn.	60 0	25 0
"	" 5d. green	12 0	3 9
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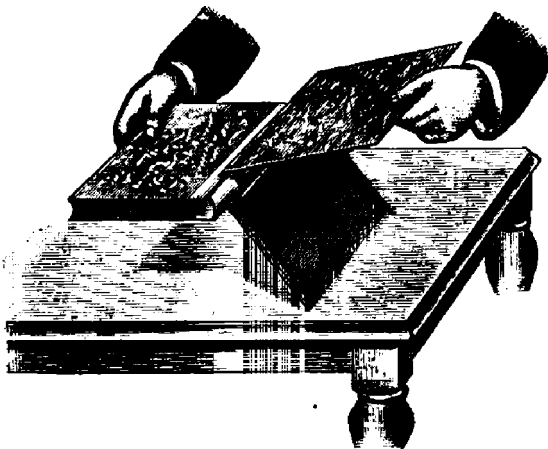
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	s. d.	s. d.
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1888, 1d. ver., inv'ted sur. (S.G. No. 52B)	15 0	15 0
British South Africa.		
1891, 1d. on 6d. ultramarine	7 6	
2d. on 6d.	30 0	
4d. on 6d.	30 0	
8d. on 1/- brown	30 0	
Special price for set of four, mint	90 0	
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This book also contains a condensed CATALOGUE of the WORLD'S POSTAGE STAMPS, WITH PRICES, also a brief account of the BUILDING UP of the LARGEST STAMP DEALING FIRM (wholesale and retail) IN THE WORLD.

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WHITSTABLE.

FALKLAND ISLANDS



1878. NO. WMK.

	Unused.	Used.
1d. claret ..	15/0	14/0
4d. grey-black ...	--	8/0
6d. green ...	4/0	4/0
1/- bistre-brown ...	3/0	—

1884. WMK. CR. CA. UPRIGHT.

1d. claret ...	4/0	3/0
4d. grey-black ...	2/6	—
4d. olive-black ...	0/9	1/0

1886. WMK. CR. CA. SIDEWAYS.

1d. claret ...	1/0	—
4d. olive-black ...	14/0	10/0

1891. PROVISIONAL.

½d. on half of 1d. claret ...	7/6	10/0
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1891-96. WMK. CR. & CA. UPRIGHT.

½d. blue-green ...	3/6	—
½d. yellow-green ...	0/1	0/1
½d. pale yellow-green ...	0/2	—
1d. orange-brown ...	1/6	1/6
1d. bright claret ...	1/6	—
1d. brown-red ...	0/6	—
1d. pale red ...	0/3	—
1d. pale orange-red ...	0/6	0/3
2d. dull mauve ...	0/4	—
2½d. blue ...	1/6	—
2½d. pale blue ...	6/0	3/0
2½d. pale ultramarine ...	7/6	—
2½d. deep ultramarine ...	0/6	0/8

	Unused.	Used.
6d. orange-yellow ...	1/9	—
6d. yellow ...	1/3	—
9d. pale vermilion ...	1/0	—
1/0 grey-brown ...	1/6	—

1898.

2/6 blue ...	6/0	—
5/0 brown-red ...	9/6	—

1904-05. KING'S HEAD.

½d. yellow-green ...	0/1	—
1d. vermilion ...	0/2	—
2d. mauve ...	0/3	—
2½d. ultramarine ...	0/4	—
6d. orange ...	0/8	—
1/0 brown ...	1/4	—
3/0 dull green ...	3/10	—
5/0 dull lake ...	6/3	—

MINT BLOCKS OF FOUR.

6d. green, no wmk. ...	16/0	—
1/0 brown ,, ...	12/0	—
½d. yellow-green, CA. ...	0/4	—
1d. orange-brown ,, ...	6/0	—
1d. brown-red ,, ...	2/0	—
2d. dull mauve ,, ...	1/4	—
6d. yellow ,, ...	5/0	—
1/0 grey-brown ,, ...	6/0	—

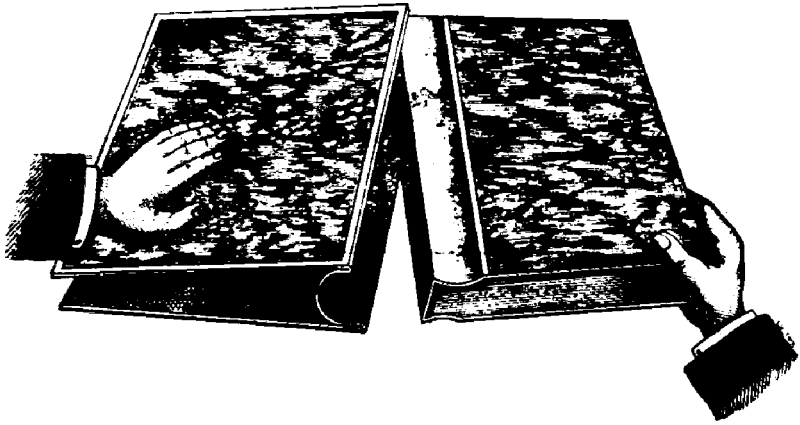
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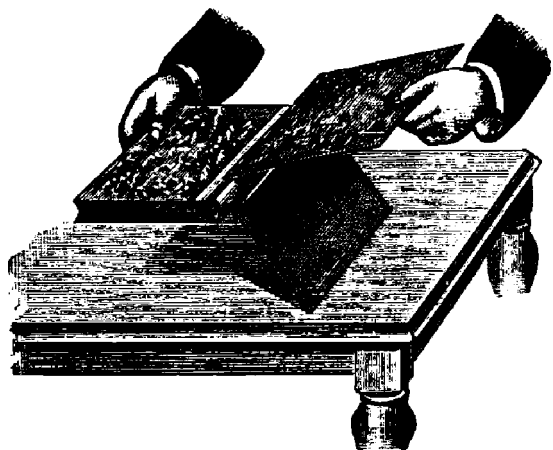
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2½d. pale ultramarine	4 6	—
3d. purple	0 10	4 0
4d. grey	—	1 2
4d. pale brown	0 10	0 4
6d. grey-olive	6 6	—
1s. chestnut	3 3	3 0
½d. on 4d. brown	—	0 5
1897 JUBILEE ISSUE.		
½d. dull green	—	0 2
2½d. ultramarine	0 8	0 4
5d. olive-brown	4 0	—
6d. mauve and carmine	4 0	—
8d. orange and ultramarine	3 0	5 0
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2s. 6d. blue-black and orange	12 6	—

	Unused	Used
British Bechuanaland, 1887.		
1d. lilac and black	0 3	0 3
2d. "	"	0 5
4d. "	"	2 9
6d. "	"	2 3
1s. green and black	"	1 3

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	s.	d.	s.	d.
NIGER COAST AND OIL RIVERS.				
1892, 3d. red	0	6	0	5
" 1d. lilac	0	5	0	6
" 2d. green and carmine ..	0	8	0	6
" 2½d. purple on blue	0	6	0	5
" 5d. lilac and blue	1	3	1	0
" 1/- green	7	6	6	0
1893-4, all provisionals, at about half Gibbons' prices.				
1893, 3d. red	1	0	1	0
" 1d. blue, two shades	1	0	1	0
" 2d. green	4	6	4	6
" 2½d. lilac	0	9	0	9
" 5d. lilac, two shades	4	0	3	9
" 1/- black	4	6	3	9
1894, no wmk., 3d. green	0	2	0	1
" 1d. red	0	8	0	6
" 2d. lilac	1	0	1	3
" 2½d. blue, two shades	1	0	1	0
" 5d. lilac	1	0	0	9
" 1/- black	1	9	2	0
1897-8, wmk. C.A., 3d. green ..	0	1	0	1
" 1d. red	0	2	0	1
" 2d. lilac	0	4	0	3
" 2½d. blue	0	4	0	3
" 5d. lilac	0	9	1	0
" 6d. yellow-brown	1	0	1	6
" 1/- black	1	9	2	0
" 2/6 bistre	4	6	—	—
" 10/- violet, shades	13	6	—	—
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.				
1853, blue paper, 1d. brick red, shades	70	0	8	0
" 4d. blue	60	0	3	6
1855-8, white paper, 1d. brick red ..	30	0	6	0
" 1d. rose-red	15	0	5	0
" 4d. blue	17	6	1	6
" 4d. light blue	17	6	3	0
" 6d. lilac	55	0	8	6
" 6d. slate lilac	80	0	16	0
" 1/- yellow-green	120	0	12	6
" 1/- deep	70	0	15	0
1861, wood blocks, 1d. brick red	—	—	from 85	0
" 1d. scarlet	—	—	80	0
" 4d. blue	—	—	45	0
" 4d. pale blue	—	—	55	0
" 4d. deep blue	—	—	135	0
1863, De la Rue, 1d. carmine	20	0	12	6
" 1d. brown-red	24	0	8	6
" 4d. blue, shades	22	6	3	6
" 6d. bright mauve	32	6	15	0
" 1/- emerald	80	0	24	0
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	Unused.	Used.
1d. claret ...	15/0	14/0
4d. grey-black ...	--	8/0
6d. green ...	4/0	4/0
1/- bistre-brown ...	3/0	—

1884. WMK. CR. CA. UPRIGHT.

1d. claret ...	4/0	3/0
4d. grey-black ...	2/6	—
4d. olive-black ...	0/9	1/0

1886. WMK. CR. CA. SIDEWAYS.

1d. claret ...	1/0	—
4d. olive-black ...	14/0	10/0

1891. PROVISIONAL.

½d. on half of 1d. claret ...	7/6	10/0
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1891-96. WMK. CR. & CA. UPRIGHT.

½d. blue-green ...	3/6	—
½d. yellow-green ...	0/1	0/1
½d. pale yellow-green ...	0/2	—
1d. orange-brown ...	1/6	1/6
1d. bright claret ...	1/6	—
1d. brown-red ...	0/6	—
1d. pale red ...	0/3	—
1d. pale orange-red ...	0/6	0/3
2d. dull mauve ...	0/4	—
2½d. blue ...	1/6	—
2½d. pale blue ...	6/0	3/0
2½d. pale ultramarine ...	7/6	—
2½d. deep ultramarine ...	0/6	0/8

	Unused.	Used
6d. orange-yellow ...	1/9	—
6d. yellow ...	1/3	—
9d. pale vermilion ...	1/0	—
1/0 grey-brown ...	1/6	—

1898.

2/6 blue ...	6/0	—
5/0 brown-red ...	9/6	—

1904-05. KING'S HEAD.

½d. yellow-green ...	0/1	—
1d. vermilion ...	0/2	—
2d. mauve ...	0/3	—
2½d. ultramarine ...	0/4	—
6d. orange ...	0/8	—
1/0 brown ...	1/4	—
3/0 dull green ...	3/10	—
5/0 dull lake ...	6/3	—

MINT BLOCKS OF FOUR.

6d. green, no wmk. ...	16/0	—
1/0 brown ,, ...	12/0	—
½d. yellow-green, CA. ...	0/4	—
1d. orange-brown ,, ...	6/0	—
1d. brown-red ,, ...	2/0	—
2d. dull mauve ,, ...	1/4	—
6d. yellow ,, ...	5/0	—
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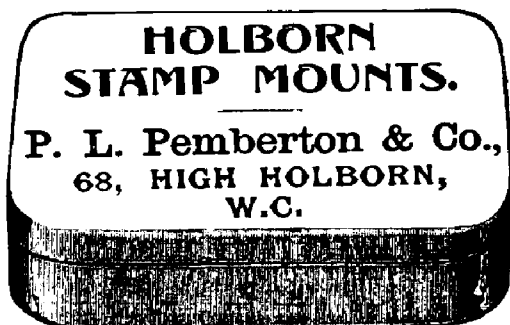
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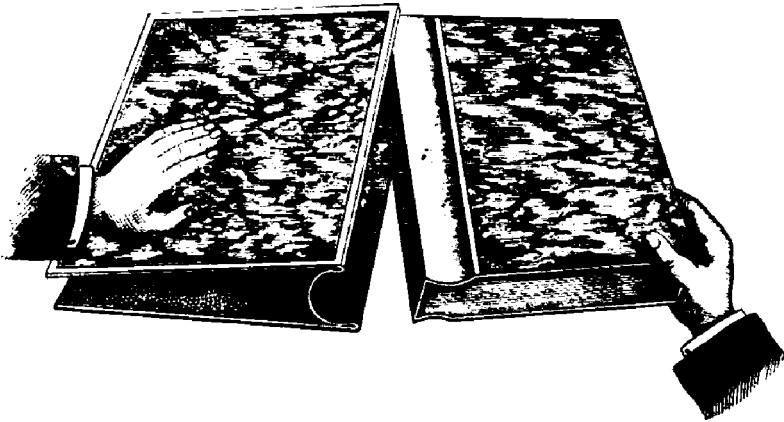
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