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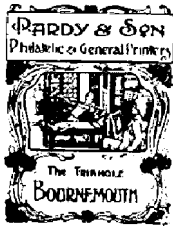
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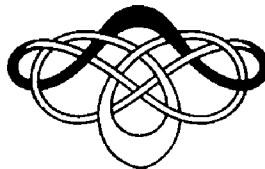
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REVIEW OF REVIEWS

The Review of Reviews section contains critical assessments and commentary on the various philatelic works and publications mentioned in the index. It provides a platform for experts and enthusiasts to discuss the merits, accuracy, and contributions of these works to the field of stamp collecting and postal history.

NEW ISSUES

This section lists newly published philatelic books, catalogs, and periodicals. It includes titles such as 'The Philatelic Collector's Handbook' and 'New Discoveries in the History of Stamps'. Each entry typically includes the author's name, the title, and the publisher's information.





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

No. 253. VOL. XXII.

JANUARY 20, 1912.

[PRICE 2D.]

♦ ♦ Editorial. ♦ ♦

EVERY well-known hobby has a literature of its own, and, as a rule, its popularity can be gauged by the number of books and booklets which annually make their appearance under the ægis of their own particular

Philatelic Literature. goddess. This being so, philately must indeed be in a flourishing condition, because, of the making of stamp books there is no end; we suffer from a deluge of books, catalogues, journals, price lists, and other strange fare from the beginning of January until the end of December. The older we get the more philatelic nourishment is provided for us until it rarely happens that our breakfast table is free from the litter of one or more journals, or other handy little comforters which essay to tell us how to stick our stamps into blank books, or else inform us, until we are sick to death, that Mr. Whatshisname has been awarded a diploma for his unique display of a penny Venetian red.

Of late the surfeit of philatelic literature has increased at such an alarming pace that we commence to wonder whether, after all, it is not true that all disappointed scribblers turn their attempts, oft-times misguided, to the wide field of philately. Apart from one or two handbooks, of an unassailable quality, and an almost equally small number of stamp journals, we find that the past year's output of philatelic

writing, could, from a hypercritical point of view, have well been consigned to the useful receptacle which would have been its destination had it pretended to have any other flavour but that tintured with stamps and stamp mounts.

Of journals alone there are a score too many, with the result that the small fry flourish on the leavings of their betters, and, one and all, great and little, are only too glad to copy from one another and serve up nourishment which has already been very much diluted. It is quite right that foreign and colonial exhibitions should be chronicled in the home press, but it is a great tax on the patience of subscribers when they find that all the philatelic journals have pages devoted to wearisome verbatim reports of functions which are of very little interest but to those busy people who were actual participants.

From another standpoint the multiplicity of journals and booklets is a serious drain on the purses of advertising dealers who try to keep their wares before the ever-changing fancies of the stamp-buying public. This demand is so exhaustive that it stands to reason that collectors, in the long run, have to pay the piper, with the result that stamp values are forced to a fictitious level, and patrons of this or of that little three-halfpenny booklet, or paper, have to pay considerably more for their stamps than they are usually worth.

Were it possible, we think that it would

be an excellent idea if a number, say a dozen, of representative collectors were to meet, and, with the power to censor the publication of future numbers, sit in solemn conclave and hold an inquest on

files of all the current journals. If this could only be done we feel sure that more than fifty per cent. would quietly disappear from the ken of an apathetic and unsympathetic public.

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.

Great Britain. We are indebted to Mr. Oswald Marsh's *Weekly Circular* for the following:—

"The 1d. stamp with head of King George is now in issue in the re-engraved design. The body of the lion has now been shaded all over, and the background behind him has been made solid, as have also the corners above the words 'Postage and Revenue.' The head also appears to have been re-engraved, but owing to the blotchy appearance of the old issue it is difficult to say exactly where the difference is, the new stamps show the head up very well and the hair between the forehead and cheek is not so marked as previously. The stamps are printed in a more vermilion tint and bear the marginal Control in the usual place B11, in some cases almost touching the 'Jubilee' line, in others not so close; the bottom margins with Control may be found both perf. and imperf.

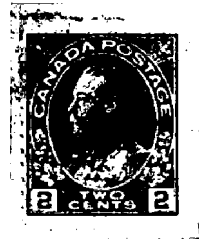
"George V., ½d. green.—We were indebted to Mr. Ewen for the first information regarding this stamp having been issued with Control B11, and on getting a supply we have come to the conclusion that it is also from a re-engraved die. In the case of this value only the head and the scroll between the dolphins' heads appear to have been re-touched, the description of the head on the new 1d. stamp applies equally to this value. The scroll now has one thick line of shading on the left side in place of two thin ones and the dolphins' heads are more shaded. So far we have only seen the B11 Control on an imperf. margin, but we have it below the centre of the stamp and in another case below the left side of the stamp.

"LEVANT.—1 piastre, Harrison print, perf. 15×14.—We have obtained a supply of used copies of this stamp, and amongst them we find a pair used from Smyrna on 20. NO. 11., three days earlier than any date yet recorded for this stamp with compound perforation.

"LEVANT.—Minor Variety.—From *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* we learn that there occurs regularly a variety in the shape of the E in Piastre on the 1 piastre stamp of Harrison's

printings, both perf. 14 and 15×14. On Nos. 90 and 114 on each pane the top bar of the E is shorter and slants upwards."

Canada. Mr. W. H. Peckitt has very kindly shewn us specimens of the new Canadian stamps, as illustrated below. The design is handsome and the stamps, which are line-engraved, will make a welcome addition to our albums.



Adhesives.
1c. green. 2c. red.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Costa Rica. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us a specimen of the blue 10c. telegraph stamp overprinted *Correos Un Centimo* in red, for use as a postage stamp.

Provisional.
10c. Telegraph stamp, surcharged "Un Centimo."

Dominican Republic. The *Monthly Journal* chronicles a new set of stamps. They have been printed in Germany and the design differs considerably from that to which we have grown accustomed.

Adhesives.
Centre in black, Wmkd. Crosses and Circles.
1c. green.
2c. rose red.
10c. purple.
20c. olive.
50c. brown.
1p. violet.

French F.P.O. Morocco. The *Monthly Journal* chronicles the following novelties:—

"The stamps of the 1902-10 types, and some of the Postage Dues, have now been surcharged in Arabic characters instead of in Roman characters for the words 'centimos'

and 'franc.' The surcharges are in blue or in red."



1911.

- 1c. grey (R).
- 2c. claret (B).
- 3c. orange (B).
- 5c. blue-green (R).
- 10c. carmine (B).
- 20c. purple-brown (B).
- 25c. blue (R).
- 35c. lilac (R).
- 50c. brown and lavender (R).
- 1fr. lake and yellow (B).

Postage Due Stamps.

- 1811. French Postage Due Stamps, surcharged as above.
- 5c. blue (R).
- 10c. brown (B).

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have kindly sent us most of the above values.

Greece. We hear from Mr. James Malings that the paragraph which we quoted last month from the *London Philatelist* was incorrect, as it has reference to the 50 *lepta* in the type of 1901 and not the current issue. The same correspondent also informs us that the variety has been known for some time.

Iceland. Mr. W. T. Wilson has kindly shewn us the following values of the Sigurdsson issue.



Adhesives.

- 1c. yellow-green.
- 3a. brown.
- 6a. grey.
- 15a. lilac.
- 25a. orange.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. tell us that these stamps were issued on Dec. 19th.

United States. Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have very kindly sent us a specimen of the new registration stamp.



Registration Stamp.
Inscribed "United States Registry."
10c. light blue.

City of London Philatelic Society.

REPORT OF JANUARY MEETING.

It may have been the weather, but something tended to keep away our members from the meeting arranged for the 10th instant, for only a meagre fourteen put in an appearance, and taken altogether the evening proved a great disappointment to the officials of the Society. The programme was to have consisted of a display of the stamps of the British Colonies in America, by Mr. W. Phillips; but it is evident that this gentleman was unavoidably detained, for we were deprived of what would have been, from former experience of this member's displays, a very fine show of these old stamps.

Mr. Higlett showed some unsurcharged Italian stamps used in Tripoli and bearing the postmarks, "Posta Militaire Divisione Speciale" and "Posta da Campo Bengasi"; also a pair of Liberia 75c. imperf. between the stamps vertically. Mr. W. Pears showed the B11 control of our current ½d. and Mr. Leon the B11 control of the 1d.

It was decided that, at the forthcoming Philatelic Congress at Margate, our delegates should father the following suggestions:—

A discussion and enquiry to be made concerning the action of the Customs Authorities in certain Oriental countries, notably Egypt, with regard to the import duty at present levied upon Foreign Postage stamps; this idea originated with Mr. J. A. Leon.

A discussion concerning the advisability of forming a National Philatelic Association of all Societies and Exchange Clubs in the Kingdom, to which central body all other Clubs shall be subject. The whole idea to be worked upon the lines of such institutions connected with other sports and pastimes, viz., the Amateur Football Association, Yacht Racing Association, etc.

The programme for next meeting on the 14th February contains a Competitive Display, "Stamps printed by Perkins, Bacon & Co., not exceeding 100, and not more than 10 from any one country." A very nice silver medal will be awarded to the winner of this display, and I hope to see very many entries.

A. C. CONSTANTINIDES, *Hon. Sec.*

CORRESPONDENCE, an interesting article on Chilean stamps, and other matter unavoidably held over until next month.

The Stamps of the First Issue of Holland, 1852.

R. W. WILKINSON.

(Continued from page 230.)

PLATE V.

"IN March, 1860, the Mint engraver was authorised to get six new plates, one of which was brought into use in October, for the 5 cents." This is the last plate given by Captain Haas, but in attempting to plate the stamps, a division became apparent in the character of the retouches, and correspondence with Messrs. Warren, Wade & Higlett has practically confirmed the existence of another plate. Further evidence in support may be adduced from a similar omission in the 10 cent value where there is undoubtedly a later plate than any given by Haas. In both cases, the plates are readily recognised by the later impressions upon the soft pliable paper previously referred to.

Plate V. "throws back" to the original work of Wiener, in that the top frame line on most stamps is finely drawn at each end; it is if anything more noticeable than on the first plate. There are many retouches, including the top left inner corner and scroll, the left inner side line (rare), and the right inner side line from the *Swan* scroll downwards to the corner (common). This retouching consists of fine lines, neatly and fairly accurately replacing the deficient design.

The transfer was evidently weak at the top left and lower right sides, an effect which might be due to a worn spindle on the transfer roller.

The illustration here given of two stamps (known in a strip of four) shows this defect in a very interesting manner. Stamp No. 1 has no vertical lines whatever before POST, whilst No. 2 is heavily retouched; note also the top left corner of frame line.

The alignment of the rows is very irregular, and there are not many pronounced blurs. The shades of colour vary from a fine "electric" to a dull greenish blue, the former showing white clean prints, which deteriorate and become poor and washy.

PLATE VI.

In order to properly identify this plate, attention should be given to the printings upon soft pliable paper. These were the last from the plate (and of the issue) and the paper is so distinctive, the colour so noticeable and unlike the other shades, as to make it easy to sort out specimens of Plate VI. The first printings early in 1863, were on the usual hard and medium paper of the previous plates, and show clear fine impressions. There

were many retouches to the top corners and side lines, but the right lower inside angle, quite unlike any other plate, has the first three or four vertical lines and the two lower lines below "C" redrawn more or less crudely, as shown in the pairs below (A and B).

Two retouches not found on any other 5 cent stamps are also illustrated. The first single has the two lines above G E L replaced by one, and both top corners show the vertical lines redrawn. The second shows a retouched inner line under "5" (C and D).

The plate shows many blurs between the stamps, and the alignment is irregular. To those interested in reconstructing by means of the watermark, this soft paper printing is recommended as showing the clearest "horn." The last printings (late 1863) have a very blurred washy appearance as if the absence of sizing had caused the ink to spread.

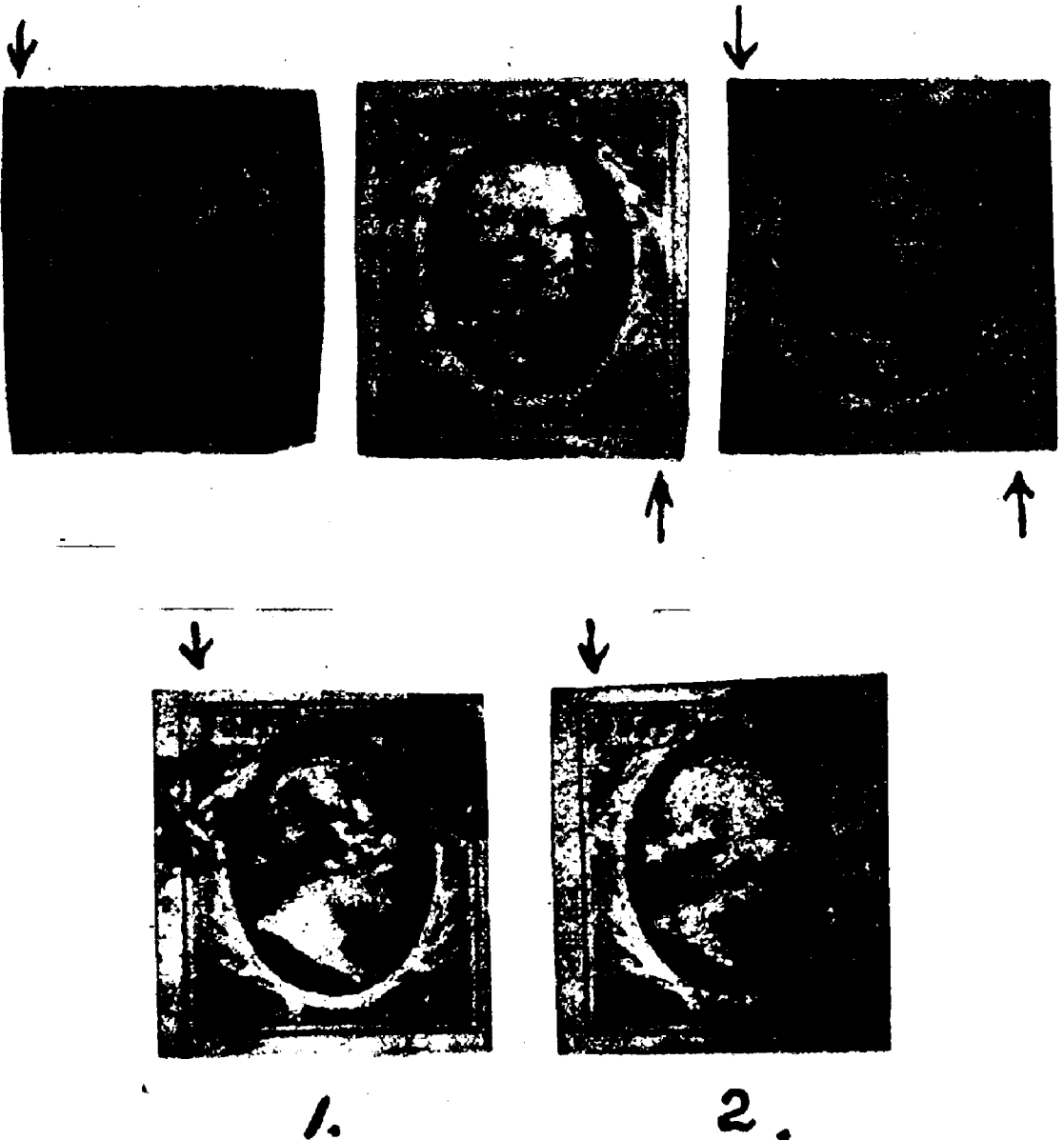
SUMMARY.

Before proceeding, a brief summary may prove useful. The chief points to note in separating out any number of 5 cent stamps are:—

1. The postmarks; Roman (1852) and Egyptian lettering (1854) and then the Franco obliteration (1860).
2. The variations in the top frame line.
 - Plate I. Thinned ends (Roman lettering to Postmark).
 - „ II. Thinned ends. Slight retouches and blurs.
 - „ III. Thickened right end and corner retouches.
 - „ IV. Thickened left end and corner retouches.
 - „ V. Thinned ends usually. Retouches in left top corner and right side line.
 - „ VI. Top line and angles retouched, and bottom right corner.
3. The shade of colour.
 - Steel blue. Plate I.
 - Dark indigo. Plate III.
 - Water blue. Plate IV.
4. Soft paper. Plate VI.

PLATE I. 10 CENTS, RED.

Captain Haas in his notes states that "On 3rd October the engraver Wiener was still busy making the plates from the original transfer rolls," and this seems to infer that he made the transfer rolls and all the first plates. But the evidence of the stamps does not bear this



out. To briefly recapitulate, Plate I. of the 5 cents shows

- Very careful workmanship,
- Parallel alignment,
- Practically no retouches,
- Full and clear impressions

and was used for obtaining the only proof impressions known. The latter point alone makes this undoubtedly Wiener's plate. Now we find in Plate I. of the 10 cents,

- Very inferior workmanship,
- Irregular alignment,
- Many retouches,

Weak and worn looking impressions,
All pointing to another hand than Wiener's.
It seems most probable that the Mint engraver

made this plate and that it was afterwards touched up by Wiener, because the retouches are most finely drawn and approximate very closely to the original die. Those already known comprise some thirty varieties:—

The two outer vertical lines to right of Zegel extend down to the "Swan" scroll which is also redrawn (A and A.1); there are several types of this, with other lines below "Swan" scroll strengthened, and one with top right and lower left outer corners projecting. Another stamp has the whole of the right side redrawn including the background of small circles, which are replaced by dashes (C.3).

Another principal variety has only one



A.



B.

Retouched right side.



C¹



C²



C³

Retouched "Circle" Background.

outer line to right of Zegel continued down past the scrolls, touching the re-outlined



A¹



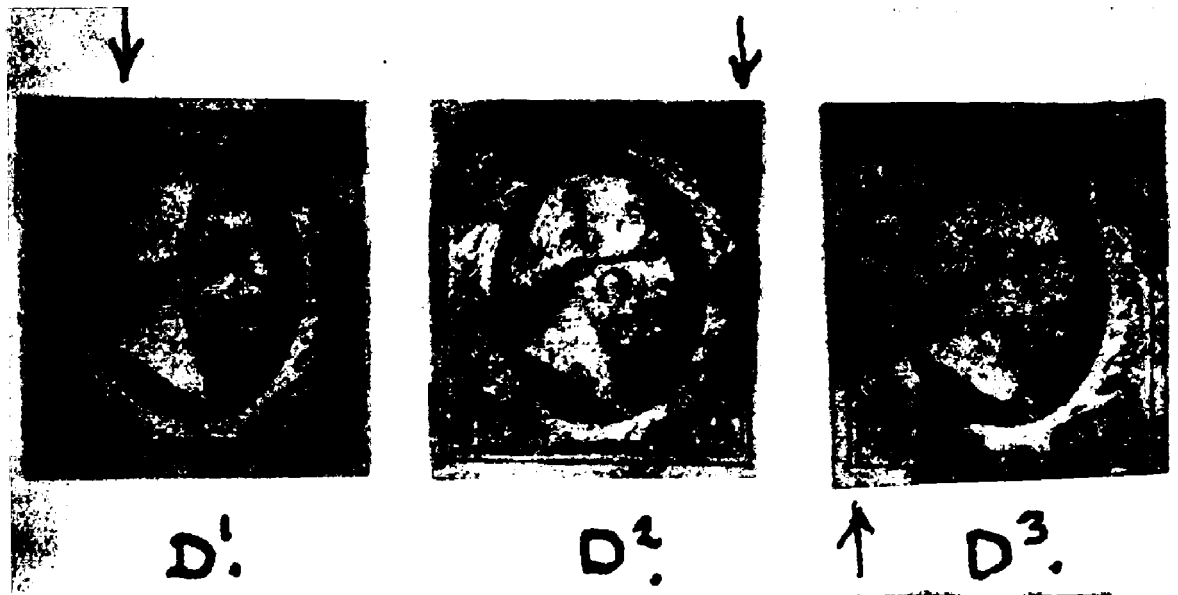
B¹

"Swan" scroll, and continuing down to the tablet; these retouches are also found all out

of line, with a crooked outer frame (B and B.1).

Other stamps show the top right inner corner and the lower left outer corner projecting, and a scarce type has a fringe of nine thin vertical lines under both "Swan" scrolls in place of the usual three or four thick lines under the right.

Coming now to the left side we get the "Swan" scroll, the leaf scroll at side of oval, and the circle background all redrawn; a sub-variety shows the leaf scroll merely outlined more strongly. Another has the inner side line redrawn from the "Swan" scroll down to the corner, with the circle back-



ground barely visible (C.1), or in other cases, with the space entirely filled up with dashes (C.2). In some stamps both the left inner and outer lines are redrawn, and one shows a distinct double outer line at lower end. There are numerous types of the side line retouches, resulting in various widths of the white space between the inner and outer lines, and it is worth noting that pairs occur in which one stamp has the circle background barely visible and a strong side line, and the other stamp has no obvious side line, and numerous dashes to replace the circles. Retouches to the outer frame show the corners projecting or not drawn straight, leaving an open corner; *the lower frame line is well defined and continuous on every stamp*, but not always straight, and there can be no doubt that the die was defective along this line, because in each subsequent plate the line is broken or split beneath the figures "10", leading to many varieties of retouching. In the 5 cent plates this line is always thick and continuous, as if the die itself had been strengthened. Sufficient has been said to show the great probability that another hand than Wiener's helped in the preparation of this plate, and this, in conjunction with the fact that retouched copies are known dated January, February, March, April, etc., 1852, points to the plate having been worked upon before being put to press.

The paper is white and no blurs occur between the stamps. As to the shades it is almost impossible to describe them; the range throughout the issue is very close, but the first may be described as rose to rose-carmine.

PLATE II.

The check list of Captain Haas gives a new

plate for the 10 cents, the date of use being queried "Middle 1854," but the plate was undoubtedly in use as early as September 1853, and it would seem that two plates were made about the same time.

The impressions are a little firmer, but with many colour blurs between the stamps and there is one fairly constant defect, in that the letter "T" of "Post" is slightly blurred at the cross (D₁). The lower frame line is always split or thinned just under the figure "0" of "10" and thick at the centre. The alignment is irregular, and there are only a few retouches, differing entirely in character and execution from Plate I., as follows: Several thick vertical lines at the right side above the "Swan" scroll, filling in the space after Zegel; or one line only, broken by the "Swan" scroll, and continuing down the side to the lower corner (D₂). At the left side, the inner side line and the outer frame are found redrawn and a variety has in addition, thickened lines before "10" and the right top corner and criss-cross lines slightly redrawn; this stamp shows practically no detail of scrolls or circle background at either side and must have been a very weak impression (D₃). The only retouch yet seen of the lower frame shows the line from the split under "10" to the left end thickened, and there is a well marked blur just within the frame.

Captain Haas says that this plate developed a *worm-eaten* appearance, "holes appeared in it" and it was put aside on 20th July, 1855, replaced by a new one on 12th October, which had also a short life and in 1856 (no date) had again to be made up. The shade has more carmine in it, and does not vary much.

(To be continued.)

New Leaves to Cut.

STAMP COLLECTORS' ANNUAL 1912.*

THIS publication, received just too late for review in last month's *Journal* is an excellent example of good value for the money. Mr. D. B. Armstrong, the editor, has undoubtedly scored a big success.

We find that the good features of previous years have been elaborated, while there is a goodly budget of innovations.

The Philatelic Index for 1911, now includes the principal foreign journals, in addition to those published in the English language. This index is of considerable value, and it contains more than one thousand references. Nevertheless it is far from complete and contains numerous references to articles, little more than paragraphs, which have appeared in the smaller philatelic publications of 1911. We also find too many references to the here-to-day-gone-to-morrow-papers of the United States.

A very excellent feature is a list of over one hundred "Celebrities of the Stamp World." Mr. Armstrong has made a very judicious selection, and has resisted the temptation, which possibly was a strong one for so youthful a writer, to include the names of many collectors who have forced themselves into the philatelic limelight during the past few months.

We think there is no better plan than to give our readers a summary of the chapter headings.

Preface.

A Royal Stamp Collector :

H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.

The Story of the Year.

Philatelic Novelities of 1911 (Review of New Issues).

Foreign Postal Agencies of the Powers.

The Year's Best Books.

Postal Establishments of the French Colonies.

The Study of Stamps.

The "Tobago Green."

Perforations.

Philately and the Fair Sex.

French Stamps Used Abroad.

The Universal Postal Union.

The Stamp Market in 1911.

Crown Agents for the Colonies.

Celebrities of the Stamp World.

Fourth Philatelic Congress of Great Britain.

Stamp Trade Directory.

The Lindenberg Medal.

Great Britain: Harrison & Somerset House Prints.

Directory of British Stamp Exchange Clubs, 1911.

A Philatelic Press Guide.

Directory of Philatelic Societies.

Philatelic Literary Index, 1910-11.

Having read the *Annual* carefully, we can confidently recommend it to our readers as

*Published by H. F. Johnson, 44, Fleet Street, E.C. Price 1/- net.

an excellent investment. It can be obtained direct from our publishers, price 1/3 post free.

THE STAMP YEAR.*

COMPILED BY FRED. J. MELVILLE.

THIS publication, which is ably styled "An annual digest of postal and philatelic information," is yet another example of Mr. Melville's versatility. It is a marvellous example of good value for the money and should certainly be in great demand as a reference book for the whole of the current year.

To give a list of the principal contents takes up too much of our space, but we must find room for the following :—

Abbreviations Used in Philately.

Chronology of Stamp Issues.

The Universal Postal Union.

Exhibitions of the Year.

New Stamp Issuing Countries.

British Postmasters-General.

British Overseas Post Offices.

Dictionary of Currencies.

Philatelic Societies of the Empire.

New Issues for 1911.

Philatelic Press Directory.

Polyglot Dictionary.

In addition to the above features, alone worth the modest shilling asked for the book, we find articles of a stronger philatelic flavour, such as "Tripolitania and Cyrenaica," "The Cape Woodblocks," "New South Wales 2d. Diadem," etc. Seventeen pages are devoted to obituary notices and photographs, while articles dealing with "Postage Stamp Law," "Registration and Insurance of Stamps," "A Scheme for Grouping the French Colonies," "The Spread of Stamp Journalism," "Books of 1909-1911," etc., etc., all find a place in the two hundred odd pages of Mr. Melville's latest.

From a study of the Preface, we learn that it is hoped to publish annual editions of the "Stamp Year." So much has been crowded into the present number, that we wonder what can be left for Mr. Melville to serve up next year.

As is only natural we cannot but help compare the *Stamp Year* with the current number of the *Stamp Collectors' Annual*, and, as the result, our inherent love of truth compels us to admit that buyers of the former publication will get considerably more for their money than those who invest in a copy of the latter. Nevertheless, were we rash enough to think of giving away a philatelic handbook to a collecting, or non-collecting acquaintance, we should choose the *Annual* for our intended gift. Those of our readers who possess a copy of one, and not of the other of these publications must assuredly invest a second shilling. Those who possess neither—if any such lost souls there be—have a double error of omission to rectify.

*Published by W. H. Peckitt, 47, Strand, W.C. Price 1/- net.

DESCRIPTION, HISTORIQUE ET CATALOGUE DES TIMBRES GRECS.*

This little work from the pen of M. Nicolaïdes, who for many years has specialized in the stamps of Greece, is well worth the attention of any one interested in this country. It is little more than an outlined history of the stamps, but contains much information in a condensed form. Several varieties are mentioned which are new to us and some of these, to be quite frank, we do not believe in. For instance, we are told that every sheet of the 10 lep. Paris contained one variety without figures and one with the figures inverted "10," that is to say with each figure inverted but not reversed (not an inverted 10). We cannot believe in these varieties, which have never been chronicled before. We think the author has become confused with the two varieties, with inverted "1" and inverted "0" respectively (neither of which he mentions) and has lumped them together—a convenient but misleading arrangement.

We are also told that of the 20 lepta, pale spandrels, of 1870, there were one or two sheets printed on "rose satiné transparent paper," without figures at the back, and that these were issued in mistake. We cannot help thinking that these must have been Paris waste sheets, but we are open to conviction.

With regard to the later issues, M. Nicolaïdes gives much interesting information, from which, unfortunately, we have no space to quote.

ENDLE'S DIRECTORY.†

We have duly received the Twenty-Third Edition of the above mentioned publication. It contains, so we are told, 39 new names and addresses, while no fewer than 48 names have been removed for various causes. Those of our readers who desire a handy little "address book" will find Messrs. Endle's Directory (formerly Nunn's) a useful addition to their reference library. As is usual with publications of this class we find several errors of omission; for instance, under the sub-heading "Publishers of Philatelic Works" we find no mention of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., W. H. Peckitt, Bright & Son and many others.

A CHECK LIST OF PHILATELIC PUBLICATIONS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR 1909.‡

We have duly received a review copy of the above publication. From an inset we learn that three editions were published—

*N. S. Nicolaïdes, 35 Rue de Paradis, Paris. Paper covers, 1fr. 50c.

†Published by Chas. J. Endle & Co., Boscombe, Bournemouth. Price 6d.

‡Published by George Ward Linn, Clinton Buildings, Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A.

a de luxe edition of 25 numbered copies, bound in red seal grain leather and artistically stamped in gold; a press edition of 25 copies, similarly numbered; and the regular edition numbered 1 to 100. This book is supplied free to all members of the American Philatelic Literature Society. Non-members can obtain copies at \$3.50 for the special edition, and \$1 for the ordinary.

It is claimed for this book that, next to the catalogue of the Library of the Earl of Crawford it is the largest work ever carried to a successful end by any Philatelic Literature Society, past or present.

We are afraid this claim to notoriety is based on very slender foundations, as Philatelic Literature Societies, past or present have not taken a very prominent place in the publishing world. Needless to say we are not disparaging the work done by our own P.L.S. which, although only of benefit to a very limited number of members is undoubtedly of value.

We fail to see, however, what value such a book has, especially as a goodly number of the papers listed have already joined the majority.

Stamp journals, papers which occasionally publish stamp news, catalogues, price lists, societies' reports, dealers' advertisement leaflets, etc., are all lovingly tabulated in this masterpiece of conscientiousness.

THE CATALOGUE—YVERT ET TELLIER, 1912.

The newest edition of this well-known publication presents no new features, the only changes being in some of the quotations and the addition of the new issues. That the year has been a busy one for the latter is shown by the fact that twenty-five extra pages are required in this edition as compared with the last.

It is almost unnecessary to insist on the manifold merits of the French Standard Catalogue. The lists are simple when compared with Gibbons. Only prominent varieties of perforation are given. Minor varieties of type and varieties of shade are given in small type (some, it is true, are ignored altogether), and explanatory notes are plentiful.

Generally speaking the prices seem to be rather lower than in most other catalogues issued by the leading firms, and in this connection we may remark that one thing strikes us very forcibly: the pricing seems to be fixed quite independently of any other lists and in many cases reflect the relative values more correctly than in Gibbons! An exception to this last remark is provided by the South American section where, although prices have been advanced all round, they are still lower than the figures to which the recent fashion for these stamps has raised them.



January, 1912, Report.

List of Officers and Committee, 1911-12.

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All Officers of the Union are ex-officio Members of the Committee.

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:—Frederick B. Smith, Brixton, S.W., proposed by A. B. Kay, seconded by T. H. Hinton. Earnest G. W. Harmer, Fleet Street, E.C., proposed by A. B. Kay, seconded by T. H. Hinton. Herbert A. Wise, Hampstead, N.W., proposed by Edwin Healy, seconded by W. S. King. Edward Buhl, Croydon, proposed by A. B. Kay, seconded by W. Schwabacher.

NEW MEMBER.

Cecil S. Warbrick, Brixton, S.W.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

The Committee have unanimously elected to life membership Major N. J. Hopkins, R.E., Salisbury.

NOTICES.

The fourth meeting of the season was held at Essex Hall, on Thursday, 11th inst. Present—J. C. Sidebotham (in the chair), W. Schwabacher, W. Schwarte, J. E. Joselin, W. S. King, A. B. Kay, P. L. Pemberton, F. F. Lamb, the Hon. Sec., and T. Wagenheim (visitor). In the absence of Mr. Beaujeux, Mr. Kay gave a display of a portion of his well-known reference collection of Forgeries, and the Hon. Sec. a volume of his general collection comprising the issue of 1872-80. A hearty vote of thanks, moved by Mr. Joselin and seconded by Mr. Schwarte, concluded a pleasant evening.

The next meeting will take place at Essex Hall, on Thursday, Feb. 8th, at 7.30 p.m., when Mr. W. E. Lincoln will give a display of his well known collection of War Stamps, and members are invited to bring any specimens they may have for comparison.

Dr. Marx, M.A., well known to all members as our active and courteous Exchange Superintendent for many years, is shortly leaving for Rosario, Argentina, and the Officers and Committee unite in expressing to him on behalf of all, their best wishes for his health and prosperity in his new sphere of activity.

Members will be glad to hear that he still retains his membership and interest in the Society and hopes to continue to contribute to the Exchange Packets, now under the able management of his successor, Mr. Joselin.

Subscriptions now due, proposals for membership and any donation to the 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.

Jan. 13th, 1912.

Current Chatter.

BY ANGUS MCTAVISH.

Roessler's Stamp News, an amusing little American "house organ," says:—

"It is possible the India set may be put on sale at the Dunbar. It will depict the King with the mantles of State, an altogether impressive pose."

If the weather was as muggy for the Dunbar, as it was for the Durbar, I guess H.M. would have preferred the altogether, to the mantles.

Another American paper, the *Philadelphia Stamp News*, has a quarter-page devoted to the advertisement of Staley Gibbs Inc. I hope Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, of London, won't follow this lead. If any of the advertisers in the *P.J.G.B.* fancy the abbreviated method, I am willing to submit suggestions.

How would Put & Sim do? or Vento, Bull, and Coo?

The following extract from the current number of the staid old *Monthly Journal* is rather interesting:—

"We have seen it stated that a new set will become necessary for French Indo-China, in consequence of the projected withdrawal of the current stamps; the reason given for this step is that the originals of the portraits thereon are well known locally as ladies of the 'Glad-eye' persuasion, and their retention on the postage stamps is likely to have a demoralizing effect."

This news ought to create quite a boom in French Colonials.

The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* for Dec. 23rd has, as a special heading, "Stamp Collecting as a Hobby." Surely this is an original idea? I always thought it was considered jolly hard work. Possibly the *S.C.F.* has tracked down the survivor of the nearly extinct race of collectors. Who knows?

One of the features of the *Stamp Year* is a list of "Abbreviations Used in Philately." Amongst them I find that "C.O.D." means "cash on delivery." Surely Mr. Melville has mistaken the stamp, for the drapery trade. Another philatelic abbreviation is G.P.O. This means General Post Office. J.P.S. means, of course, Junior Philatelic Society. "ry", we are told, is short for railway. Stamp collectors who are venturesome enough to travel by train should remember this.

A writer in the *Philatelic Gazette*, writing about Mr. Charles J. Phillips, says:—

"Strictly at 1.20 he crosses the Strand and meets Messrs. Peckitt and Griebert for lunch at the Hotel Cecil."

American visitors of the future will kindly note that to be in the front row of sightseers, they must take up their places on the sidewalk before 1.15.

For the benefit of 1912 Yankee visitors, I will map out a pleasant afternoon's amusement, combined with instruction: 12.30, lunch; 12.45, British Museum and outside of Mudies Library; 12.59, quick canter down Shaftesbury Avenue; 1.15, take up position outside 391, Strand; 1.20, see the procession; 1.25, arrive outside the Hotel Metropole; 1.27, await arrival of Messrs. Guy Semple, Stuart Anderson, and Oswald Marsh, on their way to lunch; 1.45, after viewing Trafalgar Square, Burlington House, and Arcade, wait outside the Savoy, to view Messrs. Lincoln, Johnson, and Leon, on their return from lunch; 1.55, catch train at Waterloo for Windsor, view the town and Castle; 4.30, line up outside Sam Isaacs, in High Holborn, to await the arrival, for afternoon tea, of Messrs.*

Some unknown friend has sent me the following newspaper clipping. I don't know why I am the lucky recipient, as my name is

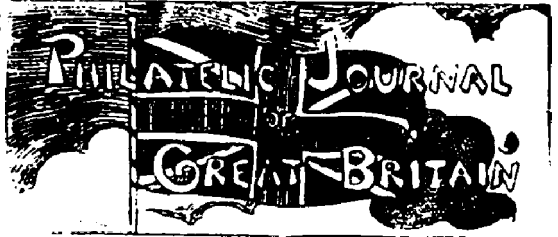
not Sandy, but Angus. Possibly one of my readers can explain the mystery.

Mr. MacTavish attended a christening where the hospitality of the host knew no bounds except the several capacities of the guests. In the midst of the celebration Mr. MacTavish rose up and made the rounds of the company, bidding each a profound farewell.

"But, Sandy, mon," objected the host, "ye're not goin' yet, with the evenin' just started?"

"Nay," said the prudent MacTavish, "I'm no' goin' yet. But I'm tellin' ye good-night while I know ye all."

At any rate it should have been the rest of the guests who said good-bye to the MacTavish.



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P. L. PEMBERTON & Co.,

68, High Holborn, London, W.C.

*MacTavish is getting personal, so we have to intrude.—E.D., P.J.G.B.

The Stamps of Greece.

By P. L. PEMBERTON.

(Continued from page 235.)

THE STAMPS OF 1871-76 ON THIN PAPER (continued).

J.—1872. 40 lepta, dull purple on blue.

THE colour is something like that of printing C but is duller and with less red in its composition. In most specimens the colour is faded so that the stamps have a distinctly brownish appearance, but in all cases the purple predominates; in this latter respect this printing differs from M, N and O, in which bistre or brown are always the prevailing tints.

The impression is generally very fair and would appear better if a more suitable colour had been used. Some specimens may be found which have been very carefully printed with a strong *découpage*: in these the shading on the cheek is very light, occasionally even dotted, and the spandrels are very pale.

The printing may be sub-divided according to the colour of the figures at the back. In the majority of cases these are purple—more or less in the colour of the stamp, but in rarer instances they are in a very pale greenish-bistre.

The paper is thin, often very transparent and always with a very coarse mesh.

This printing is very scarce unused.

K.—1872. 40 lepta, purple on blue.

This is very similar to the last in all respects save the colour which, in this printing, is much deeper and shews no tendency to fade.

As before there are two distinct varieties of the figures at the back, but in this case one appears to be no rarer than the other.

L.—1872. 40 lepta, deep bright purple on blue.

This printing can only be distinguished from the last by the colour which is brighter and with more red in it. The shade varies considerably from a moderately deep purple to a particularly deep rich shade.

So far as my experience goes the figures on the back are always in the same colour as the stamp. I have not yet been able to find one with bistre figures.

M.—1872. 40 lepta, pale bistre on blue.

The stamps of this printing have a most peculiar appearance; the colour is a very unattractive, muddy-looking bistre. There can be no doubt that, as originally printed, the colour was nothing like what it now appears to be. It was doubtless some shade of dull purple or violet, which was so badly mixed that it could not withstand the normal action

of the atmosphere. I have seen specimens which were parti-coloured, *i.e.*, portions of the design appearing in dull purple, thus proving beyond doubt that the present colour is not the original. There are several other instances which will occur to philatelists, in which stamps printed in shades of purple are now only known by the names of the colours to which they have faded. Of these the New South Wales 6d. of 1854 with diademed head, greenish-grey shades, and the 5 *neu-groschen* Saxony of 1863, provide the best known examples.

The impression is generally very indistinct. The paper is thin and coarse grained and is rendered very brittle and transparent by the gum.

The figures on the back are in the same colour as the stamp, but are sometimes so pale as to be almost indistinguishable. I have frequently seen specimens offered for sale as varieties without figures, but I have never yet been unable to find indications of the numerals. Sometimes they appear to be printed in dull white which can only be seen by holding the stamp so that the light falls on the figures, causing what little remains of the colour to shine.

N.—1873. 40 lepta, bistre-brown on blue.

The remarks made about the deterioration of the colour of the last printing apply equally to this. But the original shade was evidently deeper for this, as the present colour is not so pale nor so washy as in M. The shade varies from bistre-brown (with a distinct shade of purple in it) to bronze, according to the degree of decomposition to which it has been subjected.

The impression varies from fair to quite good. The paper, gum and figures at back are as in the last printing.

O.—? dark: 40 lepta, dull greenish-bistre on blue.

This printing resembles M in everything save the colour which has a distinct tinge of green in it.

This brings us to the end of the printings on coloured papers, and closes what, to most collectors, is the most interesting period of Greek postal history. Nevertheless, the issues that follow also include numerous varieties of printing which are almost as intricate as in the earlier stamps, and while some of these are decidedly scarce, even used, there are, among the unused, some first class rarities.

ISSUES OF 1876-79 ON CREAM OR ON
BUFF PAPERS.

The stamps of this set comprise all values save the 80 lep., the use of which was not now so great owing to the alterations in the postal rates and the issue of the 30 and 60 lepta stamps in 1876. The 80 lep. was finally withdrawn from circulation by Royal Decree dated 31st Dec., 1881 and demonetized on April 29th, 1882. Of the other values of the set those of 5 lep. and upwards continue to have figures on the back, but cream paper, with an occasional special printing on buff, replaced the blue paper of the previous issues. This change did not affect the 1 and 2 lepta, the printings of which for this period can only be distinguished by other means. During the three years of the issue the variations of printing were very great. Constant efforts were made at improving the impression, and on the whole the printing is very good. This is especially noticeable in the first printings of the 5, 10 and 20 lepta, but towards 1879 the plates fell into a bad state again.

The following is a list of the printings:—

T.—1877. 1 lepton, black-brown on cream.

This is a very distinctive printing: the colour is deeper than that of any others of this value. All authorities are agreed in calling it black-brown and I adhere to the description. It is really a very deep grey-brown, with sometimes, in the deepest shades, a distinct purplish tone. I have been tempted to separate the latter into another printing—which it probably was—but so many specimens partake of the characteristics of both that it is more practical to lump them together under one heading. Mr. Beckton separated them (his printings F and P) but he was certainly in error in assigning one of them to the period before 1870—a mistake which has been perpetuated in Gibbons' catalogue ever since. I have seen many dated copies, the earliest being one in my own collection, Dec. 1877. The very deep shades with the purplish tint (which I take to be Beckton's P) are generally dated before 1880; the others very rarely before that date.

There is only one other printing with which this might be confused, namely, the grey-brown, of 1886, the deepest shades of which are even darker than the palest shades of T. There is, however, an infallible test, for in the later printing the shading on the cheek is shorter and the outer frame line of the stamp is always more or less broken—often missing altogether on one or more sides.

The impression is heavy and coarse, especially in the deepest shades. The lines of shading on the cheek are long and thick, generally running into one another. The paper is deep cream and varies very much in texture from thick and spongy to thin and transparent.

U.—1879. 1 lepton, deep red-brown on cream.

Impression similar to the last but coarser still. The colour is rather like I and J but duller. It varies considerably from medium to very dark. As in the last printing the paper varies from thick and spongy to very thin and transparent, the very deep shades generally being on the latter.

N.—? date. 2 lepta, pale yellowish-bistre on straw.

This is the only distinctive printing of this value which I have been able to assign to this period. The impression is very good, and at first sight might be thought to belong to a much earlier date, but this is only due to the care which has been exercised in the printing and the sparing manner in which the colouring matter has been applied. The lines of shading on the cheek are thin and the spandrels are clear, but there is a certain flatness about the impression which distinguishes it from the early Athens.

R.—1876. 5 lepta, pale yellow-green on cream.

Impression very good. Lines of shading clear and separate. Spandrels often extremely pale. Paper of good texture and well finished, which has evidently assisted in producing such good impressions. The gum occasionally renders the paper semi-transparent.

S.—1878. 5 lepta, yellow-green on deep cream.

Impression poor to very bad, providing one of the most abrupt transitions which even Greece can show. Some impressions are so coarse that the inscriptions are indecipherable. The colour is always deeper than in R, and is often very deep indeed. The paper is deep cream to buff, is very coarse-textured and often more or less transparent.

T.—1899. 5 lepta, bluish-green on deep cream.

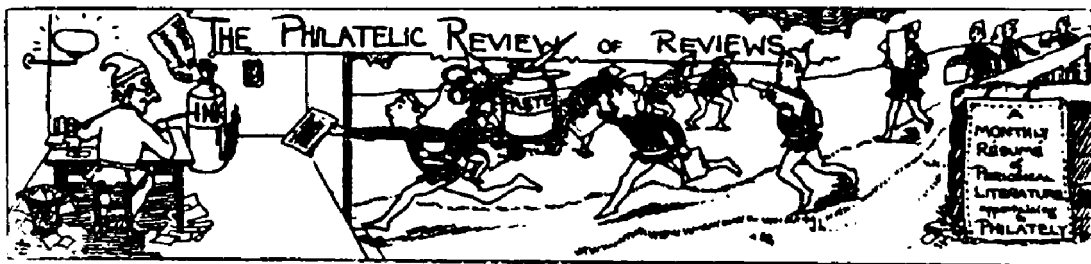
Impression and paper as last. The colour is brighter and fairly deep bluish-green. This is a much rarer printing than the last two.

U.—1879, 5 lepta, bluish-green on cream.

Impression excellent—even better than in R. The colour is very similar to the last but scarcely so bright. The paper is not so deeply toned as in the last two printings and appears to have a smoother surface, but it is still coarse grained—in which respect it differs from that of R.

(To be continued).





JANUARY 20, 1912.

Philately at Home.

The December number of the *London Philatelist* is a capital production and contains some very excellent articles. The editorial deals with the recently held Congress of Australasia, while we also find long reports from the Sydney and Georgetown Exhibitions. An interesting contribution is Mr. Franz Reichenheim's paper entitled "The Automatic Franking Machines of New Zealand," wherein he ably describes the method of employment of these machines in the Dominion.

Mr. S. Chapman contributes a lengthy and intensely fascinating instalment of his paper "Notes on the Stamps of Mexico." We find several postal notices reproduced and a very great deal of original matter dealing with the stamps themselves. Mr. Chapman has something new to say about all the issues of Mexico from the first down to the Maximilian issues, and collectors and students of these stamps should most certainly study his article *in extenso*.

An exhaustive, but slightly caustic review of the new Gibbons' catalogue, reviews of other publications, Occasional Notes, etc., all make good reading. One of the "Notes" is an embryo article by itself; as it deals with a hitherto unchronicled variety of Straits Settlements stamps, we venture to extract it in full.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS—A DISCOVERY.

The year 1883 was a prolific one in the surcharges of this colony, no less than nineteen varieties being already listed. These included the 5c. blue, watermark CC and Crown "4 cents," in red script letters (S.G. 25). We have now received from Mr. W. H. Peckitt specimens of this stamp, bearing in addition a large figure "4," in red, imposed over the other red surcharge. These specimens, as will be seen by the accompanying illustration, have every appearance of being authentic. The obliterations differ—in two cases being in red, one used in conjunction with a vertically surcharged TWO CENTS on 5c. (S.G. 57), and in the

other the postmark being in black and clearly over the surcharge. It will be remembered that the 8c. on 12c. dull purple, issued at the same time, was also surcharged with a similar large figure "8" (S.G. 72 and 73), in red, and it seems quite possible that the same reason existed for both secondary surcharges, in that the smaller one was not sufficiently distinctive. It should be mentioned that in the present instance the large figure "4" is in a vermilion shade exactly like that of the script letters beneath it, while in the case of the 8c. the figure is of a somewhat deeper tone, but both are apparently from the same fount of type. With these specimens were a number of other Straits surcharges, and the source from which they came in the colony seems all in their favour. In these days one is apt to regard all surcharges with suspicion, but these specimens have been carefully examined by Mr. Peckitt, ourselves, and others, and we can see no reason to doubt their authenticity. The unsuspected existence of such an important surcharge for a period of twenty-eight years is remarkably interesting in the present discovery.

The December number of the *Monthly Journal* contains the usual number of capital articles. One is a short paper entitled "Original Sketches of the Mulready," wherein we find some interesting information relating to the pencil sketch now in possession of H.M. the King, and a second, and more recently discovered sketch, belonging to Mr. E. M. Stone. M. Pierre Mahé writing about the Stamps of Brazil, concludes his paper with an account of the Newspaper Stamps of 1890. He also adds a lengthy postscript in which he dwells on the recent discoveries of Captain G. F. Napier and other writers. Mr. F. J. Melville is responsible for a long and well written instalment of his serial article entitled "Postage Stamps in the Making."

Mr. Norman Thornton, under the heading "Expectations for 1912" grows prophetic regarding the stamp issuing possibilities of the current year. A long account of the Australasian Congress, an article dealing with the Plates used by the Royal Mint for printing the current postage stamps; a further instalment of Mr. S. C. Barnett's "Stamps of Chili used

in Peru" and a contribution entitled "Old Papers Re-opened" are all of general interest. The last mentioned article deals with extracts from old newspapers, the following is amusing.

In the first of these articles, in the issue of *G.S.W.* of 17th September, 1910, notice was taken of the surprise occasioned by a package of needles being sent through the post. Even *The Times* took occasion to mention that "a flannel waistcoat was sent through the post on 2nd April, 1840," and again, two days afterwards the same paper invites admiration for a "long cucumber" which went safely to its destination. This was after the rate of postage was reduced, but a month before the "adhesives" came into use.

Then there appears to have been an argument as to the "first living creature" to successfully survive the ordeal, and the *Kelso Mail* of the 4th July, 1840, records the sending through the "penny post of a box of live glow-worms," and claims for it the first instance of sending living creatures through the post. but consequent correspondence showed that "five leeches sent some weeks before were entitled to that honour."

Perhaps the leeches still hold "that honour," but what would those simple editors say if they had had to record that a real, full-sized, live suffragette had been posted, and delivered at the Premier's door by Express Messenger, and refused!

We live in strenuous times.

Topical Notes, New Issues, Reviews, etc., and an excellent portrait of H.M. the King, all find a place in the pages of our leading contemporary. Amongst the "Topical Notes" we find the following. No doubt many of the customers of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons will be very eager to acquire stamps which once found a home in the private collection of Abdul the Damned.

Last month the Young Turk party commenced the sale of the private property of the late Sultan, most of which was found in Yildiz Kiosk when he was deposed. The jewels, etc., have been fetching great prices at the Hotel Drouet in Paris, but one of our agents on the Continent secured for our firm the grand collection of Turkish stamps, which I am sure contains many unique items.

This collection was mounted on loose sheets, and had to be remounted, so we have added various stamps we had in stock which were not in the collection, and we now have for sale the finest and most complete series of Turkish stamps (down to 1892, when the collection ended) that can be found in the world.

The collection proper is in four large albums, and panes and sheets are in another book of extra large size.

The issue of 1863 is very complete, and occupies one volume. It includes many fine blocks, and a lot of errors and varieties that I have never before met with.

In the whole collection there are about four hundred blocks of four, and vast numbers of errors and varieties, many of which are unchronicled.

The December number of the *Philatelic Record* did not come to hand until January 9th. It contains a lengthy instalment of Mr. John N. Luff's "Otto's Printings of the Transvaal Stamps," also a further chapter of the *Sveriges Filatelist-Förening*s

"Postage Stamps of Sweden, 1855-1905." This only consists of a list of the stamps, but as it gives the exact dates of issue, shades, and numbers of stamps printed from April, 1877, to October, 1889, it is of considerable interest.

Several pages of our contemporary are devoted to the Postmaster General's Report for 1910-11. Reviews, correspondence, new Issues, auction reports, etc., complete the December number of our exchange.

From the pages devoted to prices stamps have fetched, we extract the following:—

	£	s.	d.
Argentine Republic, 1864, 15c. imperf., fine margins ..	386	15	5
Colombia, 50c. red, error, very fine ..	375	22	15
United States, Navy, 2c. green, error ..	350	13	17
Peru, 1858, ½p. rose, error, very fine ..	385	15	4
Mauritius, 1848-58, 1d. vermilion, earliest state, superb ..	802	35	13
Ditto, 1d. vermilion, very early state, magnificent copy ..	998	39	9
Ditto, bluish paper, 1d. vermilion, very early state, superb pair ..	1700	67	5
Ditto, greyish paper, 2d. blue, medium state, pair, one the error 'PENOR' on large piece of original ..	900	35	12
Natal, 1904 5, Multiple CA. £1 10s. lilac and orange, very fine, mint ..	765	30	5
St. Helena, 1862, 6d. blue, perf. 12½, mint ..	605	23	17
India, 1854, ¼a. red, with corner margin, unused ..	400	18	17
Canada, 1851, 12d. black, creased but very fine ..	1700	70	16
Nevis, 1879, Lithographed, 6d. grey, entire sheet of twelve, divided at the middle (Mirabaud Collection), very fine, mint ..	1800	71	4
Ditto, 1s. green, similar sheet ..	302	11	19

These prices were realised in Paris by Messrs. Gilbert & Köhler during November last. Another item we notice was a strip of three 1 kr. Bavaria black, on entire, which sold for £7 10s. 4d. Catalogued by Gibbons at 30/- per stamp.

The December number of the *Stamp Collector* contains a capital editorial, wherein the writer bewails the fact that the meetings of the Birmingham Society are but poorly attended. The well-known member of the Birmingham Society for this month is Councillor W. Oakley. We learn that this energetic gentleman possesses, not only a superb collection of stamps, but also goes in for ferns, butterflies, moths, birds eggs, fossils, old china, Baxter prints, and coins! Surely this is the age of "strenuousity." Mr. C. H. T. Hayman contributes another instalment of his excellent article dealing with the stamps of Chili 1853-1883. Writing about the lithographed stamps, he says:—

In April, 1854, the steel plate was temporarily transferred from Desmadryl to another Santiago contractor of the name of Gillet, who made two separate printings, but heavily overinked the plate, as the resultant shades, burnt sienna and deep chocolate, show. The latter shade is very rare.

Having failed to print satisfactory stamps from the engraved plate, Gillet determined to try a lithographic transfer in May of the same year. In the course of this transfer the paper sometimes became creased, and hence gave rise to the abnormal varieties found in this issue. Ten of these quasi-errors are enumerated in the *London Philatelist* of July, 1902, and two or three others, chiefly consisting of breaks in the outer frame line, have come to light since. The lithographs were printed on thick and thin paper, and can be distinguished by their smooth appearance and slightly blurred impression, though it occasionally taxes the wit of an expert to give a definite decision. Needless to say, like all interesting antiques, Chilian lithographs are very difficult to come by, especially the abnormal varieties, and here lies a great field, only partially explored, which will severely tax to the utmost the scientific as well as the cumulative side of the philatelist.

The catalogue lists the shades as brown to pale chestnut-brown, but there are certainly further varieties of colour, closely allied to the "orange" family.

In August, 1854, the plate of the 10 centavos was given to Gillet, and he made from this three printings in the shades listed as green-blue, deep bright-blue, and slate-blue. The first colour is excessively rare, and I advise collectors to pick up copies at full catalogue, if they can. I purchased one from Gibbons some few years ago, since when I have never seen a duplicate in any collection or dealer's stock-book. The deep bright-blue is, in my humble opinion, one of the finest line-engraved stamps in existence, and both this stamp and the slate-blue have beautifully clear impressions and distinct detail. All three shades are generally found on ribbed paper.

In spite of the brilliance of his work, the 10 centavos plate was transferred to our old friend Desmadryl in November, and he made two separate printings in dull blue and dull sky-blue. Both printings, though clear in detail, are distinctly "cloudy" in appearance, and can thus be fairly easily picked out from other 10 centavos stamps.

Some further criticisms on the new Part I. Gibbons Catalogue; a long account of the Tasmanian stamps, shewn by Mr. Yardley at a recent meeting of the Birmingham Society; a goodly budget of "Notes," "Reviews," etc., make up a capital number.

The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* for December 23rd contains an illustrated interview with Mr. J. C. Sidebotham, the well-known genial President of the I.P.U. We also find a lengthy paper, read by Mr. R. S. Archer, Junr., before the Liverpool Junior Philatelic Society, which is entitled "Stamp Collecting as a Hobby." Mr. F. W. Edwards contributes an article, "The Stamps and Tokens of Dublin." "Reviews," "New Issues," etc., make up a good number of our twice-a-month visitor.

A fortnight later we find an illustrated interview with Alderman W. J. Trounce,

J.P.; an article entitled "The Cancellations of War Post-offices: and the Paper "Stamp Collecting as an Investment," read by Mr. W. Nichols before a recent meeting of the Northampton Philatelic Society. From the former of these two interesting contributions we extract the following information.

THE EGYPTIAN CAMPAIGN.

The actual date of the establishment of the post-office for the troops in Egypt can be definitely fixed, as occurring in the last week of August, 1882. Troops were landed from Malta in July, but the official information is that the Army Post-Office was organised and sent with General Wolsley's expedition, which arrived on August 16th, and finished disembarking the 31,500 men by the 20th.

At the suggestion of the officer in command of the Post-Office Rifle Volunteers, 100 non-commissioned officers and men were enlisted as soldiers in the regular army, under certain conditions as to pay and reinstatement in their old positions at the post-office, one half being detailed for active service and the other forming a first-class army reserve.

The active-service corps, under the command of Major Sturgeon as Army Postmaster-General, embarked with the army, and upon arrival at the front carried on the regular working of a post-office, receiving and despatching mails, and issuing and paying money orders, &c., at the various positions occupied by the British forces. For the first week the then current British penny stamp was used, with a small "E" written in red ink across, and obliterated by a pen mark; afterwards a narrow lozenge of small dots was employed, probably a local postmark. Eventually a circular date-stamp inscribed "British Army Post-Office, Egypt," with date was employed. The bulk of the army returned home by August, 1883, leaving only a small garrison; and the operations of the Army Post-Office were suspended practically as soon as active service ceased at the end of 1882. The stamps, therefore, having been in use for about six months only, are of very great rarity.

The varieties known are:—

1d. lilac.

2½d. blue, plates 22 and 23.

When the fresh expedition was despatched to Suakin in 1884, an Army Post-Office Corps, consisting of 20 men under the command of Major Sturgeon, established offices at Suakin, Handoub, &c., and the same circular date-stamp was used. The only stamp known to have been used is:—

2½d. (1884) lilac.

In the course of his paper relating to the financial side of philately, Mr. Nichols treats his readers to some very excellent advice. Amongst other precepts we find the following:—

I should like to emphasise the great importance of condition when collecting as an investment. Bad copies are dear at any price and although it is difficult to make some collectors see it, a superb copy of a stamp is often cheaper at full catalogue or over, than is a poor specimen at a third of the price. There certainly is a demand, and I daresay always will be, for poor copies at a low price among those collectors whose great object in life is to fill up as many spaces in a printed album at as cheap a rate as possible. But there is no doubt whatever that the fine copy must prove the better investment, as collectors are gradually getting educated up to a higher standard as regards condition and the supply is necessarily rather limited.

"New Issues," "Reviews," and other regular features of our contemporary are all good reading.

The January number of the *Monthly Report* contains Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg's brief "Notes," read when he displayed his collection of Sydney View stamps; Mr. Reichenheim's "Automatic Franking Machines of New Zealand"; and the same gentleman's excellent budget of "Philatelic Crumbs." We also find a couple of pages devoted to some very capable book reviews.

The January number of the *Philatelic Circular* contains a further instalment of Mr. A. H. Harris' interesting paper entitled "Mails Abroad," a page or more of Mr. W. B. Edwards' "Market Notes," a chronicle of "Georgian Stamps," and other matter. We also learn that Mr. B. W. H. Poole has undertaken the work of organising an American section of the Modern Collector's Club.

The December number of the *World of Stamps* contains the first instalment of a capital article, entitled "The Earlier Stamps of British Guiana," contributed by Mr. L. S. Goldsmith. Mr. Ellis Gee continues to write under the heading, "New Dies for Old," and describes, with the aid of enlarged blocks, the various hairlines, and other minor varieties of our own British stamps. Several pages of carefully compiled information relating to new issues, the first instalment of a review of the alterations in the new Gibbons' catalogue and another of Mr. Goldsmith's clever "Perforated Parodies," all make good reading for young and old collectors.

The December number of the *British Philatelist* contains a lengthy instalment of Messrs. Bernstein and Nissen's "British Stamps Used Abroad," together with a couple of pages of Editorial notes relating to the present vagaries of Somerset House and Harrison printings.

The January *Stamp Lover*, which came to hand on January 13th, is a meagre number of that usually entertaining journal. Mr. Harold Row is responsible for the only philatelic contribution, the instalment of his "Adhesive Postage Stamps of Siam," is, however, excellent.

Philately in the Colonies and Elsewhere.

The November number of the *Australian Philatelist* is entirely devoted to long and capable reports of the meeting of the First Philatelic Congress of Australasia, together with an account of the Exhibition, and the first instalment of Mr. Basset Hull's "The Stamps of New South Wales." This paper was read during the Congress, and although embodying no fresh information, contains particulars about the early stamps of New South Wales, which will always be read with interest. We clip the following extract relating to Sydney Views from Mr. Hull's lecture:—

Some stamps were ready for issue on the date the Act came into force, but the supply was not equal to the demand. On 3rd January, 1850, Mr. Raymond reported that the average number printed daily was less than 5,000, and on the 23rd of the same month he stated that 130,000 stamps had been printed, but it was only within the preceding few days that the supply had been sufficient to meet the demand.

The 1d. stamp was printed in red; the 2d. in blue, and the 3d. in green. The paper used was plain (unwatermarked), yellowish white wove, and the stamps were not perforated, that method of separating them not being invented until some years later.

The 2d. value was the most in demand, and the plate soon became worn to such an extent that the design was fast disappearing. Jervis was employed to re-touch the plate before the end of January, 1850, and in April of that year he re-engraved the plate in such a manner as to make a marked alteration in its appearance. The vertical lines in the spandrels were replaced by horizontal wavy lines, and the whole of Carmichael's fine engraving was made coarser. The plate was again partially retouched in August, 1850, and about September it was again entirely re-engraved and further re-engravings were rendered necessary in December, 1850, and April, 1851. In each of these re-engravings the general appearance of the stamps was altered so consistently that each stage is capable of reconstruction, and this work has been accomplished by philatelists.

The 1d. plate was not so much used, and it was only re-engraved once. This work was also performed by Jervis, who deepened and coarsened Clayton's engraving, and added lines of shading or "clouds" in the "sky."

The 3d. was least used, and the plate remained in good order during the three years it was in commission.

Several different papers were used for each value; yellowish, bluish, laid, and ribbed papers being employed.

These stamps were superseded by the issue of new designs—the 1d. in December, 1851; the 2d. in July, 1851; and the 3d. in December, 1852.

Known popularly as the "Sydney Views," the first issue of adhesive stamps of this State are keenly sought after by collectors, the most advanced of whom endeavour to acquire complete reconstructed sheets of all values, re-engravings, and retouches, on all varieties of paper, and in all the more distinct shades of colour. Needless to say, this ambitious programme is carried out to a successful termination by few even of the wealthiest collectors.

The copper plate of the 2d. was destroyed by being chopped in pieces by a hatchet. The fragments were assembled some years ago, and a photograph taken,



from which it was clearly seen that the philatelists who had reconstructed sheets from used specimens had correctly placed the units as originally engraved. Orders were given for the destruction of the 1d. and 3d. plates, but there is no record of the manner in which they were destroyed, nor were the remains ever discovered.

The December number of the *South African Philatelist* is full of short articles of interest. Mr. Emil Tamsen has a good deal to say concerning the O.F.S. 4d. error "Iostage." Mr. C. C. Woollacott bewails the fact the stamp dealers take such a prominent position in the world of philately. He says:—

The position occupied by stamp dealers in the world of philately is far more important than it should be. They are, in fact, the real leaders of the hobby, in spite of a host of philatelic societies and clubs, which appear to be quite satisfied with the subsidiary position allotted to them. When it is stated that a firm of stamp dealers is responsible for the issue of the only annual standard publication dealing with philately, it is surely unnecessary to say more. On this firm devolves the responsibility of chronicling the various issues as they appear, of fixing the market values, of deciding which stamps shall be collected and which ignored. If a stamp is not listed by Stanley Gibbons, it has no status with the average collector; one can only keep it in the hope that some day it will be found worthy of a place in that exclusive catalogue. I would not for a moment disparage the work done by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons. They have undoubtedly contributed largely to the advance of philately, and although it may be argued that their efforts have been compensated by financial profits, no one will deny that their initiative and enterprise have been of great benefit to the hobby. Probably their importance in the research department of the pursuit has not been of their own seeking. They endeavoured by a careful and painstaking study of the conditions to attain a strong financial position in the philatelic world, and they succeeded. That, I say, was probably their only object; but when they found that those bodies which should have made it their business to deal with and control the instructive side of the hobby did not come forward, they stepped into the breach, and gradually became the first and only court of appeal. What was at first merely a dealers' price-list evolved in course of time into a recognised standard work on philately, and its position as such is now so strong and assured that it will be difficult to depose it. And yet, I submit, it should be deposed. Why should the question as to what constitutes a variety be decided by a commercial company, when there are national philatelic societies fully competent to undertake this duty, and far more disinterested? The time is ripe for a consideration of this matter. If the premier society in every country were deputed to make an unpriced list of its own stamps, and all the lists were embodied in one work, collectors would then have the satisfaction of knowing that they had a philatelic record compiled by properly constituted authorities, and not, as at present, a glorified price-list, subject to alterations and corrections (not always explainable) at the whim of its commercial progenitors.

A number of other interesting South African contributions, "Jottings," "Societies' Reports," etc., make up a very readable number of the *S.A.P.*

The December number of the *British Guiana Philatelic Journal* is almost entirely devoted to a lengthy account of the recently held Georgetown Exhibition.

Judging from the reports of the exhibits we should say that the members of the British Guiana Society are keen general collectors, and that philately has gained a firm foothold in the Colony. Recruits to the hobby, however, seem backward in coming forward.

The November number of the *Australian Stamp Journal* is almost entirely devoted to matter relating to the recently held Australasian Congress. We find an account, with list of awards, of the exhibits; a long letter in which the writer comments on the Congress and Exhibition; a couple of pages of "Exhibition Items" and a list of the rare stamps sent for exhibit by Mr. H. J. Crocker. "Commonwealth" News, "Items of Interest," "Societies' Reports," etc., complete, with one exception, the contents of an excellent number of our contemporary. The exception is an article dealing with the "reported discovery of a very rare Fiji Postage Stamp." We extract the following, and await further developments.

ANOTHER STAR IN THE HEAVENS.

REPORTED DISCOVERY OF A VERY RARE FIJI POSTAGE STAMP.

To the Editor,

Australian Stamp Journal.

DEAR SIR,—Collectors of Australasian postage stamps will be interested to learn that the Mitchell Library has secured an embossed Fiji stamp issued in the seventies under the regime of King Cakobau: but additional value is given to the stamp by the original affidavit of the purchaser of the stamp, and declarations of two former Cabinet Ministers, certifying that during their tenure of office embossed stamps were issued for postal purposes. As this is a very important point not generally known to collectors, I attach a copy of the statements.

Yours truly,

H. WRIGHT,

Librarian Mitchell Library.

October 31, 1911.

I, Edwin James Turpin of Suva in the Colony of Fiji Accountant in the firm of A. M. Brodzlak & Co. Merchants hereby declare:—

1. That the stamp hereto annexed is a proper Fijian one issued during the reign of King Cakobau.
2. That the value of such stamp, viz., 62½ cents written thereon and the initials J. B. T. are in the handwriting of John Bates Thurston then Chief Secretary of Cakobau and now Sir John Bates Thurston Governor of this Colony.
3. That the writing J. M. Haslett on the said stamp is in the proper handwriting of the late John Mitchell Haslett who was Postmaster-General and Commissioner for Stamps in the reign of Cakobau.
4. That the said stamp is an unused one and bought by me in or about the year 1872 or 1873.
5. That stamps of the same issue and of different values but all above 12 cents were used indifferently as postage and duty stamps as required.

E. J. TURPIN.

3. That the stamp shown me by Mr. E. J. Turpin is a proper stamp of Cakobau's issue and bears the face value of 62½ cents and that the initials J. B. T. on the said stamp are in the handwriting of John Bates Thurston, then Chief Secretary of the Kingdom of Fiji and now Governor of this Colony and that the writing of J. M. Haslett is the proper signature of the late John Mitchell Haslett, Commissioner for Stamps and Postmaster-General at that time for the Kingdom of Fiji.

G. A. WOODS.

I, Robert Sherson Swanston, at the date above specified having been a colleague in the Ministry of King Cakobau of Fiji with the Premier Mr. G. A. Woods, and holding the position of Secretary of Native Affairs do hereby endorse the above certificate.

ROBT. S. SWANSTON.

No. 372.

On H.M.S.

Memorandum.

From Colonial Postmaster.

To E. J. Turpin, Esq.,
G.P.O., Suva, Fiji, 20th July, '94.

Many thanks for allowing me to see the stamp of the late King Cakobau. I should think it was valuable, more especially as it apparently bears the initials of our present Governor, Sir John Bates Thurston, who was at the time the stamp was issued in the King's service.

Yours, etc.,

LESLIE WALKER.

A New Discovery in New Zealand.

MR. CHARLES LATHROP PACK has recently come in possession of a one shilling New Zealand watermarked Star of 1862, which has the serrated perforation. Specialists in the early stamps of New Zealand have long thought it possible that the one shilling would be found in this condition.

Mr. Pack's specimen has been examined by both Mr. M. P. Castle and Mr. W. T. Wilson, and both agree that it is quite genuine, and a most interesting stamp, hitherto unseen by either of them.

The Jubilee Stamp Exhibition.

THE date of the Jubilee International Stamp Exhibition, to be held in London under the auspices of the Junior Philatelic Society, has been fixed for October 14th next. The Exhibition will be opened on Monday the 14th, and will remain open throughout the entire week.

The Executive Committee has pleasure in announcing that it has secured the finest exhibition hall available in London for the occasion, that of the Royal Horticultural Society, in Vincent Square, Westminster.

A tentative prospectus of the Exhibition will be issued in February, but as the display is to be a competitive one, taking the whole of the countries of the world into its scope, collectors will be glad of an early opportunity

of strengthening and preparing their collections during the present winter months.

A section will be devoted to specialised exhibits of Single Issues.

H. F. JOHNSON,

44, Fleet Street, E.C.

Hon. Secretary.

In the World of Stamps.

WE have received from Messrs. Bright & Son a copy of their "List of Novelties" for 1912. This little booklet, consisting of 40 pages, will be sent free to any of our readers who are interested in sets, packets, philatelic accessories, etc.

* * *

From a recent number of the *Daily Telegraph* we extract the following figures, which show the increase which has taken place in the post bag of the British Empire during the past ten years.

The figures are for letters and cards only.

THE IMPERIAL MAIL.

	1901.	1910.
British India ..	469,209,482	809,308,872
Australia ..	220,177,642	392,850,662
Canada ..	229,859,000	526,629,500
New Zealand ..	54,089,937	210,450,636
Transvaal..	8,863,982	38,368,315
Rhodesia ..	2,178,789	7,841,652
Ceylon ..	16,535,128	28,154,090

* * *

We have received No. 1 of a new little American publication, partly printed in Spanish. We like the look of our latest *confre* but will wait for a few more numbers before we raise it to the dignity of a niche in our Review of Review columns. For the present those of our readers, both at home and in the States, who write to the editor of the *Stampster*, Mr. George T. Edson, Olatha, Kansas, U.S.A., will doubtless receive a sample copy.

* * *

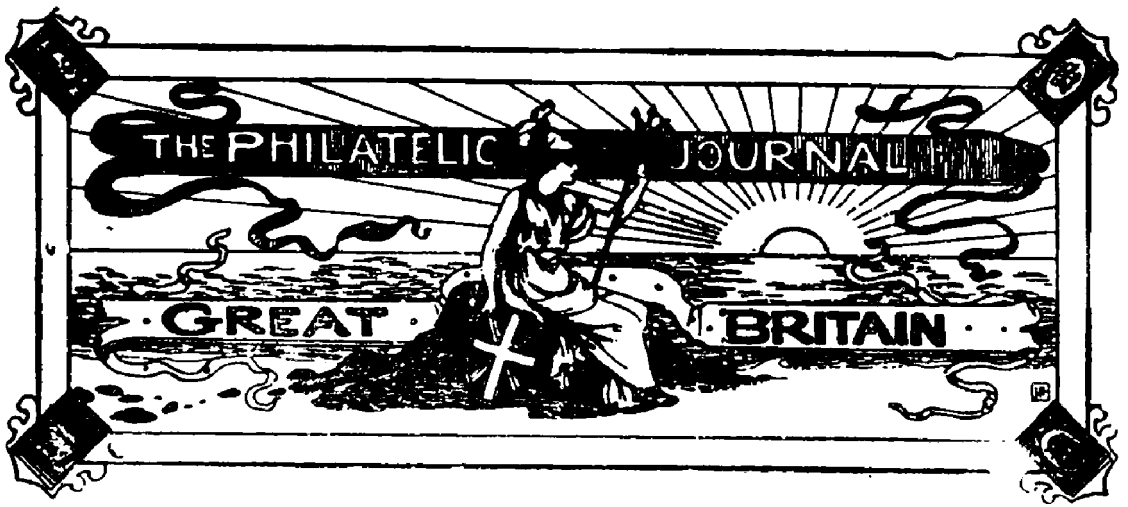
The *Monthly Report* of the Herts Philatelic Society says that Parisian dealers and collectors are making ready to hold a big Exhibition in Paris during the present year.

* * *

Messrs. Paul Kohl, of Chemnitz, have published three more of their excellent little handbook-catalogues dealing with the stamps of one country only. They describe respectively the stamps of Cashmere, and Abyssinia, while the third is devoted to "specimen" stamps and essays of the United States. All three books are liberally illustrated and annotated.

* * *

The Prizes awarded by the British Guiana Philatelic Society have just come to hand. Our publishers were awarded a diploma for the *P.F.G.B.* and this handsome testimonial can now be seen framed in our Editorial Offices.



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

No. 254. VOL. XXII. FEBRUARY 20, 1912.

[PRICE 2D.]

♦ ♦ Editorial. ♦ ♦

MANY collectors consider that it is possible to buy all their stamps at half catalogue quotations or even less, but we are afraid that in the long run the collection formed on these lines will prove a very poor investment. Collectors who insist on the fact that their stamps must not average more than half the standard price list prices are catered for by some dealers who make a point of advertising that they sell at 50% off catalogue; unfortunately for the peace of mind of the half-price collector, these dealers are not always able to supply many of the wanted stamps or else they have inferior copies in their books which are dear at almost any figure.

Of the many thousands of varieties of stamps in existence it is only natural that many should be overpriced in the standard catalogues, with the result that any dealer, private or otherwise, can sell such stamps at half price and still reap a handsome profit; such examples, however, only prove the rule that in fine condition practically all the early stamps from 1840 to 1880 are sound investments at from 50 to 35 per cent. off the standard catalogue. To be

worth these prices the stamps, however, must be in fine condition. Unfortunately, or perhaps we should say fortunately, there is no royal road to the study of stamp values, such knowledge can only come with years of experience, and a diligent perusal of journals, catalogues, and price lists. When, however, such knowledge is gained, the collector who can go out on a hunting expedition and buy fine copies of the stamps he wants at half catalogue, is sure of a very amusing and profitable outing.

In the meantime collectors should not rush to secure a place in the sunshine of the "50 per cent. off catalogue" dealers, who, although they can profitably sell many varieties, are unable to fill the spaces, which it is so necessary to fill, before the collection becomes a desirable acquisition from the purchaser's point of view.

If any of our readers are obsessed with the certainly (from one point of view) laudable idea of completing their collections on a 50 per cent. basis, we should like to remind them that the stamps they buy, with occasional surplus bargains excepted, are the stamps easily come by and the very stamps that the dealer, when the time comes for him to repurchase, is apt to fight shy of.

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.

Great Britain. Since the publication of last month's Journal we have to chronicle two more printings from Somerset House.

Ewen's Weekly Stamp News lists them as follows:—

Adhesives. Wmk. Anchor.
2s. 6d., dark lilac, faint printing.

In all specimens seen so far the bars of "2s. 6d." are broken or very faint. We have only seen the "11" cut of the lower pane of the sheet but it is the same as in the first printing.

10s. blue.

This is the first Somerset House printing of this value. The "11" cut is under the ornament in the lower right-hand corner of the last stamp but one in the bottom row of the sheet.

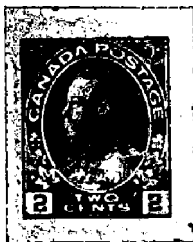
Australian Commonwealth. We are indebted to the *Australian Philatelist* for the following information:—

"We have been informed that the Governments of the various States are negotiating with the Commonwealth Government in connection with a scheme for abolishing the use of stamps on official correspondence, substituting the payment of a lump sum annually. All philatelists will welcome this change. Perforated officials, to the advanced collector, have always been a nightmare."

Fortunately advanced collectors, in England at any rate, do not trouble about perforated stamps.

Canada. We are informed that other values of the new series have now been issued.

Adhesives. King George.



5c. blue.
7c. olive yellow.
10c. brown purple.
20c. olive green.

India. Other values, besides those we have already chronicled, are now listed in the *London Philatelist*,

Adhesives. King George.

3 pies, slate grey.
½ anna, green.
2as. 6 pies, bright blue.
6 annas, olive bistre.

Officials.

3 pies, slate grey.
½a. green.
1a. carmine.

New Zealand. *Niue.* Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have shown us a specimen of the ½d. King's Head stamp overprinted in red.



Adhesive.
½d. green.

Trengganu. Various of our contemporaries chronicle "specimen" stamps of \$5 and \$25 face value. Doubtless they will be issued to the hungry public in the near future.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Argentine Republic. In addition to the two values of the new series of stamps, which we chronicled in our December number, we learn from various sources that the following have been issued:—

Adhesives.

½c. violet.
1c. yellow brown.
2c. brown.
3c. green.
4c. puce.
10c. sage green.
20c. blue.
24c. red brown.
30c. lilac.
50c. black.

Colombia. *The Monthly Journal* says:—"We have seen a copy of the ½c. of 1910 with inverted centre." This stamp is one of the big commemorative series.

Cuba. The same Journal says: "We have seen the 1c. violet and green of 1910, with inverted centre," *Pourquoi pas?*

Liechtenstein. Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have sent us specimens of these novelties,

As the illustration shews they are closely modelled on the lines of the Austrian Jubilee issue.



Adhesives.

- 5 heller, green.
- 10 .. rose.
- 25 .. blue.

Nicaragua. The *Metropolitan Philatelist* says that this country has found "a philatelist willing to pay the bill for a new issue of stamps and take his pay in cancelled-to-order sets and practically the entire issue of two values unused. We presume he has studied the case and will come out all right on his venture."

Servia. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have very kindly sent us a specimen of the new Journal stamps. The complete set is as follows:—



Journal Stamps.

- 1 para, grey.
- 5 paras, green.
- 10 .. orange.
- 15 .. violet.
- 20 .. yellow.
- 25 .. blue.
- 30 .. black.
- 50 .. claret.
- 1 dinar, yellow-brown.
- 3 dinars, lake.
- 5 .. lilac.

Our Ipswich friends also tell us that they have the following additions to the regular set of adhesives (see *P.F.C.B.*, Oct., Nov. and Dec., 1911). *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the two highest values.

Adhesives.

- 50 paras, brown.
- 1 dinar, orange.
- 3 .. marone.
- 5 .. violet.

Spanish Colonies. *Rio de Oro.* Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a specimen of

the new stamps, and tell us that the full set consists of the following values:—



Adhesives.

- 1c. carmine.
- 2c. mauve.
- 5c. green.
- 10c. red.
- 15c. orange-brown.
- 20c. red-brown.
- 25c. blue.
- 30c. lilac.
- 40c. blue-green.
- 50c. lake.
- 1p. red.
- 4p. claret.
- 10p. purple-brown.

Sweden. The current stamps of this country have of late been in the experimental stage. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* gives a resumé as follows:—

Wmkd. Crown.

- 1, 2, 4, 5, 10 öre and 1 krona.

No wmk.

- 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 öre.

Wmk. wavy lines.

- 2, 4 öre.

Official Stamps. Wmk. Crown.

- 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 15, 25, 30, 50 öre. 5 krona.

Wmk. wavy lines.

- 5, 10, 35 öre.

Wurtemberg. The *London Philatelist* is responsible for the following:—

"Two new values of the Municipal Service set are before us, the zopf., deep ultramarine, and 5opf., red brown."

Municipal Service.

- 20 pf. deep ultramarine; perf. 11½ x 11.
- 50 pf. red-brown

Chili: The Provisional Five Centavos of 1900.

By W. HAWORTH.

IN the latter part of the year 1900 the Post Office of Chile was much troubled by a shortage of stamps of the value of 5c. This famine was directly due to the bad management of the Treasury, which department had charge of the distribution of specie. Indeed, according to a well-known South American philatelist, up to October, 1900, none of the 30c. stamps issued in May, 1899, had been sent to Valparaiso, such was the carelessness of the Treasury officials.

On October 11th the following note was sent from the Treasury:—

Treasury,
Stamp Section, No. 53.
SANTIAGO, 11th October, 1900.

Sir,
Under the above date I have the honour of addressing the following to the Minister of the Home Department.

You are requested to authorize by supreme decree the issue of tax stamps of 5c. to replace the postage stamps of the same value.

This Administration has decided to have recourse to this method, if it is agreeable to you, of coping with the excessive demand for the stamps mentioned, and which were entirely exhausted in the stores of this office in the month of September last.

God guard you,
BENJAMIN VERGARA.

The Post Office Department also wrote on Oct. 16th, as follows:—

No. 4, 999. SANTIAGO, 16th Oct., 1900.
Sir,

This Direction regrets that they have had to have recourse to the arbitrary power shown in the previous note, but judging from the fact that they have scarcely sufficient stamps of 1c. (which with two 2c. would replace one 5c.) no other method was possible to which the Director of the Treasury would agree.

CARLOS LIRA.

Under the circumstances there was only one thing for the President to do, and that was to authorise the use of fiscals for postage, hence we find this decree.

No. 3,921. SANTIAGO, 29th October, 1900.

In view of the preceding note in which the Director of the Treasury announces that he has exhausted the postage stamps of five centavos,

IT IS DECREED,

That tax stamps of five centavos are authorized for franking the postal correspondence of the Republic.

ERRAZUREZ ELIAS FERNANDEZ.

In spite of this, a few people preferred to use two 2c. and a 1c. stamp to make up the required sum, and the Government saw with horror the stocks of these values diminishing; but of the subsequent 1c. and 2c. provisionals we have nothing to say in this paper.

The fiscals, which were in use as postage stamps, would not last indefinitely, and the Treasury officials seemed to quite recognise this fact. Since no new supplies could be received from the American Bank Note Company for some months, provision had to be made till they arrived. Accordingly, the following note was sent by the Treasury:—

Republic of Chile.
Treasury, Stamp Section.

SANTIAGO, 30th November.

Sir,
There exist in the vaults of this administra-

tion various quantities of postage stamps of different values, which have little sale, and are of an old issue.

By reason of the great dearth of 5c. postage stamps which there has been and which have been replaced by tax stamps of the same value, according to the decree of the Minister of the Home Department, No. 2,679 of 24th October last, and in view of the lack of the stamps mentioned, you are requested, if it seems good to you, to sanction by supreme decree the replacing of the postage stamps of 5c. by those of the values shown.

500,000 of \$0,25.

1,500,000 of \$0,30.

500,000 of \$0,50.

I suggest that it is necessary that you should authorize this Administration to apply a surcharge, by means of a metal die, which shall show the value "5," to each stamp, and in an ink specially prepared for the work.

By this means the inconveniences, which originate through the lack of the aforementioned postage stamps of 5c., may be avoided.

God guard you.

BENJAMIN VERGARA.

To this letter the Minister of the Home Department replied:—

No. 2,488. SANTIAGO, Dec. 5th, 1900.

Enquire of the Director General of Posts if it would not be possible to employ other means without preparing a special stamp, to avoid the inconvenience mentioned in the foregoing note.

NOTE.

(By the Minister) A. RODRIGUEZ HA.

The Treasury evidently showed this note to the Postmaster General, for we find a letter from him dated December 5th.

Post Office Department,
No. 5,686.

SANTIAGO, 5th December, 1900.

Sir,
In reply to yours of the 4th inst., No. 2,488, I beg to inform you that this Department is in entire agreement with that of the Treasury in the matter of surcharging the stamps of the old issue, and making them into the value of 5c.

But I would also add that as there is, as well, a lack of 1c. labels, it would be convenient to authorize either fiscal stamps of the same value as postage stamps, or that the Treasury, by means of a metal surcharge, overprint the values of 1c. and 5c. thus:

500,000 stamps of 25c. with 1c.

1,500,000 " 30c. " 5c.

500,000 " 50c. " 5c.

The Administration under my charge think that they ought not to advise the printing of special stamps, because such issues lend themselves to forgery, which it is desired to avoid. They think more acceptable the means proposed by the Treasury, and especially in view of the urgency with which the stamps are

required, and the fact that the dearth is causing great inconvenience to the public besides being prejudicial to the service.

The surcharging of the stamps is an easy method, which is employed under the same circumstances in other countries, and which in the case in point, which as I have said is of some urgency, will satisfy the necessity felt.

CARLOS LIRA.

This last letter of the Postmaster General seems to have decided the President, who a week later published the following decree:—

No. 4,377. SANTIAGO, 12th December, 1900.

In view of the note of the Director of the Treasury in which he shows that there is a total exhaustion of the postage stamps of the 5c., as well as of the tax stamps of the same value, the use of which, in the prepayment of correspondence, is authorised by decree, No. 3921 of October 29th last, and,

Having read the note of the Director General of Posts,

IT IS DECREED,

That the Administration of the Treasury is authorised to have cancelled, by means of perforation, the postage stamps 30c. to the quantity of one million, six hundred and fifty thousand.

The stamps cancelled in the manner indicated are authorised to frank correspondence, being considered of the value of 5c.

Publish, etc.

ERRAZUREZ.

M. SANCHEZ FONTECILLA.

Enclosed with the above decree, when sent to the Treasury, was the following short note from the Minister of the Home Department.

Sir, SANTIAGO.

In reply to your note, No. 62, I suggest that the perforation mentioned in the decree should consist of a numeral "5," similar to that employed in Banks, to express the value of a cheque or note.

You must take the steps necessary for providing that the perforation is exactly the same on all the stamps.

God guard you.

A. RODRIGUEZ, H.

As a result of this correspondence the Treasury made arrangements with a Señor Hardy to perforate the figure on the stamps. Since the work could only be performed at the rate of one row of ten stamps at a time, it was manifestly impossible to perforate 1½ millions of stamps in the short time available. But besides this, as might have been expected, the perforation did not show up clearly on a stamp affixed to a letter. So Señor Vergara wrote again to the Minister of the Home Department.

I might mention here that the perforating machine was placed in the Stamp Section of the Treasury, and it was there that the few stamps done were perforated.

As far as I know no copies of these essays have come to light. Doubtless they are still in the archives of the Chilean Post Office.

To return, however, to the correspondence resulting from the failure of the experiment, on December 22nd we find the following letter despatched to the Chilean Home Office.

Republic of Chile,

Treasury.

(Stamp Section.)

No. 70.

SANTIAGO,

22nd Dec., 1900.

The result of the perforation of the stamps of 30c. (postal) with the new value of 5c., ordained by decree No. 4,377 of the 12th inst., not having been what was expected, you are required to render without effect the statement contained in that decree, and to authorize the placing of the figure "5" in special ink, on each stamp to the quantity required.

God guard you,

BENJAMIN VERGARA.

Four days later the final decree in connection with these provisionals was promulgated.

No. 4,535. SANTIAGO, 26th December, 1900.

In view of the note of the Director of the Treasury, in which it is shown that there is a total exhaustion both of the postage stamps of 5c. and the tax stamps of the same value, of which the use in prepayment of correspondence was authorized by Decree No. 3,921 of October 25th last, and the information of the Director General of Posts having been duly considered,

IT IS DECREED,

That the Treasury is authorized to have surcharged with a figure "5," by means of lithography, the quantity of 1,500,000 postage of 30c., the stamps so surcharged to be used provisionally for the franking of correspondence, and to be considered as of the value of 5c.

The decree of the 12th inst. is declared annulled.

Publish, etc.

Errázuriz,

M. SANCHEZ FONTECILLA.

The overprinting was begun on the day the decree was published, and by December 28th Señor Schäger, to whom the work had been entrusted, had delivered sufficient stamps at the Treasury for the issue to be commenced. A supply was immediately sent down to the Head Post Office in Santiago and they were put on sale the same day.

Current Chatter.

BY ANGUS MCTAVISH.

THE journals of the past month or so have contained little matter for the wee bit Scottie

to browse upon, or, if they have, it has been too well hidden for the wee McTavish to unearth it during the few minutes which he has been able to devote to the search. Possibly some of my readers imagine that attending to the dear old *P.J.G.B.* is my day-long occupation. Unfortunately the dear old *P.J.G.B.* only comes on the scene about 11.30 p.m., and even then work on it is freely punctuated with domestic calls. By midnight, what with heating the baby's milk, massaging the parrot, stopping the leak in the hot water bottle, unsorting the pet poodle from the neighbour's cat, and performing the dozen and one other evening duties which fall to the lot of the family man, I am too tired to say all I should like to say. I am a devil to think, however. One of these months—after I have booked my passage to Iquique—I will let readers have a column or two of "thinks."

The last I.P.U. meeting was a great success; after it was all over I am told that a member was seen supplying the needs of a fair correspondent with postage stamps. As the hour was late he pronounced war stamps with a very Scotch accent. Apropos this evening, the poor wee little innocent was called, because of something he said in the January number, a cockatrice, a serpent in the grass, and a sardine. How much nicer this sounded than mere vulgar abuse. My coleopterous friend was in great form. Here's to our next meeting.

The report that one of the attractions at the forthcoming Margate Congress will be a glove contest between Messrs. D. B. Armstrong and J. H. Roskilly is emphatically denied by both gentlemen.

Mr. Séfi, in the *West End Philatelist*, says that certain U.S.A. stamps bear "a portrait of Seward, after Carpenter." Next month we shall, I hope, learn whether Serward ever caught him.

Edgar Nelson has arrived, and I guess he has a real elegant bunch of covers with him; sure they knock many spots off the wee orphan's little lot. Anyhow, I got home on the Greek entires first.

In an article entitled "How the Romans carried the Mails," just reprinted in one of the American stamp papers, I find the following:—

"The fast mail was carried by messengers drawn by the fleetest horses, which were changed at stations (stationes) placed at convenient points along the military roads. These last-named stations were situated about twenty miles apart, and had in constant readiness about twenty horses for the use of the courtiers. They were equipped with veterinaries and with carpenters."

The author, not knowing what kind of horses were used, is evidently taking no risks. Possibly, however, they were neither wooden, nor 'bus horses, but just hobby-horses. Eh, what?

Can anybody tell me what has happened to the *P.J. of America*? For some months I have been unable to add to my collection of U.S.A. stamps.

At Messrs. Glendining's January 24th sale some capital prices were realised. The bid of the evening was £22 10s. for a brilliant mint copy of the 30/- King's Head orange and purple stamp of Natal. A second copy of this comet in the philatelic heavens was knocked down for £22.

The dealers present who sold copies of this stamp at a few shillings over face a couple of years ago, wriggled uneasily and wore sickly-looking smiles of consciousness.

One of the lots at the same sale was described "King Edward's Land: on New Zealand, 1909, 1d. red, on small piece, used by Lieut. Shackleton in his attempt to reach the South Pole." This fetched 5/-. Possibly if Shackleton had used 2d. stamps he would have got there.



February, 1912, Report.

List of Officers and Committee, 1911-12.

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Hon. Vice-Presidents:

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MAJOR J. DE C. LAFFAN.

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All Officers of the Union are ex-officio Members of the Committee.

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 :—

Joseph Wagenhaeuser, London, N. Proposed by W. Schwarte, Seconded by J. C. Sidebotham; Albert Graetzer, Maida Vale, W. Proposed by W. Schwabacher, Seconded by T. H. Hinton.

NEW MEMBERS.

F. B. Smith, Brixton, S.W.
E. G. W. Harmer, Fleet Street, E.C.
H. A. Wise, Hampstead, N.W.
Edward Buhl, Croydon.

NOTICES.

The fifth meeting of the season was held at Essex Hall, on Thursday, 8th inst. Present: J. C. Sidebotham (in the chair), W. Schwarte, L. W. Fulcher, J. E. Joselin, Guy Semple, Wilmot Corfield, W. S. King, A. B. Kay, P. L. Pemberton, W. Hadlow, F. F. Lamb, J. B. Seymour, W. E. Lincoln, J. Wagenhaeuser, and the Hon. Sec. Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The Hon. Sec. read copy of letter sent by him to Dr. Marx on his departure for Rosario. The following delegates were appointed to represent the Society at the Fourth Annual Congress at Margate in May next :—Messrs. J. E. Joselin, W. E. Lincoln, and T. H. Hinton.

Mr. W. E. Lincoln then gave a display of his well-known collection of War Stamps, comprising stamps which caused war, those used in wars, and issues commemorating wars from 1776 to date, and is of much general and philatelic interest, which was augmented by the lucid notes and comments made by Mr. Lincoln whilst the collection was passed round, and for which a hearty vote of thanks was accorded on the motion of Mr. Corfield, seconded by Mr. King. On the conclusion of the display some additional specimens were shown by Mr. Joselin, the Hon. Sec., and Mr. Seymour, who showed a fine selection of British stamps on the original envelopes used during the Crimean War.

The next meeting will take place at Essex Hall on Thursday, March 14th, at 7.30 p.m. (committee 7 p.m.), when displays of Holland with notes will be given.

Postage Stamps, Mr. H. Wade, of Leeds.

Fiscal Stamps, Mr. W. Schwabacher.

All members and any visitors cordially invited. Subscriptions now due, proposals for membership or donations to the 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.
Feb. 10th, 1912.

Correspondence.

Queen's Highcliffe Hotel,
Margate.

23rd December, 1911.

To the Editor, "P.J.G.B."

DEAR SIR,

CAYMANS AGAIN.

I have just received from the Cayman Islands a copy of the new 2½d. envelope, a sample of which I enclose. The full packets contain twenty-four envelopes, and these were first issued to the public on November 17th, 1911; a friend writes me that they do not expect the King George stamps to be delivered before March next.

You are probably aware that regular steamship communication has been discontinued for over two years, but I am advised that they are just starting a steamship service between Grand Cayman and Mobile, U.S.A., which will mean that they will be able to obtain goods from U.S.A. in a fortnight from date of ordering, instead of waiting three months as they do at present, for manufactured goods from Great Britain.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

A. LÉON ADUTT.

Ropsley, New Malden,
9th January, 1912.

To the Editor, "P.J.G.B."

DEAR SIR,

CAYMAN ISLAND POSTMARKS.

May I make an enquiry through your columns, the results of which should be, to philatelists, both interesting and far reaching?

Has any reader got or seen a copy of a Cayman Islands stamp or of a Jamaica stamp used in the Caymans, postmarked on any of these dates :—June 23, 1898 (? Ju. 23, 08); March 31, 1900 (? Mr. 31, 00); March 2, 1900 (Mr. 2, 00); June 23, 1900; July 11, 1900 (? 00 Jy 11); April 19, 1901 (? Ap 61, 01); May 4, 1901 (? My 4 01).

Anyone who has, will assist in solving a problem (the results of which I will readily communicate to the philatelic press in due course), if he will write me and describe the stamp, stating also, if possible, when, and from whom, it was obtained.

I shall also be grateful to have a description of any Jamaica stamps used in the Caymans, all of which will doubtless have a bearing on the same subject.

Yours faithfully,

A. J. WATKIN.

The Stamps of the First Issue of Holland, 1852.

R. W. WILKINSON.

(Continued from page 8.)

PLATE III. OCTOBER, 1854.

We thus arrive at a most elusive and mysterious plate; the previous one was put aside, according to Haas, on 20th July, 1855, and replaced by another on 12th October, 1855. It is quite certain, however, that Plate III. was brought into use in October, 1854, at the same time as the 5 cents. I possess a number of stamps dated from 30th October, 1854 and early 1855, quite distinct in appearance and shade from Plate II. showing full impressions of all detail, few blurs and no retouches. The shade of red has more brown in it than the preceding printing.

These stamps are found used up to about August 1856, and as the next plate occurs as early as 13th April, Plate III. must be placed a year earlier than Haas gives it because the impressions from October 1854 to April 1855 are the same, and differ entirely from those before and after.

The means of indentifying this plate are therefore of a negative quality. No blurred T or side line retouches at right, and no retouched lower lines or extensive blurs, on copies dated 1855, is perhaps the most practical description to be given.

PLATE IV. 1856.

In dealing with this plate we pass from airy suppositions to the solid ground of fact, because the plate has actually been seen and handled so recently as 1895, when many impressions were made from it. As these reprints are most important in fixing the date

of the plate they will be considered first. Mr. Warren has already described the episodes connected with its resurrection (Herts Monthly Report, November and December 1909), but as some new facts have been discovered from the prints, the history is here given again. When the leading Dutch Philatelic Society had their Standard Work in progress, enquiries were instituted at the Mint (? by Captain Haas) as to the existence of any of the original plates of the 1852 issue, and one was found of the 10 cents, but in bad condition. They obtained permission from the Authorities to take some impressions from it with which to illustrate the book, and one of their members J. A. Moesman, a printer, was entrusted with it. He at once struck off a number of impressions in fancy colours, (blue, yellow, green, grey-black, orange-brown, and rose), and offered them for sale. This attracted the attention of the Mint Authorities, who at once demanded the plate and the destruction of all the prints. The Society, however, managed to smooth matters over, and getting possession of the plate again, had some impressions taken in black, and from these selected the right upper pane as being the best one. The panes had the word "Nadruck" (meaning reprint) struck upon the back of each stamp. Now whilst Moesman's reprints were direct from the plate, the black prints or proofs made for the Society, were *lithographic impressions* of the top half of the plate, twice transferred to make up one sheet, as the same defects and retouches occur in each

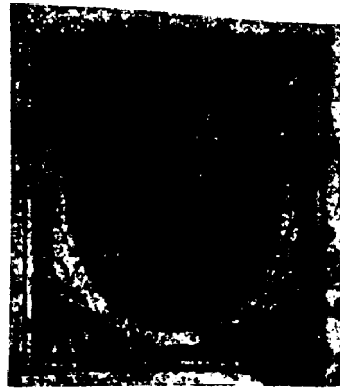
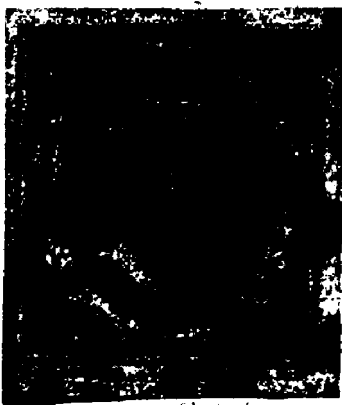


Plate III.

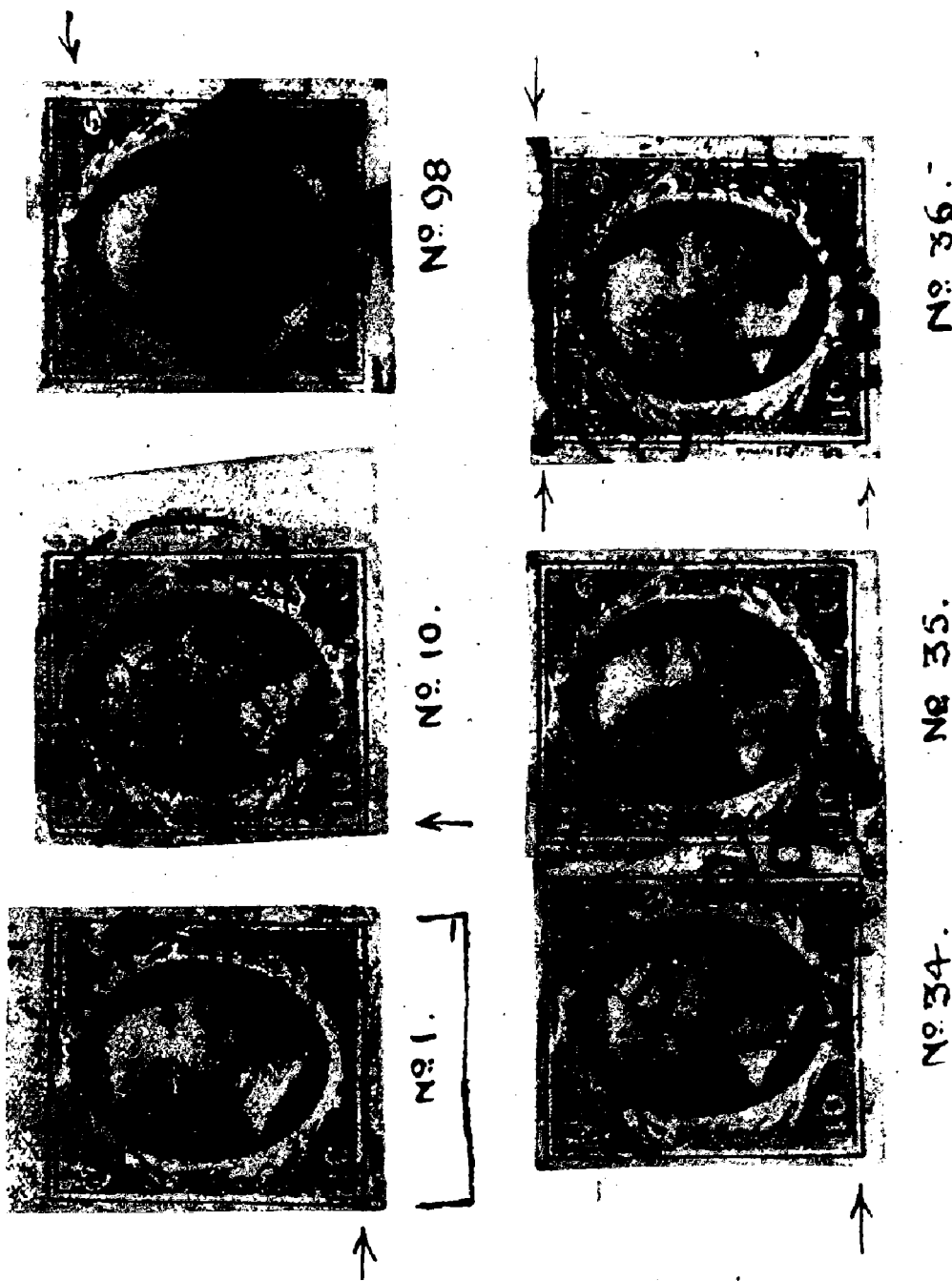


Plate IV.

half. Mr. Warren has an entire sheet, and it shows the upper and lower halves set crookedly with a dividing margin varying from 23 to 29mm., printed on surfaced paper, and having the sunk plate mark replaced by a straight black line. The green prints given with the Standard Work are also lithographs, of the top left pane.

Melville's book states that the reprints, though very badly printed, show no signs of retouches, but in *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly* for December, 1909, Vol. X. 563, I pointed out

that nearly every stamp was retouched along the lower frame line; some redrawn thick all along, some half way, or at each end, and others very crooked. A few stamps have the inner lines under "10" and "C" strengthened but there are two retouches to specially mention. No. 10—first pane—is the only stamp to have the left inner side line clear and distinctly redrawn from the tablet up to the top scroll, and the circle background has also been retouched slightly. No. 98—last pane—is the only stamp showing the top right inner

corner retouched, by two thick lines instead of three after "L" of Zegel, and with outlines to scroll underneath.

Now as to the date (1863) given by Melville. The collection from which these notes are made contains a reconstruction of the four panes, with some 70 out of the 100 stamps placed from actual reprints, and photographs of reprints, kindly given by Mr. Warren; the dates on these stamps range from 13-4-56 down to 1859. There are many blurs between the stamps, more like blotches in some cases, and these, being reproduced on the reprints, are of the greatest use in plating.

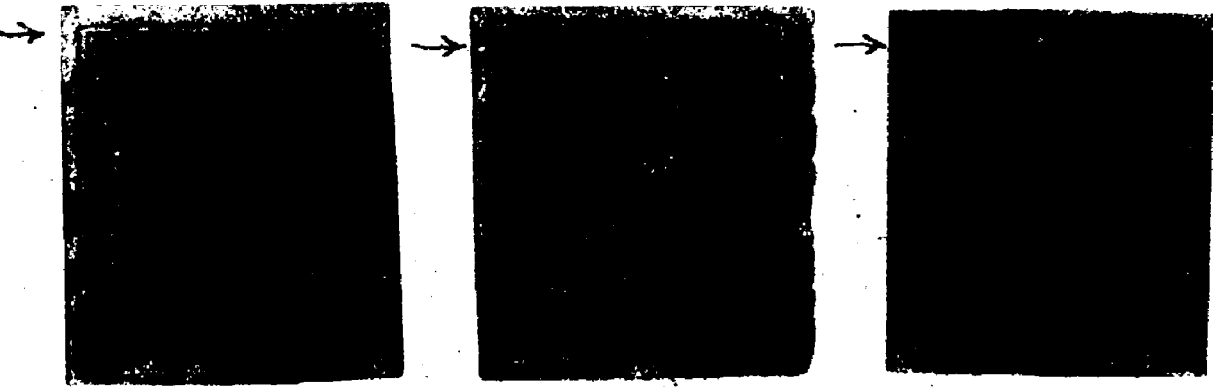
The originals are in fine shades of rose-crimson, the brightest of the whole issue.

PLATE V. 1857.

We now arrive at a point where Captain Haas seems to have missed something, or not been able to get information. His notes state that "For some time matters remained quiet,

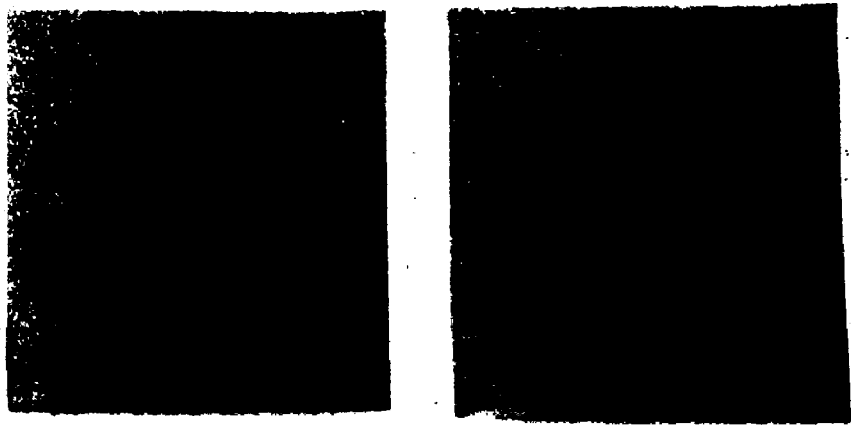
as not till 1858 was authorization asked and granted to replace these *too thin plates which had become bent*, and four new plates were ordered." One of these was used for the 5 cents in 1858, but no mention is made in the check list of a new 10 cents until May, 1860. But there undoubtedly was a new plate before 1860, and the Mint Report in 1859 states that "Menger had been instructed to make one plate for the red and one for the blue stamps," but gives no dates of usage.

We have then late in 1857—earliest known date 7th Sept., 1857 (Warren)—impressions showing careful execution, and printed in a pale shade. There is an interesting defect on some stamps in the top left corner, where the thin vertical lines passing up through the word POST stop short at the tops of the letters, leaving a white space, with a slight blur as if the lines and part of the two horizontal inner lines above had been wiped out; there are signs on two or three stamps of the missing lines being



white space.

"POST" ret'd.



↑ Note marginal blurs

Plate V.

retouched in, but with one exception, they are very lightly done and hardly to be distinguished from ordinary copies. The exception has a number of scratches horizontally across the word POST and the vertical lines between the letters have all been thickened. The inner and outer corners have also been strengthened and there is a slip projecting up from the top left corner.

About the end of 1858, stamps began to

stamps with large top and side margins, upon which these spots were identical; this altogether apart from the usual blurs between the stamps. Mr. Warren, who rather favoured (or blamed!) the paper, sent me another identical stamp and on seeing all three, he at once agreed that the plate must have been the culprit.

Mr. Wade held the view all along that the steel had become pitted or spongy, and from

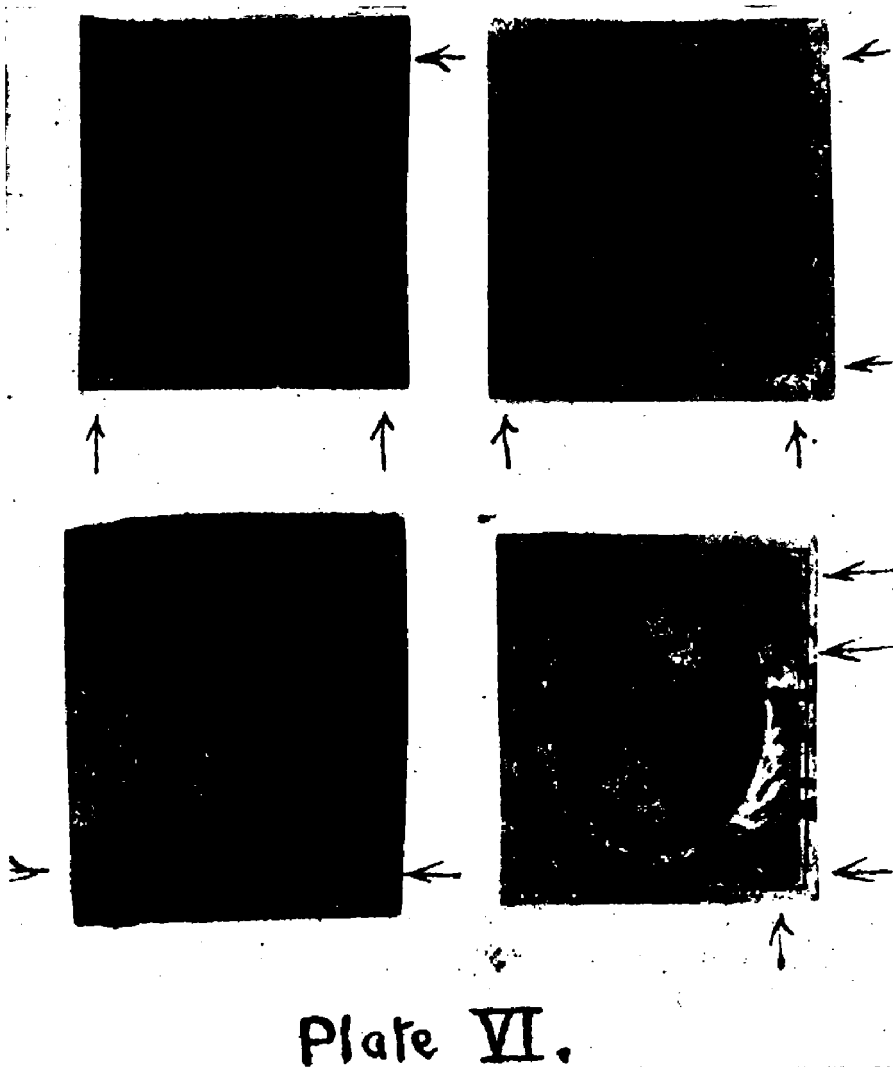


Plate VI.

appear with a peculiar spotty appearance all over them as if the plate was not properly wiped, and this occurs right on into 1860. The "white space" defect, and the same retouches over POST are found on these "washy" prints. I have given much thought to this question because of the great difference in the first and last printings; it might have been the paper, the plate, or the printer, but the plate finally got the blame. Upon close examination with a glass, the washy appearance resolves itself into a series of fine dots, and I found two

the evidence of Haas's notes, it seems to have been a common occurrence for "putjes" to develop, but whether from defective material, insufficient hardening, overheating, or the action of the red pigment, must remain in doubt.

The stamps from this plate are the first found with the FRANCO obliteration (earliest date known 18 Jan. 1860, Wade), and are common, being in use about three years.

PLATE VI. 1860.

On 29th March, 1860, the Mint were

authorised to order six new plates; where were the four ordered in 1858? We know of two plates prior to May, 1860 (10 cents Plate V., 1857, and 5 cents Plate IX., in 1858), leaving two unaccounted for, *and yet six more were needed!* There may of course have been some spoiled in preparation, and speaking of the 1860 plate, Haas says: "It was at once condemned, being again full of little holes." *At once* cannot be accepted literally, as it was printed from, and not replaced for a year. Stamps appeared late in 1860 bearing numerous defects and retouches, indicative of careless workmanship in transferring the design from the roller to the plate. Stamps occur on which the right side—including the outer frame—has been entirely redrawn from top to bottom, and in a very crude fashion. Others have both sides and the lower frame line retouched.

A unique unused pane in Mr. Wade's collection is worth description; it is a top pane, but the margins are too close to say whether right or left. In each horizontal row, the spaces between the stamps widen from left to right, the first space being 1.75mm. and the last 2.5mm., on an average, each stamp also rises a little above its left-hand neighbour.

Nos. 1, 6, 11, 14, 16, 17, 21 and 22 of this pane are retouched along the lower frame line, more crudely than in Plate IV., and usually just at the ends under "IO" and "C" as illustrated below.

Nos. 11, 12, 16, 17 and 21 are retouched in the top right angle after "L" of ZEGEL, and also have the criss-cross lines below the scroll smudged.

No. 22 has the lower frame line very weak and broken under "IO", but redrawn double under "C".

Nos. 1 and 4 show long blurs down the sides, and Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 25 a slight blur at the lower left corner.

Mr. Warren has shown me a curious pair, in which one stamp has the whole of the right side redrawn in a most slipshod way, and the left inner line thickened, whilst the other shows the lower frame line and the first vertical line before "IO" slightly retouched. We thus get two stamps with entirely dissimilar retouches.

Stamps with these retouches are found dated December 1860 and early 1861, and the plate, without doubt, was only a very short time in use. The red colour has a more pronounced tone of brown in it than any other printing.

(To be continued.)

New Leaves to Cut.

THE 1912 A.B.C. CATALOGUE.*

THE new A.B.C. Catalogue for 1912 maintains the improvements which the last few

volumes of this extremely useful publication have evinced; the more we study this Catalogue the less we wonder that it should be adopted as a standard guide by an increasing number of general collectors and specialists. Messrs. Bright & Son's list contains many useful features which other standard catalogues would do well to imitate; for instance we find a full priced list of British entires which have been, and still are, available for postal use as "cut out adhesives." We also find a splendid list of "British stamps used abroad" with prices quoted for many of these desirable acquisitions.

The re-written countries are Bosnia, and Prince Edward Island; we are glad to notice that the perforation varieties of the latter are at last receiving due attention.

Those countries which have been considerably revised are Japan and Montenegro. The very important question of prices has received careful consideration, and we find that Mr. Frank Oliver has managed to avoid many of the careless errors regarding the value of many recent issues which have crept into recent price lists. The principal features of the A.B.C. catalogue are that it lists chalky and ordinary paper varieties; that all the world is alphabetically arranged in one volume; that absurd varieties, such as the horizontal and vertical watermarks of Papua, are *not* listed; that new issues are brought up to date—even to the redrawn ½d. and 1d. British stamps; that the stamps of many countries are more carefully and scientifically tabulated than they are in any other catalogue (Queensland is a capital illustration); and finally, that the prices quoted are, in practically every instance, extremely moderate. Those of our readers who arrange their collections without the help of an A.B.C. are possibly remaining in ignorance of interesting varieties which should be represented in their albums.

THE STAMPS OF PARAGUAY.*

BY CHARLES J. PHILLIPS.

THE excellent series of articles published in the *Monthly Journal* last year have now been printed in book form and make a very interesting and valuable addition to the shelves of our library. Reviewing, and referring to the articles as we did during their passage through the columns of our contemporary we have little left to add, that would not be redundant, now that they appear in book form.

Any of our readers who are interested in the stamps of Paraguay will find that Mr. Phillips' book contains a mine of original research. The stamps, their essays, forgeries, postmarks, etc., are all fully described and illustrated. Collectors, even those not inter-

* Published by Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, W.C. Price unbound 2/6. Bound 4/-. Postage 6d. extra.

*Published by BRIGHT & SON, 164, Strand, W.C., Price 2/6.

ested in the emissions of South America will find that Mr. C. J. Phillips can, and does, transmit a good deal of philatelic-magnetism.

BAVARIAN BOOK ON POSTMARKS.

THE tendency to specialise is growing larger every year. Before us lies a book* dealing not with the stamps of a single country, or even with a particular issue of it, but with a particular form of postmark in use there about half a century ago. The obliteration is the so-called millwheel postmark in use in Bavaria from 1850 to 1869.

When stamps were first introduced in Bavaria, they were supposed to be obliterated by the local dated stamp of the office where posted. Many stamps, however, escaped scot-free, and many were the circulars emanating from high postal places threatening the culprits with severe pains and penalties. But to no effect. So in 1850 a new scheme was adopted. Each office was supplied with a special numbered obliterator, somewhat resembling a mill-wheel in shape, with a number in the centre. The numbers were arranged from 1 upwards in alphabetical order of offices. These obliterators were to be applied to the stamps, the local dated stamp was still to be impressed on the cover. With the obliterators was supplied a list of numbers of the various offices. In the circular forwarding these it was gravely laid down that all letters were to be examined at the office of arrival, to see whether the number of the postmark corresponded with the name of the town of despatch!! Letters in which these two did not correspond were to be treated as not having been prepaid. The idea of going through every letter and searching the list for the number strikes one as irresistibly ludicrous, even for those days. Had the Bavarian authorities never heard of duplex obliterators?

By 1856, owing to the opening of numerous fresh offices, and the shutting down of others, the list had become anything but an alphabetical one. All obliterators were therefore called in on the 20th of November of that year. During the ten days after that date, the local dated stamps were again brought into use as obliterators. The numbered obliterators were re-issued on the first of December, together with a fresh list, and continued in use until 1869.

There were complete lists of all the numbers of the first and third periods, and we may here mention, parenthetically, that during the first period the number 406 did not apply to a town, but to the railway post offices, all of which made use of that number.

The work has been thoroughly done, and we can warmly recommend it to Bavarian specialists.

* Die Bayerischen Mührad-Stempel. (The Bavarian Mill-wheel Postmarks.) By C. Beck and C. Hobzschueher. Würzburg. Hans Schneider, 1911.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF ANGLO-EGYPTIAN SUDAN.*

By D. B. ARMSTRONG.

WE have received the above-named little book from the publishers and find that it constitutes the first of "Bright's Philatelic Library" series of useful handbooks for collectors. As the title denotes, it deals with the stamps of the Sudan, and we find that Mr. Armstrong has compiled a very interesting and exhaustive little monograph. The book is tastefully got up and contains, besides numerous illustrations, a useful map of the Nile Valley. The stamps themselves are fully described, and we learn all that there is to be taught concerning them. The Military official stamps receive liberal treatment, we find that the chapter devoted to them fully describes the various settings.

Apropos these stamps Mr. Armstrong says:

"Dangerous forgeries of the 1, 2 and 3 milliemes and 10 piastres Army Service stamps in used condition are in circulation, and great care should be exercised in purchasing copies from unknown sources. The forged overprint is well calculated to deceive any but an expert, but the forgeries may usually be detected by the overprint being applied over the original postmark."

But us no buts, who is the expert to tell us for certain whether the overprint is over, or under, the postmark, original or otherwise?

Those of our readers who are looking out for a fairly easy country to specialise, would do well to read Mr. Armstrong's first little booklet and then consider the advantages the stamps of the Sudan afford.

*Published by Messrs. Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C. Price 6d. net.

Fourth Philatelic Congress of Great Britain.

CONGRESS NOTES AND NEWS.

A HANDSOME triangular Congress souvenir stamp is being printed by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., in six different colours, and will be ready shortly. Complete sets may be obtained of the Hon. Secretary, price 3d.

One of the features of the Congress will be a cinematograph film illustrating the process of stamp manufacture at Messrs. Perkins, Bacon's factory, specially taken by the Warwick Trading Company.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. are also providing the machine and operator for the practical demonstration of Perforating, whilst a lantern lecture on the History of Perforations will be delivered by Mr. Fred J. Melville.

On the day after the Congress, namely, Saturday, May 4th, a Cinderella Dance will be

given in the magnificent Ballroom of the Queen's Highcliffe Hotel, to which all are invited.

In response to inquiries the Committee desire to announce also that all philatelists are at liberty to attend the Congress Sessions as visitors, whether officially appointed as Delegates or not, in which case, however, they will not have the power to vote.

Stamp collectors interested in the Congress are urged to visit Margate during Congress Week, and to take part in the special social programme that is being arranged.

The following special terms are quoted to Congress Delegates and Visitors by the Queen's Highcliffe Hotel, which is the official headquarters, and it is hoped that all Delegates and others will take advantage of them:—*En Pension* (including bedroom, lights, attendance, table d'hôte breakfast, luncheon and dinner), for a stay of not less than three days—12/6 per day, 1st and 2nd floor rooms, and 10/6 per day 3rd floor and smaller rooms.

The following Societies have nominated their delegates:—

Royal Philatelic Society.—Messrs. M. P. Castle, M.V.O., J.P., L. L. R. Hausburg, R. B. Yardley, and Baron Percy de Worms.

Bath Philatelic Society.—Messrs. G. B. Caple and W. C. Elwood.

Bristol and Clifton Philatelic Society.—Mr. H. Alsop.

Dundee and District Philatelic Society.—Messrs. D. Dickson and E. Philpot Crowther.

Huddersfield and District Philatelic Society.—Rev. G. B. Madden and Mr. C. H. Greenwood.

Isle of Thanet Philatelic Society.—Messrs. J. M. Munns and F. L. Devon.

Society of Stamp Collectors.—Messrs. P. C. Bishop and L. S. Goldsmith.

International Philatelic Union.—Messrs. T. H. Hinton, J. E. Joselin, and W. E. Lincoln.

Stamp Trade Protection Association.—Messrs. W. Hadlow and P. L. Pemberton.

Cinque Ports Philatelic Society.—Capt. Clarke and Miss Brandreth Gibbs.

City of London Philatelic Society.—Messrs. J. A. Leon, J. L. Green and E. R. Woodward.

Croydon Philatelic Society.—Messrs. A. Ashby and H. H. Harland.

Derby Philatelic Society.—Messrs. W. Oakley and W. H. Milnes Marsden.

Fiscal Philatelic Society.—Messrs. W. Corfield and P. J. Evans.

Herts Philatelic Society.—Messrs. W. G. Cool, W. H. Peckitt, H. A. Slade and Major E. B. Evans.

Junior Philatelic Society (Brighton Branch).—Messrs. W. Mead and J. Ireland.

Leicester Philatelic Society.—Messrs. F. Edwards and N. Gadsby.

Liverpool Philatelic Society.—Lt.-Col. W. T. Davies (others to be appointed later).

North of England Philatelic Society.—Messrs. W. J. Cochrane, C. L. Bagnall and J. Cotman.

Oxford Philatelic Society.—Messrs. W. H. Tarrant and F. A. Bellamy, M.A.

Scottish Philatelic Society (Junior Branch).—Dr. Small.

South Wales and Monmouthshire Philatelic Society.—Messrs. V. E. Bukewich and Walter Scott.

Donations to the Congress Fund and all other communications should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary:—

D. B. ARMSTRONG, ESQ.,
"Llanadern," Broadstairs, Kent.

City of London Philatelic Society.

REPORT OF FEBRUARY MEETING.

THERE was an appreciable increase on Wednesday last, the 14th inst., when the Society assembled for its monthly meeting, and this was no doubt due to the fact that the first Competitive Display of the season was to be held. The subject for competition was, "Stamps printed by Perkins, Bacon & Co., not exceeding one hundred in number, and not more than ten stamps from any one country."

Perhaps this was a difficult item as there were only a few entries, but the stamps shown were in the pink of condition, and the silver medal was awarded to Mr. H. W. Westcott, for a very fine display which showed great merit in its arrangement; for each stamp was accompanied by copious notes, and Mr. Westcott must have spent a great deal of time in the mounting of his display, which well deserved the reward it eventually gained.

After the competition, Mr. Heginbottom's collection of "Early English" was passed round and greatly appreciated, earning for its owner the warm thanks tendered by the meeting for the opportunity of inspecting such a marvellous array of these fine old stamps.

There is, perhaps, little need to exhort members to attend the next meeting on the 13th of March, when Mr. W. B. Edwards is to give us a paper on "High Value Europeans," but I should like to mention that there is an additional item which does not appear in the programme as published. This is a paper by Mr. W. H. Eastwood, dealing with our suggestion for consideration at the forthcoming Congress, on the subject of the formation of a National Philatelic Association.

Mr. Eastwood will deal fully with all the points concerning the necessity for the formation of such an institution, and it is hoped that a most interesting and lengthy discussion will take place.

Please make a note of the date, 13th March, and do not fail to be in attendance, for a most enjoyable evening is promised.

A. C. CONSTANTINIDES,
Hon. Sec.

The Stamps of Greece.

By P. L. PEMBERTON.

(Continued from page 14.)

K.—1876. 10 lepta, orange on cream.

This corresponds with printing R. of the 5 lepta. The impression is generally good. spandrels often pale; the paper is good and well finished. The colour, as a general rule, is paler than in M. This is the rarest printing of the period, especially unused.

L.—1877. 10 lepta, orange on yellow.

Impression not quite so good, but very fair. the paper is yellow instead of cream, and this is a sufficient guide. The colour varies considerably from very pale to moderately deep.

M.—1877. 10 lepta, red-orange on cream.

Impression fair to very bad. The colour is deeper and has more red in it than the last two, though there are some pale shades which might be confused with K, but for the difference in the paper, which in this printing is thinner and with a coarse open mesh. This is the common printing.

[NOTE.—Two or three used copies are known distinctly double printed].

T.—1876. 20 lepta, Prussian blue on cream.

This corresponds with the 5 and 10 lepta of the same date in that it is well printed on surfaced paper of good texture. The shade varies from medium to full Prussian blue. The figures at back are always in the same shade as the stamp. The paper is not so deeply tinted cream as in later printings of this group.

U.—1876. 20 lepta, deep blue on cream.

This and the next three printings all vary in shade to a considerable extent. I am sure they might be sub-divided still further, but such a course would only add to the difficulties of classification. An important point to remember is that no stamp which has the figures at back in ultramarine can possibly belong to any of these four printings, indeed the figures on the back are of considerable help in identifying some of these stamps.

The impression of printing U is normally quite good but rarely so clear as in the Prussian blue. The paper is more deeply toned cream, is not so well finished and of coarse texture. The figures on the back are always Prussian blue, generally rather pale. Curiously enough the deepest shades generally have the palest figures. The colour is deep blue, not by any means a dull shade but without the brightness of W, the only one with which it might be confused.

V.—1876. 20 lepta, blue on cream.

Impression still good, some specimens showing pale spandrels. The colour is a clear blue, varying in shade, but never so deep as in U. The figures at back are sometimes Prussian blue and sometimes blue. The paper is of a coarse texture and not so deeply toned as the last.

W.—1877. 20 lepta, royal blue on cream.

Impression generally not so good, the deepest shades having the appearance of being printed from over-inked plates. The colour is much brighter than hitherto. Gibbons catalogue has recently introduced the term royal blue which I have adopted here. The brightness is imparted to the colour by the addition of more or less ultramarine to the blue. It is, however, not a pure ultramarine. There are numerous shades, varying from quite pale to very deep. The colour of the impression looks duller than it really is in those cases, (by no means uncommon) in which the paper is such a deep cream as to be almost buff. The figures on the back are generally blue, sometimes Prussian blue. The paper is of coarse texture.

X.—1877. 20 lepta, dull Prussian blue on cream.

Impression generally very coarse, though in some specimens it is fair. The colour is much deeper than the majority of specimens of T, from which printing it can also be distinguished by the paper, which is of coarse texture. The shade varies to deep indigo blue; the figures at back are, as far as my experience goes, Prussian blue on the coarsest prints and deep blue on the better impressions. This printing is scarce.

Y.—1877. 20 lepta, royal-blue on cream, with ultramarine figures at back.

This printing is similar to W though the very brightest shades of the latter do not occur in this. The figures at the back serve to distinguish this printing: they are always printed in dull greyish ultramarine. The impression is moderately good and the paper is deep cream and coarse textured.

Z.—1877. 20 lepta, blue on cream, with ultramarine figures at back.

This printing resembles V but the colour is generally a little deeper and the figures at back are dull greyish ultramarine. The impression is not so fine as in V. Paper as last.

Za.—1877. 20 *lepta*, indigo-blue on cream, with ultramarine figures at back.

Impression coarse. Colour resembles the dullest shades of X from which, however, the colour of the figures serves to distinguish it.

Zb.—1878. 20 *lepta*, ultramarine on cream.

The colour is quite distinct from any other of this group. It varies very much in depth, some being very dark. As a rule the paper of the deep shades is much more toned than in the paler ones. The impression is rather better than in the last two or three printings and some specimens may be found which are extremely well printed. The paper is coarse-textured as before. The figures at back are ultramarine, much brighter than in the last three printings.

P.—1876. 40 *lepta*, salmon-buff on cream.

A radical change in the colour was made for this printing; the new shade is very difficult to name and I hope my readers will appreciate the description given above. It is called variously, by different writers,—flesh, salmon, rosy-buff, etc. I prefer to combine two of these names and call it salmon-buff. The printing is indistinct, no doubt owing to the unsuitable colour. There is, however, a variety in which the printing is much finer and the spandrels pale: this, as far as my experience goes, is only found unused. The paper is of good texture but thin, and is rendered transparent by the gum. The figures at back are in the same colour as the stamp. This stamp is much scarcer used than unused, as there was a fairly large remainder of them. The earliest date I know of was noted by Mr. O. Fearnley, viz.—Oct., 1876.

N.—? date. Pale flesh on cream.

This printing is identical with the last, except that the colour is paler and the salmon tint is missing.

Note.—All values of this period may occasionally be found on vertically ribbed paper.

(To be continued.)

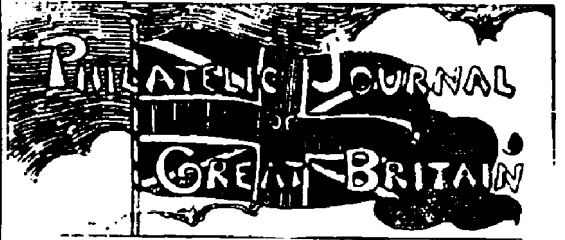
Collection Fiends.

"France has its collection fiends to the number of about 11,000. A writer in a Paris paper claims to have ascertained the following statistics: 300 of them collect autographs, 140 fancy collections of pocket books, 4,000 collect rare books, and the rest may be summed up as follows:—

- Collectors of old engravings, 1,700.
- Heraldry, 300.
- Military uniforms, 400.
- Botany and entomology, 1,500.
- Miniatures, 300.
- Numismatics, 300.
- Objects of art, 2,000.
- Pictures, 1,300.
- Postage stamps 200.
- Fencing and hunting, 300.

"M. Léo Claretie collects statuettes, the Marquis de Broc longs for steam diligences, M. François Carnot looks only for tin soldiers of the eighteenth century, the Countesse Chandon de Briailles collects nothing but old travelling trunks, M. Jules Domergue has an assortment of 2,000 bells, the Vicomtesse de Chezelles has a cult for old warming pans, M. Pierre Delcourt and M. Watteville make a speciality of French clay pipes, M. Alfred Rey has a collection of all the posters of the brasseries, M. Carles Rabot takes an interest only in the dial plates of watches of the Revolution, M. Salomon collects diminutive volumes, M. Schaenerts stores up old clarionettes, and M. Furcy Reynaud is content with coal shovels." —*Daily Telegraph*.

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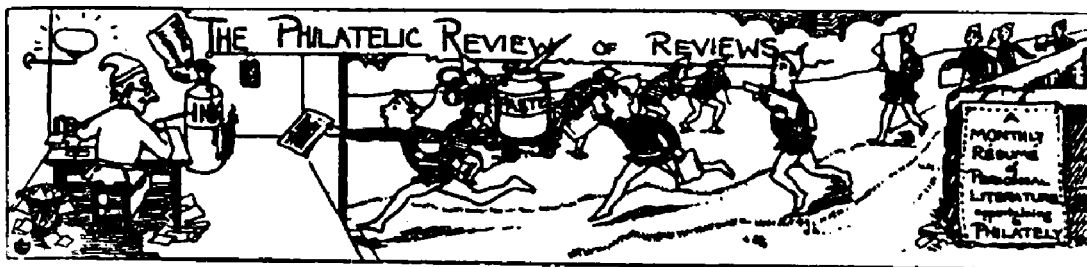
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FEBRUARY 20, 1912.

Philately at Home.

As usual, our leading contemporary, the *Monthly Journal*, is full of items of value. In the January number before us we find that M. L. Hanciau continues to write about the stamps of the Spanish West Indies, 1855-1876. Mr. S. C. Barnett completes his exceedingly interesting paper dealing with the stamps of Chili used in Peru. Mr. C. L. Pack is responsible for a short article relating to the 5c. error of colour of the 1892-95 issue of the Argentine Republic, also the inverted centre errors of the following issue. Another capital contribution is Mr. C. J. Phillips' paper, entitled "New Zealand M.S. Official Stamps, Issued at Reefton, N.Z., in December, 1906."

Regarding them, he says:

A little time back we purchased the collection of stamps formed by Mr. J. Mason, in New Zealand; in this collection the stamps of New Zealand were specialized, and were rather a fine lot.

In going over the collection I noticed a set of the current stamps of 1906 with the word "Official" written across them, diagonally, in red, and all bearing either the postmark of Reefton, N.Z., with a date between "31 JA. 07" and "26 AP. 07," or a mark lettered "GREYMOUTH," in a circle with the word "PAID" across the centre and a large figure "3" below.

It would appear that £3 8s. 6d. worth of these "stamps" had been prepared at Greymouth and forwarded to Reefton, where the local postmaster issued them to the Sergeant of Police.

Other articles likely to interest general collectors are the first instalment of Mr. D. B. Armstrong's "Philatelic Itinerary of the World," Mr. Norman Thornton's "Colour Names and the French Chrysanthemum Society's Colour Chart," New Issues, Editorial, Notes and Queries, Correspondence, Topical Notes, etc.

We also find information relating to the destruction of the "Seebeck" plates

and an article dealing with the flaws on the recent 1d. stamp of Papua.

Amongst the Notes and Queries there is one relating to the so-called error of the fourpence Orange River Colony King's Head stamp. Mr. Tamsen is reported to have said that "the loop of the P must have broken off." The following extract shows that this opinion is erroneous:

But Mr. Tamsen has forgotten that as the "P" is in white on colour, there was nothing to break off. What must have happened was that the outline of the loop got filled up, and so printed solid; possible a bit of dirt got stuck in it first, and then the ink gradually filled the rest. This must have begun while the single "CA" paper was in use, and been completed when the multiple paper came in. The first time that the plate was thoroughly cleaned the dirt and ink would be removed, and the "error" would thus be corrected. Does it occur on all the sheets of 4d. with multiple watermark?

The January number of the *Philatelic Record* contains a further long instalment of Mr. John N. Luff's "Otto's Printings of the Transvaal Stamps." Collectors interested in the early emissions of the Transvaal will read this article with interest. The current instalment of the Sveriges Filatelist-Förening's "Postage Stamps of Sweden, 1855-1905," gives a chronological list of the issues from March 1891 to October 1903, together with the quantities of each value printed. Two articles of interest for the general reader are the editor's review of the past year, from a philatelic point of view, and Mr. Wilmot Corfield's "As it was in the Beginning." Mr. Corfield writes eloquently on the decadence of British stamps.

Reviews, Notes and News, New Issues, Auction Report and other regular features of our contemporary, complete an excellent number.

From the gay city we are told that

Messrs. Gilbert & Köhler, Sale of the Collection of Monsieur C. . . . First sale, all countries except

British Colonies, 11th to 16th December, 1911. A few prices realized at this sale, which consisted of 1,905 lots, with a total of 81,545 francs.

NOTE.—To the prices given below should be added the official charge of 10%, paid by the purchaser.

France, 1849, 1 fr. vermilion, fine pair unused	£	s.	d.
	Frs.	1500	58 19 3
Ditto, 1 fr. bright vermilion, short at left, otherwise very fine, on entire	506	19	11 2
Reunion, 1851, 15c. black, fine copy, slightly thinned	730	28	18 9
Naples, 1860, Arms, ½t. blue, on large piece, superb	580	22	9 10
Ditto, Cross, ½t. blue, on large piece, superb	180	7	2 8
Spain, 1850, 2r. red. superb	808	32	0 7
Madrid, 1853, 3c. bronze, superb.	375	14	17 4
Great Britain, 1867-83, wmk. Anchor, £1, brown-lilac on bluish, very fine	200	7	18 7
1840, V.R., unused, superb	390	15	9 3
Tuscany, 1857, 9 cr. brown-lilac, superb	175	6	18 9
1860, 3 lire yellow, slightly cut into at top, but very fine, unused with part gum	1590	62	10 7
Chili, 1854, lithographed, 5c. orange-brown, very fine	240	9	10 4

The January number of the *London Philatelist* contains a capital Editorial, wherein Mr. M. P. Castle draws attention to the regrettable fact that Government remainders of stamps have been recently sold. He writes as follows:

The recent sale of an enormous quantity of obsolete stamps by Turkey was followed by that of the discovered Hanoverian stamps by the German Government, while within the last few months the Belgian Post Office has followed suit, despite the strong protest of collectors in that country. We now learn that the Russian Government has disposed of a large stock of remainders of various issues, including high values that have hitherto been accounted rare, to a well-known German dealer. With countries like Belgium, Germany, and Russia condescending to make a few thousand pounds by the sale of obsolete stamps, one wonders who will be the next to follow suit, and if Paris and London will emulate the examples of Berlin, Brussels, and St. Petersburg.

We cannot too strongly deprecate this practice. The plain course for a civilized postal authority is to issue stamps wholly and solely for franking purposes and to destroy any remainders that have not been issued for the public use. The sales of a paltry two or three thousand pounds of obsolete stamps should be beneath the notice of any self-respecting Government department that sells millions of pounds worth in every year, and we trust that the untoward cases we have cited may not find followers. Fortunately the older and more valuable issues are rarely unearthed, but even with the later issues there are many stamps that have gradually acquired a legitimate value, and this sudden depreciation by the sale of remainders cannot but have a harmful effect upon Philately.

Collectors of French stamps who are puzzled at the fact that the two types of the "Peace and Commerce" stamps of France can be found *se tenant*, will find Mr. Reichenheim's paper which deals with this subject of great interest. Captain Napier, continuing to write about the stamps of Brazil, deals with the issues of 1893 to 1904. Occasional Notes, New Issues, Auction and Societies' reports,

complete a good number of the Royal Society's organ. From the minutes of the December meeting of the Royal we extract the following:

Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg then read a most instructive paper on the Early Stamps of Hayti, the information given being chiefly gathered from a careful study of the stamps themselves, the Post Office records of the Republic having disappeared. It was explained that until joining the Postal Union in 1881, Hayti had no postage stamps, hand stamps marked on the envelope and showing the rate of postage paid being employed, while for a time English stamps, of which a supply was kept in the country, were also used. The mode of production of the first stamps, which were made in Paris, was described, and, owing to the fact that the figures in the shields did not form part of the die, but were added in each case on the manufacture of the plates, Mr. Hausburg had found it was possible to plate the stamps by the positions of the figures, and by means of flaws and defects existing in the plates themselves. In regard to the number of stamps on the sheets, it was explained that there were at least four panes, and possibly even six panes, each of fifty stamps.

According to Mr. Hausburg's observation the perforated stamps appear to have been printed from new plates, as the defects found in the imperforate stamps are not seen in those with perforations. A number of plates were employed, and as certain colours apply only to stamps printed from particular plates, there is no difficulty in deciding to which plate any specimen belongs.

The January 20th number of the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* contains an illustrated interview with Mr. Karl Wiehen, the first half of a lengthy article, "History from Postage Stamps," being the paper read by Mr. W. D. Haigh before the Huddersfield and District Philatelic Society, and various other contributions. We also find an extraordinary communication, wherein the writer says:

A certain individual posing as a philatelist of long standing, and professing to be on terms of friendship with His Majesty the King, is giving instruction in Philately to people whom he can induce to accept his terms.

His fee is 100 guineas, and he says this is the charge recognised by the London Philatelic Societies for such tuition. His method of procedure is as follows: he first scrapes acquaintance with a likely subject (particularly favouring young tradesmen, builders, carpenters, shopkeepers, &c.), finds out as much as he can about their position financially, and then introduces his hobby of stamp collecting, lauding it up in every possible way as a lucrative pursuit, and adding that it only took him six years to make enough out of Philately to retire. Finally he offers, as a favour, to modify his fee to twenty guineas *cash down*, the rest to be spread over two or more years, the pupil meantime to pay him a percentage on all stamps sold, &c., until the 100 guineas is paid off.

Methods of tuition are described and we are also informed that the "Professor" represents himself to be a member of a highly reputable Philatelic Society in London.

A fortnight later Mr. Haigh completes his paper, entitled "History from Postage

Stamps." We also find a paper, "Suggestions as to Congress Exhibition Stamps," written by Mr. Wilmot Corfield, and other matter of a general nature.

The January number of the *Stamp Collector* contains the usual complement of short articles, extracts, Reviews, etc. Mr. A. P. Walker is this month's well-known member of the Birmingham Philatelic Society. As this gentleman collects on rather different lines than do the majority of collectors, we think the following extract will prove of interest:

When viewing the Tapling Collection at the British Museum, he was so impressed with the freshness, or bloom, on the stamps that were on the original envelopes, or on pieces, that he decided to collect "on original" only in future, and for the past eight or ten years he has practically collected nothing but Old European originals. He is by no means a condition faddist, and often buys a damaged stamp on the ground that valuable philatelic points are sometimes lost through the craze for condition. A crack, a tear, or a pin-hole in a stamp on original concerns him but little, but a copy that has been soaked off in water and has lost its freshness—and nearly all stamps suffer in this process—has no attraction for him.

We think Mr. Walker's plan a most excellent one. Some of his treasures are as follows:

Switzerland: three copies of the 6r., black, Zurich; a Half-Geneva; a 5c., "Vaud"; a 5c., "Neuchâtel"; and complete plates, ten varieties each, of the 15r., large and small figures, and the 15 centimes; Denmark: two copies of the 2 sk., first issue; Holland: a grand strip of four 10c., "Horn" variety, postmarked 26/9/61; and Russia: 10k., imperf., first issue. Among other specimens not on originals, a lovely used copy of the 4d. Woodblock, Cape; a splendid block of four of the 1d., brick-red, Triangular Cape, with a beautiful 6d. grey-lilac; and a grand specimen of St. Lucia, green, Star issue, this on piece, also claimed attention. The older issues of the U.S.A. are strong, too.

The February number of *Griebert's Philatelic Notes and Offers* contains two capital contributions. The first of these is written by Mr. A. B. Creeke, Jr., and deals with the *cliché* of the 40 reis Mozambique stamp which strayed into the *forme* of Cape Verd stamps. The second article is from the pen of a new, but welcome contributor to the philatelic press, namely, Mr. H. M. Ahrens; his paper deals with the settings of the 60 and 100 centesimos stamps of the 1860 issue of Uruguay.

The January number of the *West End Philatelist* contains some Editorial notes dealing with the current English stamps, some stray notes relating to the 1 and 4 anna stamps of the 1854 issue of India and some lengthy tables giving the dates of issue of the stamps of the German

Empire. We also find an article dealing with the Departmental stamps of the United States. This is interesting, also instructive, for we are told the number of stamps printed for each Department.

The January number of the *British Philatelist* contains a lengthy instalment of "The Embossed Stamps of Great Britain." We also find a budget of notes relating to the current issues of our own stamps. We learn that the Edwardian one shilling, a recent printing, exists with inverted watermark.

We extract the following:—

NEW CONTROL WITH STOP.

Is Somerset House still printing the Georgian stamps? We ask, because our publishers have just shown us the One Penny, new die, with control "B. 11", which came somewhat as a surprise.

The Georgian controls, so far as known, are:—

Halfpenny: A.11, B.11, B.12—all "Harrison";
Penny: A.11, B.11, B.12—"Harrison"; A.11,
B.11—the former certainly, the latter probably, from Somerset House.

The February number of the *Monthly Report* contains, besides the usual notices, mainly of interest only to members of the Herts Society, several articles and paragraphs of interest to all collectors. Mr. R. B. Yardley—writing under the heading "Double-Printed Stamps," points out the frequency with which it is possible to find South Australian and Tasmanian stamps shewing double impressions on the face. *Apropos* the well-known S.A. stamps, which are known with impressions on the *back* as well as on the face. Mr. Yardley says:—

In these one impression is usually faint, and it would seem that their *raison d'être* was that the first printing was so defective that the printers passed the sheet through the press a second time, but with the other face of the sheet placed on the plate. The sheets being watermarked had to be duly accounted for, and doubtless the spoiling of a sheet led to trouble and loss of time in the checking the sheets issued with the number of stamps printed, and to avoid this inconvenience the printers likely enough had recourse to the expedient of printing on both sides of the sheet. Now, it occurs to me that some of the specimens with two impressions on the face may, in like manner, have been produced by two separate printings, particularly when the first impression was very faint, and with a little care in attending to certain marks on the plate or the press this could be done so as to make the second impression almost coincide with the first.

Mr. A. J. Warren contributes some notes relating to a new discovery in the 1894-95 postage due stamps of Holland.

Mr. Frank H. Melland, writing from Northern Rhodesia, contributes a very interesting account of how the mail is carried up country in Central Africa.

Mr. Reichenheim's "Philatelic Crumbs,"

are, as usual, of a highly nourishing nature. The following, relating to provisional? Soudanese stamps will be appreciated by our readers.

When I travelled by one of Messrs. Cook's Pleasure Steamers in February, 1899, between Assouan and Wadi Halfa, Soudanese stamps and postal stationery were sold on board by the purser. A day or two before we arrived at Wadi Halfa, most of the lower values, including the 1 pia. stamps were sold out, and those requiring stamps for letters for Cairo were advised to use bisected 2 pia. stamps. The letters so franked were however to be posted in the letter box on board and not on shore at Wadi Halfa. The reason was that the Post Office had a sufficient stock of 1 pia. stamps, and would not allow the use of bisected 2 pia. stamps, although they passed and obliterated letters handed in in the ship's mailbag on arrival. I posted on board the steamer about a dozen letters franked with half a 2 pia. stamp each and addressed to Mrs. Reichenheim and myself to Cairo, and these letters duly arrived without another charge, whereas some letters similarly franked and posted at Wadi Halfa Post Office were treated as unpaid.

The principal features in the January number of the *World of Stamps* are Mr. Ellis Gee's "New Dies for Old"; Mr. Goldsmith's continuation of his "Earlier Stamps of British Guiana," and a debate on the ever green "Old versus New Issues" controversy. Speaking in favour of collecting old issues—say of from 1840 to 1880—Mr. P. C. Bishop said they were to be preferred to new for three reasons, namely: (1) On account of their greater rarity; (2) Their greater historical interest; and (3) (and most important) on account of the greater certainty of our knowledge, in most cases, as to quantities issued, and the possibility of remainders, etc. Although not altogether agreeing with Mr. Bishop on the first indictment, we think that he argues fairly where the third is concerned.

He says:—

I come now to the last count in my argument in favour of the Older Issues, which practically amounts to this, that there is greater *security* in the collecting of the older issues. Not many days ago I saw a collector vainly endeavouring to sell a quantity of British Colonial stamps at 25 per cent. under face value. These were not current stamps; they were issues which were superseded some years back. The case was perhaps exceptional, for these were stamps which had been imported in prodigious quantities, not only by the stamp trade but by speculators both amateur and professional, the consequence being a glut in the market. But although exceptional, it was not an isolated case, and I think when you have a state of affairs like that one loses a little of that sense of confidence and security which is so necessary to the success and the growth of our hobby. The business of importing current stamps, and especially current Colonials, has in my opinion been carried to excess, for not only are large shipments—I really cannot call them anything but shipments—not only are large shipments made in the interests of the stamp trade proper, but many amateur philatelists have taken to speculating on their own account, and one

hears of collectors buying very largely in excess of their own requirements in the hope of making a quick turn in the event of the issue having only a short run. This was all very well when only one collector here and there amused himself in this particular way, but now hundreds and hundreds are doing it the danger to philately is a very real one, and I think it high time to sound a warning note. It is because of the uncertainty and lack of confidence created by this kind of thing, more than for any other reason, that I think the Old Issues preferable to the New.

Another "Perforated Parody," an excellent New Issue list, Reviews, etc., complete a capital number of our new contemporary.

The February number of the *Philatelic Circular* contains a further instalment of Mr. Harris' "Mails Abroad." He deals with South African postal methods. Two short articles, entitled respectively, "New Issues and Speculation" and "Stamp Exchanging," provide good reading, in fact they convey the wisdom we ourselves would disseminate had we the time and energy. From the former we make a very brief extract, from the latter a slightly longer one. They are as follow:—

The 1d. Sydney View is one thing, the current 1d. of New South Wales another, our penny black of 1840 can be re-plated, but the penny of to-day cannot. There may be speculation in some old issues, there is undoubtedly speculation in many modern issues, but the adjective "enormous" is much too strong in the latter case.

• • •

There seems to be a misunderstanding on the part of some Exchange Club members as to the real meaning of the word Exchange. It does *not* mean substitution. It does *not* mean that a member is at liberty to exchange his own poor copies for better ones, or to substitute a stamp he does not want for one that he does want even at equal value. There is a foolish saying that exchange is no robbery, but the kind of exchange just mentioned is in reality theft of the meanest description, and should be severely dealt with.

"Reviews," etc., complete a good number of our contemporary, which, by the by, shews here and there a tendency to scintillate with humorousness.

Philately on the Continent.

The January number of the *Svensk Philatolisk Tidskrift*, brings a lengthy article of an altogether novel kind. It deals with the action of acids on stamps and is by Herr Gösta Sahlin. The author has subjected numerous Swedish stamps to the action of nitric and sulphuric acids, and he notes the effect of each of these acids. As one might expect, the modern stamps are much more susceptible to these re-agents than the old ones; the author has produced many startling changes, the most marked being with the new

35 öre stamp, which nitric acid immediately changed to deep red and to brick red after 30 seconds; sulphuric acid turned the same stamp dark green; which after washing in water became a beautiful blood red, and after a few hours changed into a light bluish-brown (sic).

Two numbers of the *Berliner Briefmarken-Zeitung* lie before us. Dr. Rimmel begins a monograph on the stamps of Bergedorf, to which we shall refer when it is completed. Herr Kosack in his review of 1911, complains of the increased tendency to "bloating," which he characterises as most injurious to philately in general. Then there are the usual legal disquisitions wherein the German lawyer philatelist takes so much delight in the splitting of hairs, oftentimes highly technical, but generally affording plenty of amusement blended with instruction.

The *Schweizer Briefmarken Zeitung* inaugurates a new volume by appearing for the first time in tri-lingual shape. There is a particularly interesting article on rare Swiss obliterations, copiously illustrated.

There is also another article, occupying nearly two pages, concerning a pair of Swiss 40 rappen stamps *se tenant* on original, one of which bears the postmark of one small unknown Swiss hamlet, and the second that of an equally unknown one. The way the author has managed to produce such a lengthy disquisition on so small a point, is truly remarkable, and worthy of the attention of our excellent friend MacTavish.

The January number of Kohl's *Mitteilungen* is as usual full of interest. It begins with a philatelic review of the past year, then follows a lengthy article on pre-cancellations and the like, another one on universal penny postage in all its bearings, and several shorter ones on a variety of subjects.

Philately in the Colonies and Elsewhere.

The December number of the *Australian Philatelist* contains the second, and final instalment, of Mr. Basset Hull's lecture, entitled "The Stamps of New South Wales." This article, touching as it does on the most interesting and prominent stamp changes in the Colony, is capital reading. The following long extract relates to the early De La Rue stamps:

The work was entrusted to Messrs. De La Rue & Co., of London, who engraved a die, made a plate, and printed a supply of stamps, all of which were sent out to the colony, and the stamps were first issued on 25th March, 1862. They were printed in blue on plain, unwatermarked paper, and perforated 14 by a "comb" machine. The paper was surfaced, and the stamps had that clean, smug appearance common to

surface-printed stamps, and contrasting strongly with the rich depth and artistic beauty of the steel-plate prints of the former issues. The English-printed supply soon ran out, and the stamps were locally printed on paper watermarked with the large double-line figure 2, and later with the figure 5. The latter paper was constructed for the 5d. stamp, and there were only 100 watermarks to 120 stamps, so that some specimens had only a portion of a watermark. Later a supply of paper watermarked with a single-line figure 2 was obtained, and there were some printings also on the unwatermarked and paper watermarked 1. In 1871 the Crown N.S.W. paper was used, and shortly before the stamp was superseded by the Centennial issue, a supply was printed on paper watermarked N.S.W. only, a paper manufactured for the Duty Stamps.

A plate for printing 1d. stamps was ordered in April, 1863, and the die was engraved by De La Rue and Co., a plate made, and a supply of stamps printed in red and sent out in 1864. The first issue took place on 1st April of that year. Local printings were made on paper watermarked with a single-line figure 1, and temporary exhaustion of that paper resulted in some printings on the 2 paper, and also on unwatermarked paper. The Crown N.S.W. paper was used in 1871, and the Stamp Duty paper towards the end of this stamp's existence. Two new denominations of 4d. and 10d. were obtained from the same source and issued on 21st September, 1867. In the case of these values, the plates were printed from in the colony only, and the watermarks were the figures 4 and 10 respectively. The 4d. was subsequently printed on Crown N.S.W. paper, but the 10d. retained its figure watermark until 1899.

In 1871 the 1d. stamp was printed in red-brown, and overprinted Ninespence, to cover the single rate of postage to England, via Marseilles. This stamp was printed on Crown N.S.W. paper.

In 1869 it became apparent that the steel plate of the 6d., which had been renewed in 1864, was wearing out. A new die was ordered from England, and an electroplate was manufactured in the Government Printing Office, the first experiment of the kind to be made locally. Stamps were printed in lilac and issued on 1st January, 1872. As the plate was the first to be produced in the colony, it was exhibited at the General Post Office for some days before being put to press.

The last stamp of the De La Rue series, a shilling stamp, was engraved in England, and the plate also manufactured there. Apparently, the making of the 6d. plate exhausted the Printer for the time. Stamps were printed in green, and sent out with the plate, but these were never issued, it being decided to print the stamp locally in black, in which sombre colour it appeared during the twelve years of its existence. It was first issued on 1st April, 1876.

Another excellent contribution is the continuation of Mr. Walter A. Hull's "Principal Minor Varieties of Australian Stamps." This is accompanied by a plate which illustrates the stamps (Sydney Views and Laureateds) referred to. "Correspondence," "Reviews," "New Issues," etc., complete an excellent number of our esteemed exchange.

The January number of the *Hobbyist*, our bright little exchange from Canada, contains the usual number of paragraphs and snippets of philatelic interest. Regarding the new Canadian stamps, we are told that

Postmasters are hereby informed that arrangements

for a new issue of postage stamps bearing the portrait of His Majesty King George V. have been authorized, and that they will be supplied with the same for sale in the usual way to the public on and after the 1st of January, 1912. The colours and denominations of the forthcoming series will be the same, respectively, as those of the current series.

Postmasters will please bear in mind that they are not to return to the departments any of the present stamps on hand, but will sell them in the ordinary way and that after the new stamps will have been in course of issue, say, a month, the issue of the old stamps will be resumed, in order to exhaust the balance of them in the department, after which the issue of the new stamps will be taken up again and go on without interruption. As it is possible that only the denominations in greatest and general demand (the 1c. and 2c.) will be ready for issue on the date above mentioned, requisitions for a short interval may, at first be filled partly in the new series and partly in the old.

The December number of the *Australian Stamp Journal* is not wildly exciting. Its principal contents consist of Mr. Hausburg's article, dealing with the early perforations of New Zealand, which appeared in the *P.J.G.B.* last October; a couple of pages of "Items of Interest" (mainly extracted); a lengthy review of "Chats on Postage Stamps"; an article, reprinted from a New Zealand paper, dealing with automatic stamping machines; and one or two short notices relating to Australasian stamps. We extract the following:

NEW ZEALAND.—Several of our contemporaries have referred recently to the 1d. Dominion stamp, with a white stroke through the "one" of the One Penny. This was not, however, news to us, for in our issue of May 10th, page 96, Mr. W. E. Johnson, refers to it in "Philately as I saw it in New Zealand." Mr. A. Powell, of the Dominion Stamp Company, writes from Auckland, on the 16th November, that he has just received a sheet with the flaw in "o" corrected.

For many months we have not been receiving the *Philatelic Journal of India*; the January 1912 number just to hand is therefore doubly welcome. We regret very much to learn, however, that Mr. E. W. Wetherell, the late editor, has been seriously ill. We sincerely hope he will soon be restored to health, and again edit our welcome Indian exchange. In the meanwhile Mr. A. G. Cardew is in the editorial chair.

Mr. J. Godinho contributes short articles entitled respectively "Portuguese India," wherein he writes about the recent provisional stamps, and "Forged Surcharges on Gwalior and Chamba Stamps." In this article he warns his readers against recent bogus overprints. A very lengthy review of the *Philatelic Press*, wherein we find numerous extracts and comments,

and a short article entitled "The Bhor State Stamps" complete the principal contents.

We extract the following:—

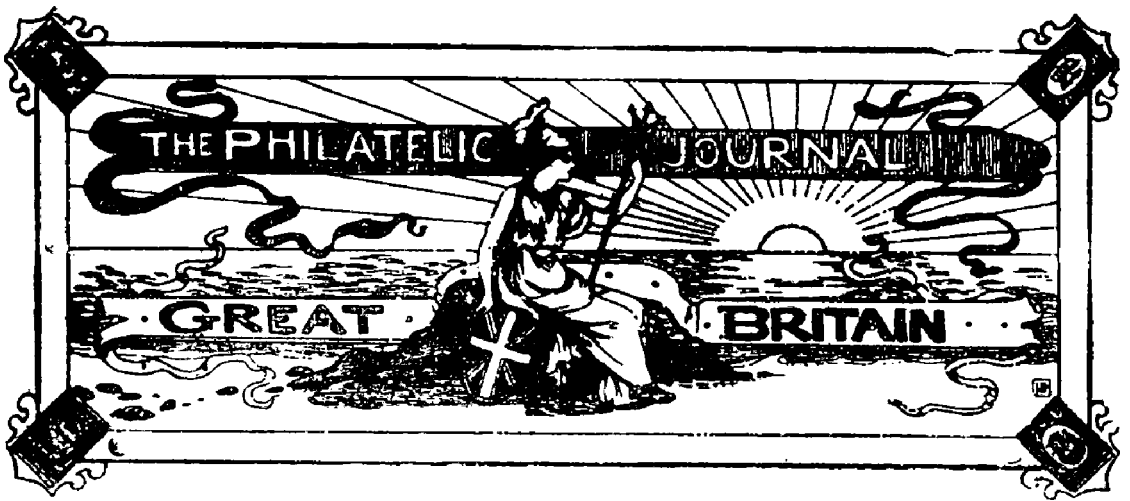
THE BHOR STATE STAMPS.

In Gibbons' Catalogue there is a note to the effect that the stamps of Bhor are believed to have been obsolete for some years past. The appearance of the new stamps of the State, bearing the head of the Ruler, caused us to make enquiries, and we give our Members the benefit of our investigations. It appears that the State has six post offices—one at the head-quarters of the State, and one at the head-quarters of each subdivision (Taluka). Daily communication between these post offices is maintained by runners. This service exists for the purpose of carrying official correspondence on which no stamps are used. It is, however, also open to use by the public and letters so sent have to be stamped with the State stamps. In practice the only letters which are so sent stamped with State stamps are petitions to the Chief or State officials. Nobody in the Bhor State, who wants to send a letter which is not a petition to the Chief or a State official, ever thinks of using anything except the Imperial post. In these circumstances it is evidently a little difficult to say whether Bhor stamps can, strictly speaking, be said to be used *postally* or not; but considering the industry of the Indian petition writer we are inclined to think that the stamps deserve the benefit of the doubt.

The January number of the *South African Philatelist* contains a lengthy paper on Cape Triangulars, contributed by Mr. J. W. K. Schofield, also one dealing with the stamps of Swaziland, contributed by Mr. J. J. Haupt. Some notes on Rhodesian stamps, in the nature of a review of this country in the new Gibbons catalogue, correspondence, etc., make up a capital number of our exchange. From a study of Mr. Schofield's article it would appear that in South Africa there is difficulty sometimes in distinguishing between the Peekins Bacon and De la Rue printings. He says:—

Many of our most advanced collectors seem at a loss to divide the two printings, and this inability is not confined to collectors, for I find the same uncertainty amongst many of our South African dealers. Every person one meets seems to have a different idea on the subject, and the theories advanced would form an interesting collection if they could be collated. One dealer in Capetown has the theory that in the De La Rue's the head of the figure "Hope" has a more drooping appearance and that the shading on the shoulder is not so heavy. One of our Johannesburg dealers considers that the printing (that is, the lettering) is slightly larger in the De La Rue's, or, at any rate, has the appearance of being larger. One of our principal Johannesburg collectors says the stamps may be divided by difference in texture of paper.

It is to be hoped that our Union friends only have trouble with certain shades of the fourpenny value. From Mr. Schofield's paper a scoffer might infer that there was trouble in separating 1/- Perkins, Bacon's from 6d. De la Rue's.



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The 1868 Issue of Mexico.

WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE RETOUCHE VARIETIES.

BY P. L. PEMBERTON.

SPECIALISTS in Mexican stamps have, until lately, been so engrossed in the pursuit of rare district overprints that they have omitted to study the designs of the stamps themselves and the methods by which they were produced.

During the past few years this has been changed and in common with the other Spanish-American countries, Mexico has received much more studious attention. Interesting articles have appeared in the philatelic press on the 1868 issues (by Messrs. Wetherell & Wilson) and on the 1872 issue (by Mr. C. J. Phillips). Some of the retouched varieties on the latter issue have been described, but so far as I know no one has ever hinted at the existence of the various



well-marked retouches on the stamps of 1868. As I have been fortunate enough to discover eleven retouches on the thick figure series of this issue, I think the description of them cannot fail to be of interest to all collectors of Mexican stamps.

In addition to the retouched varieties there are others points in connection with this set, quite apart from the district names, numbers,

and dates, which make it the most interesting issue of Mexico.

The design is a simple one. A full face portrait of the national hero Hidalgo, on a lined ground is contained within a circle. Above this is the name MEXICO and below, the value in cents; these, the only inscriptions, are in colour on a plain ground. In each corner is a square ornament with a star in the centre. In the spaces between the corner blocks and the circle are, at each side, sections of columns with horizontal shading, while the spandrels are filled in at the top with small triangular solid blocks of colour, and below with rather larger blocks which are outlined. I have gone very carefully into these details, as in the description of the types and retouches it is necessary to particularize the different parts of the design.

When the stamps first appeared, in 1868, the numerals of value were represented by very thin figures without a period. Later on in the same year the figures were altered, being made much thicker and followed by a full stop. (There are exceptions to the latter rule which I shall explain later).

For both these issues, and for all values, one matrix was used, which was engraved with the space for the numeral of value left blank. Transfers were taken from this to make a lithographic stone, sufficient to print sheets of fifty stamps in five rows of ten. From this stone five others were made, one for each value. This is shown by the existence of the same transfer flaws on all values. The stones having been thus prepared, the numerals expressing the value required were drawn separately on each transfer. At the same time

some of the designs were slightly touched up where the transfer was faulty.

My authorities for stating that the first transfers consisted of 50 stamps are Messrs. Wilson & Wetherell who, in an article in the *Philatelic Journal of India* (Jan. 1911), give a description of a sheet of the 6 cents. That the other values were printed in sheets of the same size is only an inference, which may prove to be wrong when some collector with sufficient material to work upon takes the matter up seriously.

That there was at least one second stone used for each value is almost certain. In the case of the 6c. this consisted of 100 impressions in ten rows of ten. Mr. T. W. Hall, who has very kindly placed his fine collection of Mexico at my disposal for study, has three large blocks of this value with enough of the side margins to prove the size of the sheet. The way in which this second stone was made is curious. It is evident that the same intermediate transfers were used as for the first stone (without the numeral of value) and that these were duplicated, as we find the same small flaws as before, two of each on the sheet. The curious fact is that in many instances these duplicates occupy corresponding positions in the upper and lower halves of the sheet, but, as far as I am able to judge from the incomplete portions of a sheet before me, there are many exceptions. Thus the last stamp but one in the top row corresponds with the last stamp but one in the sixth row; the last two stamps in the second row are from the same transfers as the last two in the seventh row. On the other hand numbers 30 and 80 and several others which ought to correspond are totally different. No. 80 is a well marked variety with a curly line running upwards into the line above the C of CENT. The duplicate of this is not on the top half of the sheet at all, but is the third stamp of the seventh row! A fresh set of numerals (still thin and without period) was drawn on this stone, so that stamps shewing identical flaws in some part of the body of the design exist with two types of numerals for this transfer and another for the first transfer. Mr. Hall has the prominent variety with curly line before C in all three types. The third stamp in the bottom row of the sheet (second transfer) has the curved outline of the section of the column in the S.E. corner redrawn, together with the contiguous part of the double-lined circle. I have a single copy shewing this slight retouch, also from the second transfer, but shewing a different shaped "6". I have also seen the same variety on the 12 cents. These facts point to the extreme probability of the redrawing having been effected on the first stone, probably before it was put to press.

The stamps of all values from the second stones are much more heavily printed than those from the first. The shading in the background behind the head is much coarser

and not so well graduated and the locks of hair and outline of the head over the right ear have been deepened, and occasionally altered in *direction* and length. In some cases extra lines have been added and in others the outline of the head has been brought round very much further on the right-hand side. These alterations were effected most probably on the fifty intermediate transfers before they were duplicated to make the sheets of 100, as all the varieties occur in duplicate on the sheet, and, as far as I can judge, they are not found on stamps from the first stone. These remarks apply equally to all values.

A question that requires answering is:— Is it possible that a small supply of some values was printed by some means other than lithography? In Mr. Hall's collection are two specimens, one 50 cents and one 100 cents black on brown, which are so clearly and sharply printed and so different from any others I have seen that serious doubts as to whether they are lithographs must necessarily arise.

The thick figure stamps of 1868 were produced from the same matrix that did duty for the thin figures set. The method of transferring the designs to the stone, however, was quite different. The following description of the procedure in the case of the 6 cents may be taken as applying in equal degree to the other four values.



From the original die ten transfers were taken on stone, on each of which the numeral "6," followed by a period, was drawn by hand in the space left blank for that purpose. These figures naturally all differ in shape and position, and are much thicker than any that occur in the earlier issue. On each transfer also the locks of hair over the right ear were re-outlined, the alterations so effected differing in each of the ten. During the process of transferring, very slight specks and flaws occurred which are, as a rule, sufficient to differentiate the types. On one (No. 4) the outline of the circle on the left, just below where it touches the outer line, must have failed for a distance of about 2mm., for it has been roughly redrawn. The left outline of the stamps of this type also appears to have been redrawn at the top.

The ten transfers being thus finished ten re-transfers were taken of each, and from these the stone of 100 impressions in ten rows of ten was made up. No particular order was

observed in arranging the transfers on the stone, as the various types are inextricably mixed up on the sheet. This proves that if transfers were taken of the ten types together they were cut apart before being transferred to the actual printing stone.

For convenience sake I have followed the arrangement of the types in this and the 12 cents value as set forth by Messrs. Wetherell and Wilson in their article in the *Philatelic Journal of India*. The numbering of the types is purely arbitrary, as there is no order in their arrangement on the sheet, but as a list has already been compiled, it is certainly a good plan to keep to it. In fixing their numbers for the types of the 6 cents, Messrs. Wetherell and Wilson followed a system which is not yet possible in the case of the other values, as they had an entire sheet to work from. Finding that nine of the ten stamps in the top row differed, they numbered them consecutively 1 to 9 (no 5 recurring); the tenth type turned up in the second stamp of the third row.

In the following list of the types I have tried to describe them with as little reference to the figures as possible, as differences in the shape of numerals cannot be satisfactorily described without the aid of illustrations.

1. Blotch on double circle immediately over 6. Small dot in lower part of frame of S.W. corner ornament.
2. There is a dot in the space before the 6 slightly above the level of its centre. The period after 6 is small and further away from the numeral than in any other type.
3. The thin line below the value is thickened to the left of the numeral. There is generally a distinct oblong dot *outside* the right outline of the stamp very slightly below the centre of the design.
4. The outline of the circle on the left is broken just below where it touches the outer frame-line, and for a short section it has been roughly redrawn and thickened. The first diagonal stroke of M has been strengthened and made much too thick. The outer frame-line at left has been thickened irregularly in two places near the top. All these alterations are due to retouching on the intermediate stone.
5. The double perpendicular line dividing the spandrel and section of column in S.W. corner, thick and indefinite at top. Immediately to the right of where this line meets the circle there is a slight break. There is a well-marked blot on the line immediately under the M.
6. The vertical lines outlining the left side of N.E. corner ornament are very much broken. There is a small dot between the apex of S.W. section of column and the circle. The 6 is closer to the C than in any other type.

7. The outer frame-line at bottom is thickened under the E of CENT. Slight excrescence on upper side of bottom frame-line in left corner square.
8. There is a dot sticking out from the first stroke of M, near the top. There is a well-marked protuberance jutting out from the under side of the line under the value, close to where it joins the left corner square.
9. There is a dot on the cheek immediately below the left eye. Sometimes this is not distinct, but it is always there. There is an irregularity of the inner outline of the circle in centre at right, which is rather blotchy for a distance equal to three of the lines of shading in the background. The line under the value is blotchy underneath the 6.
10. The first stroke of M is bifurcated at top and the serif is missing. There is a flaw in the double line over the top of the second stroke of X.

The following is a diagram showing the arrangement of the types on the sheet. (In the diagram given by Messrs. Wetherell and Wilson, in the *Philatelic Journal of India*, the stamps at the ends of rows 1 and 2 respectively were transposed).

1	2	3	4	5	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	7	6	9	5	9	8	3	2
4	10	1	7	8	3	4	10	10	6
7	2	10	4	7	2	4	3	3	8
5	6	9	6	4	1	3	1	9	10
9	6	9	6	5	1	10	3	4	8
3	4	5	6	2	9	8	7	8	5
1	4	8	8	10	3	2	6	10	10
8	6	1	7	2	3	5	9	2	1
9	5	7	2	1	4	10	7	7	5

Of the 12 cents at least two stones were used for printing. Mr. Hall has the best part of a sheet of one setting, yet it contains none of the four retouches which I know of on this value; and a greatly disproportionate number of the pairs and small blocks which I have seen will not fit on it. I should not be surprised to hear that there were three transfers for the 12 cents. But be this as it may there are only ten main types, which shows that they were all constructed from the original intermediate series of ten transfers.

These types are as follows:—

1. The double line over MEXICO does not touch the inner outline of the N.W. corner ornament.
2. Line under value has a kink in it to left of "12."
3. C of MEXICO has a thick ball. Period after 12 is split.

4. Dot below line under the back of the C in CENT. Vertical line after O broken or weak at top. There is a minute dot after the 2, immediately between it and the normal period.
5. Left outline of the section of column under N.E. corner ornament thickened irregularly at top.

The outer frame-line at right is not sharply drawn, having a rough edge,

6. First stroke of X thick. Numeral 1 has thin slanting base. There is a distinct blot left of marginal line over SE corner ornament.
7. Left outline very much thickened in centre (due to slight retouch on the intermediate stone). Second stroke of M broken in middle.
8. Both strokes of X thick. Outline of inner circle thickened at lower left side.

9. Line immediately under 2 broken. Slight break in left side of section of column over S.W. corner ornament.
10. Right-hand outline of S.W. corner ornament broken at bottom. Numeral 1 has very small serif.

The following is the arrangement of the types on one setting of the 12 cents, so far as I have been able to reconstruct it.

2	1	9	7	2	6	5	4	4	2
5	1	1	9	10	7	1	8	3	10
3	2	5	8	8	6	4			
10	4	10	7	1	8	4			
2	8	4	2	3	3	7			
9	6	3	4	4					
3	1	8	2	7	7	6	5		
6	10	6	10	9	5	6	7		
8	8	5	1	1	10	7	4		
9	6	3	4	6	5				



No. 1.



No. 2.



No. 3.



No. 4.

I have found four retouches in this value. From the fact that they are all dated '69 and '70, I believe that they are from the first stone. Whether the retouching was carried out before any sheets were printed, or afterwards owing to wear of the stone, I am at present unable to say, but from their rarity I should incline to the latter theory.

These retouches are as follows:—

- A. The shading on the section of column over S.E. corner ornament is very weak, especially towards the left. The left outline of the section has been redrawn with a short thick line and part of the curved outline has also been re-cut. (See illustration No. 1). This occurs on type 3.
- B. The section of column below N.E. corner ornament shows weakness. Its left outline has been redrawn, the line being carried upwards into the corner ornament above. There has been an attempt at redrawing some of the horizontal lines of shading, but this was not very successful, as will be seen in the illustration (No. 2). This occurs on type 5.
- C. The outline of the circle above the word CENT has been thickened, the small spandrel over the T is slightly altered in shape and the outline and shading of the section of column to right of it have been retouched. This, which occurs on type 1, is illustrated (No. 3) in a pair with a normal stamp, which has been kindly lent me by Mr. T. W. Hall. The retouch is on the right hand stamp.
- D. This is a slight retouch, but an accident makes it very easy indeed to detect. It is evident that the lower part of the C of CENT, the stop after 12, and the line below must have been rubbed off the stone, as the C has been redrawn and the line beneath faintly and shakily replaced, but the stop has been forgotten. The latter fact serves to identify this rare variety with ease. It occurs on type 2. (Illustration No. 4).

In the case of the 25 cents it is almost certain that there were two or more stones employed. I have come to this conclusion because there are one or two transfer flaws which are far rarer than the ratio of 1 to 100, and as I have examined possibly two or three thousand stamps this is very good evidence that they could not have occurred once on each sheet. Then there are five retouched varieties, none of which occur more than once in about 500 stamps; some of these were probably on the first stone and others on a second or third.

There are ten types as before. The following is a description of them:—

1. Outline at right very much thickened in the centre (due to a retouch on the intermediate stone). Upstroke of M broken where it should meet the last downstroke.

2. Blot on the upper part of the second diagonal of M.
3. Vertical line after O very much broken or entirely missing. There is a dot under the line below the period after 5.
4. Period after numerals touches the line below. This is the only type in which this occurs.
5. The double-lined frame containing the star in left lower corner distinctly broken at bottom. Outer line of circle thickened irregularly in part adjoining section of column in left lower corner.
6. The shape of the numerals is the best guide for this type. The 5 is tall, thin and a very bad shape; it generally has a slight hump at the top of the curve at back. There is a minute dot in the uncoloured portion of the frame above the top left corner ornament.
7. The numerals are more to the left than in any other type. Both the upright strokes of N are thick, and the first one curves outwards.
8. The 5 is tall and very open; the curved part is high up and almost touches the flag which is long and leans downwards. There is a minute dot in lower part of frame of N.W. corner ornament.
9. Very slight break in line above T. Outer line broken or weak at left by S.W. corner ornament. The numerals somewhat resemble those of type 8, but the 5 is not so long.
10. Two lines in the background at left on a level with the middle of the forehead are noticeably thickened where they touch the outline of the circle. A lock of hair on a level with these two lines is strengthened and is continued upwards until it exactly meets the outline of the top of the head. The 5 has a wedge-shaped flag, the thinner end being that which joins the body of the figure.

The retouched varieties are as follows:—

- A. All the letters of the word MEXICO and part of the N.W. corner block have been very badly re-drawn. The letters, especially the first four, are too big and thick and very badly shaped. Of the four copies of this that I have seen two are dated 1870 and two 1871, from which it may be inferred that it occurred on a second or third stone. It is on type 4. (Illustration No. 5).
- B. The section of column, corner ornament and adjoining outer frame line in right lower corner have been very roughly re-drawn. This is a very prominent retouch, the discovery of which first led me to study these stamps. The six specimens of this which I have seen (one unused) are dated 69 and 70; they are probably from an earlier transfer than A. It occurs on type 10. (See illustration No. 6).



No. 5.



No. 6.



No. 7.



No. 8.



No. 9.



No. 10.

- C. Three lines of the background in the angle formed by the outlines of the left shoulder and the circle are re-drawn. The top one is much too thick and the two lower ones curve downwards and encroach on the shoulder. I have only seen two of this. One is dated 1871. It occurs on type 4. (See illustration No. 7.)
- D. The ends of several lines in the background are redrawn for a short distance before they touch the outline of the circle at the extreme right, and the said outline is redrawn (much too thick) where these lines touch it. This is not a very prominent retouch and unfortunately does not shew up at all well in the illustration, it is, however, unmistakable in the actual stamp. It occurs on type 3. I have only seen one specimen, which is in a pair with a normal type 7; this has been lent me by Mr. T. W. Hall for illustration. The retouch is on the left hand stamp. (Illustration No. 8.)
- E. The small triangular block in the spandrel under M has been redrawn; it is much too large and its outlines are irregular. The inner outline of the section of column adjoining this spandrel is duplicated in the short vertical part and also half way down the curved part. This occurs on type 7. I have seen two specimens, both dated 71. (Illustration No. 9.)

The illustration No 10 is of a normal specimen of type 8 taken from a proof.

In addition to the flaws which are constant on the types, there are what may be termed tertiary flaws which are peculiar to individual transfers, that is to say, which would only occur on one stamp in a sheet from one stone. Such flaws may have occurred during the use of the stone or may have been produced during the transfer. These remarks are true, of course, of the other values as well, but in the case of the 25 cents such varieties appear to be more plentiful. To this category belong those varieties with straight lines or scratches running across some portion of the design. The so-called error 85 (instead of 25) is a tertiary flaw on type 2, caused by some curious accident to the lower part of the figure 2. This variety seems to be extremely rare; I have only seen one specimen (dated '71). Another flaw of the same character is one in which some of the lines in the background above the head are broken in the centre making the top of the head appear much taller. This is found on type 5 (dated '69), I have seen mention in some authority of a variety of the 25 cents without the period after the numerals, but in my search through more than 2,000 copies I have not come across one.

(To be continued.)

City of London Philatelic Society.

REPORT OF MARCH MEETING.

As was to be expected, an attractive programme resulted in a very good attendance on the 13th inst., when 26 members put in an appearance to enjoy a capital paper and display by Mr. W. B. Edwards, entitled "High Value Europeans." This was rendered in Mr. Edwards' inimitable style and, in all, 35 pages of high values, mostly in immaculate condition were shown, providing a display somewhat out of the usual groove.

The election of Messrs. E. Philp and R. Webster as new members was announced, and following upon this came the usual display of recent acquisitions, amongst which were:—

Great Britain, 2d. blue (no lines) *inverted wmk.*, used.

Greece, 40 lep. of 1869, pale reddish-purple, used as unpaid, on entire.

Both the above were shown by Mr. Hornsey; and Mr. Higlett exhibited:—

Liberia 1909 20c. with *inverted centre* in addition to several nice entires bearing the type I. stamps of Greece, the meeting terminated with a very animated discussion resulting from a paper by Mr. W. H. Eastwood, on the subject of the formation of a National Philatelic Association.

This subject will come up again at the next meeting and in the interim it is expected that members will give the same their careful consideration on account of the magnitude of the proposed scheme: for it is only by going thoroughly into the pros and cons of the whole matter that the Committee are able to formulate their resolution for the forthcoming Congress.

Members are urgently requested to note that, as the published date of the April meeting is two days after the Easter Bank Holiday, it has been considered advisable to alter the date of the meeting from the 10th of April to the 17th April, and **this will be the only intimation of the change.**

On this day there will be held a competitive display—"25 stamps, with the reasons for exhibiting the same"—and it is hoped that there will be a large number of entries for this simple subject. An additional incentive should be the Society's Silver Medal, which will be awarded to the fortunate winner of the competition.

Please do not fail to note the change of date of the April meeting—**17th April.**

A. C. CONSTANTINIDES,
Hon. Sec.

CORRECTION.—January number, page 14, second paragraph from bottom of 1st column. For "palest shades of T," read "palest shades of Z."

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.

Great Britain. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the 5/- stamps printed at Somerset House.

Adhesive.
5/- rose, slightly paler than before.

Mr. D. S. Darkin has very kindly shewn us a mint pair of the current 5d. stamps on which the value tablet only shows portions of the blue print, a large oblong section on each tablet having been left uncoloured. This, no doubt, is due to some extraneous matter which got on the plate before the second printing took place. Mr. Darkin tells us that the adjoining block of six contained one or two stamps on which the value was entirely missing.

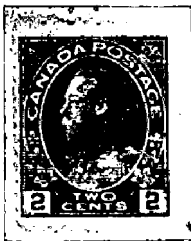
Levant. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. tell us that they have received the 2/6 stamps, Somerset House printing, overprinted for use in the Levant. They also send us specimens of the 1d. stamps overprinted Levant.

Overprinted.
1d. carmine, King George.
12 piastres on 2/6 purple, King Edward.

Antigua. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. kindly send us specimens of the following. We do not appear to have chronicled them before.

Adhesives. Arms type.
Multiple C.A. watermark.
2d. purple and brown.
3d. grey-green and orange-brown.
2/- .. violet.

Canada. To the list of those values chronicled last month we have to add a 50c. stamp.



Adhesive.
King George.
50c. sepia.

Gold Coast.—Messrs. Bright & Son write us as follows:—

"We enclose you two copies of the 1/- current Gold Coast Stamp. You will see that there have evidently been two printings of this. The

dark one is all in one printing, but the other one, which we presume is the first printing, has only the name Gold Coast at the top and the value at the bottom in black. The remainder is a dark lilac or violet shade, and has evidently been printed in two colours. We do not think this has been chronicled before."

New Zealand. Our publishers have shown us a specimen of the 1/2d. black (1882-97 issue) perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 10$. Only the 4d., 6d. and 8d. of this set are now unknown in this perforation.

South Australia. The following extract is from the January number of the *Australian Philatelist*:—

"Mr. James has called our attention to the fact that in the sheet of the 8d. thick postage, watermarked Crown A, perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$, several stamps have the value measuring $15\frac{1}{2}$ mm., the normal measurement being $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm. The difference, which is due to the wider space between the two words, is very noticeable when the two varieties are seen in a pair or block. These varieties are not together, as in the case of the large and small "Queensland," but are in various places in the sheet. The same varieties occur in the sheet on the Crown and S.A. paper. So far, we believe they have not been chronicled."

Southern Nigeria. We extract from the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* the following already much "extracted" information:

"ALL NIGERIA ONE PROVINCE.

"The King has approved the appointment of Sir Walter Egerton, Governor of Southern Nigeria, to be Governor of British Guiana in succession to Sir Frederic Hodgson, retired.

"Advantage will be taken of this opportunity for giving effect to the policy for amalgamating the Governments of Southern and Northern Nigeria. It is intended that Sir Frederic Lugard, Governor of Hong-kong, shall be Governor of both Southern and Northern Nigeria."

"*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* comments on this as follows:—'Does this mean that the separate stamps of 'Southern' and 'Northern' Nigeria will be withdrawn and that a new 'all Nigeria' issue will take their place? There have been a good many changes already in this part of the world; in quite recent times the Oil Rivers and Niger Coast Protectorates and Lagos have ceased to be (in name).'"

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Argentine Republic. — *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles a number of the recently obsolete "San Martin" stamps without watermark. The following is the list given: $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 20, 24, 50c. and 1 peso. These varieties are it appears from the edge of the sheet.

Bulgaria. The following paragraph is from the February number of the *Monthly Journal*:—

"A correspondent has shown us a sheet of 15 stamps of the 5 on 30 st., 1909, amongst which there is one with date reading "1969." We conclude that this error was noticed at the time of overprinting and was corrected, because we do not find this error on other sheets we have seen."

China.—The *London Philatelist* contains the following information:—

"Capt. A. E. Stewart writes: 'The postage stamps of China are being surcharged with four Chinese characters which represent 'Provisional Neutrality.' This is owing to the Republican leaders objecting to the word 'Imperial' on the stamps. All the present issue is being withdrawn and the surcharged stamps used entirely throughout China. The Chinese post offices in Tibet have been temporarily closed. But how long this will be for I cannot say, and probably the new surcharge stamps will be used there when the post offices open again.'

"As we go to press we have received the following further communication from Capt. Stewart: 'Yesterday I saw another official letter cancelling this, as the Republican leaders objected to the two-sided meaning of the surcharge. So the Imperial stamps remain in the meantime. The abdication of the Dynasty is proclaimed now, so I fully expect to see a Republican surcharge on the stamps shortly.'"

Denmark. We have seen a new and very marked shade of the current 20 öre stamp—ultramarine, instead of blue.

Adhesive. New Shade.
20 öre ultramarine.

Holland. We are indebted to the *Monthly Journal* for the following information:—

"A change is being made in the current Postage Dues, the whole stamp being now printed in ultramarine, instead of having the value in black. We have seen the 5 cents, and the whole set will be issued in this form."

Iceland. Mr. W. T. Wilson has very kindly sent us specimens of the new stamps, as illustrated. The portrait is of King Frederick and not of Jan Sigurdsson.



Adhesives.

5 aur green.
10 " vermilion.
20 " blue.
50 " marone.
1k. yellow.
2k. pink.
5k. light brown

Liberia. Mr. G. H. Higlett has shewn us a copy of the 20c. of the 1909 issue with centre inverted. These stamps were printed by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., and Mr. Higlett's find constitutes, we believe, the only known occasion when such careful workmen have let an error of this nature escape their detection. Mr. Higlett was fortunate enough to buy this stamp from a dealer for a few pence, from a book which had already been subjected to the inspection of other collectors. He has, therefore, double reason to congratulate himself on his philatelic keenness.

Adhesive. Variety centre inverted.
20c. myrtle and dull rose.

Persia. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* says that during the recent crisis in Persia a large quantity of stamps was stolen from the Post Office, and to make sure of the remainder they are overprinting them "Official." The following values of the 1911 issues are chronicled:—

1, 3 and 10 ch.

Portugal. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have very kindly shewn us two of the new Republic stamps. The design is illustrated below.



Adhesives. Chalky Paper.
1c. green.
5c. blue.

Russia. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us an addition to the current set, namely the 5 kop.

Adhesive. Shiny Bars.
5 kop. brown-violet.

United States. Messrs. J. M. Bartels & Co., of New York, very kindly send us a specimen of the new 10c. stamps. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have shewn us the remaining values.

Adhesives.	
1 cent	green.
2 cents	rose.
8	.. olive green.
10	.. orange.
15	.. grey.
50	.. lilac.
\$1	.. dark brown.



The Stamps of the First Issue of Holland, 1852.

R. W. WILKINSON.

(Continued from page 32.)

PLATE VII.

When the preceding plate was so hastily condemned—and it must have been a sight, full of little holes and crudely retouched in many places. Menger was instructed to prepare another, which did not appear until May, 1861, and alas! was "again so full of little holes that after two months the second plate in that year was brought into use."

We thus arrive at the now well known "Horn" plate, so named by me on account of a white projection just above the eyebrow occurring on every stamp. Another constant defect, pointed out recently by Mr. Warren, consists of a blurred line cutting across the oval leaf framework at the right near the second leaf. Large blocks of 15 and 20 have been seen on which these defects are constant.

The white Horn defect can be accounted for by a break in the raised design upon the transfer roller, but the coloured defect implies damage to the secondary die. I have often thought that the Horn defect might have developed whilst the plate was being made, but the absence of pairs *without and with Horn* is, of course, fatal.

After being transferred, the plate was touched up, many of the left inner side lines being thickened, some crookedly or double, and varying in length and thickness. The "Swan" scrolls on both sides are found slightly re-outlined, and Mr. Warren has shown me a stamp with side line and circle background redrawn in somewhat similar fashion to Plate I.

The earliest date known is 21st July, 1861 (Warren), but as Haas gives August as the date of the next plate we may expect to improve upon this. The colour of the stamps is a bright rose-carmine, very like Plate VI., and I do not think there were more than two printings.

PLATE VIII.

The "Horn" defect must have been noticed (it implied, of course, a slur upon the well beloved King), because we next find stamps with the defect entirely or partially retouched out, leaving however, traces on

the forehead and the defect on the leaf framework.

It has hitherto been assumed that this was done upon the Horn plate direct; but there is reason to doubt this course; it would mean softening and re-hardening, and the Mint do not seem to have been adept at this part of the business. But above all *the crooked side-line retouches of the Horn plate have not yet been found on the Horn retouched stamps*, which have retouches of quite a different character. These consist of thickened top angles to the outer frame lines, slight retouches to the vertical lines after ZEGEL, and to the inner and outer lines under "IO."

How then to account for the "Horn retouched" upon a new plate.

The original and secondary dies were not injured, because there were two subsequent plates showing no signs of the defect; an injury to the die could only result in a *coloured* line, whereas the Horn is white, and, therefore, the transfer was responsible. In a new secondary die the chances of the figures being inserted in quite the same manner would be very remote.

A feasible explanation would be that the same defective transfer roller was used to make two plates—one a reserve, the defect being discovered and remedied upon the second one only, before it was brought into use.

Captain Haas gives August 1861, as the date of this plate, but the earliest yet seen is 28th January, 1862. In this connection it is worth noting that dated postmarks on stamps are exceedingly rare from this plate onwards, and most of those so found are of Railways. These postmarks have SPOORWEG prefixed by H. HI, or NR, i.e., *Hollandsche, Hollandsche Izere* (Iron), or *New Rhine Railways*.

PLATE IX. 1862.

After the Horn varieties, there appeared impressions without the two defects on head and frame, but with somewhat similar retouches to the corners of the inner and outer frames, and showing in addition very characteristic

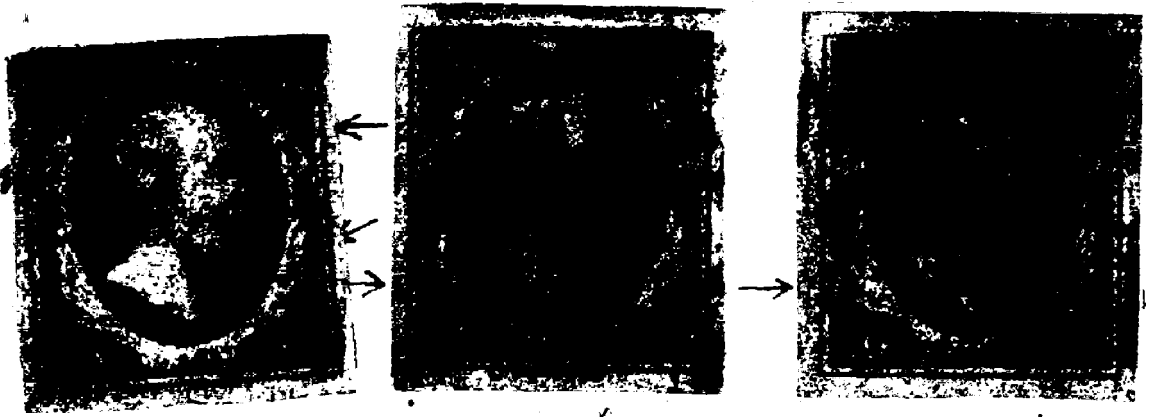


Plate VII. Horn.

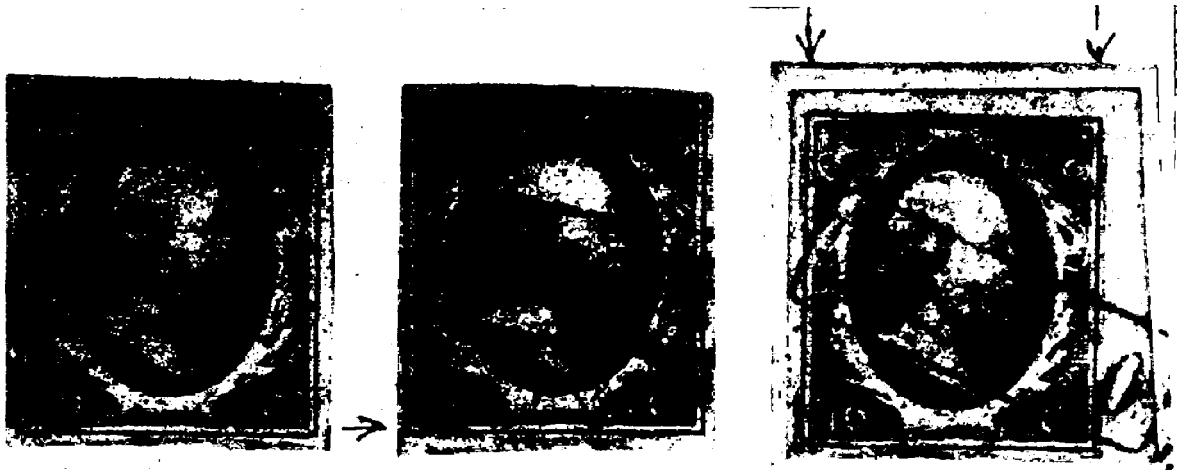


Plate VIII. Horn retouched.

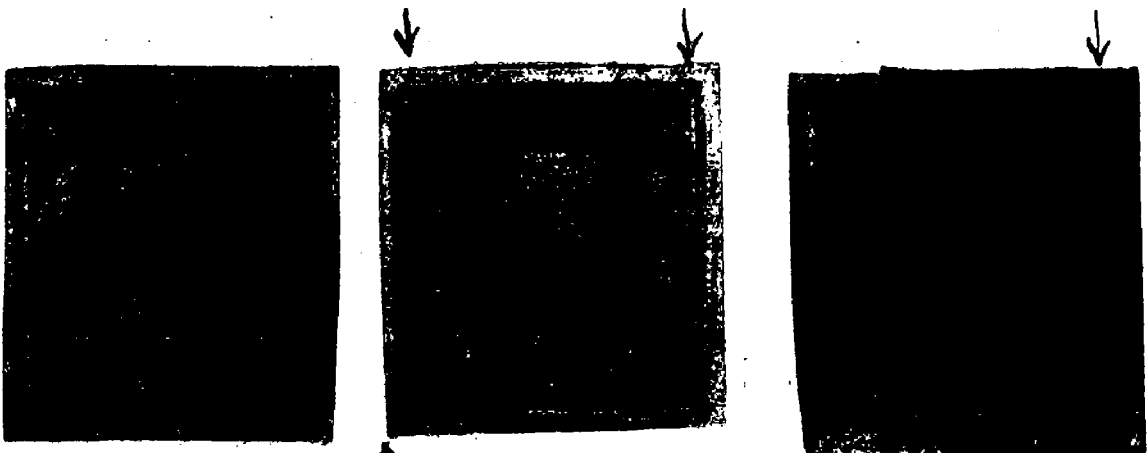


Plate IX.

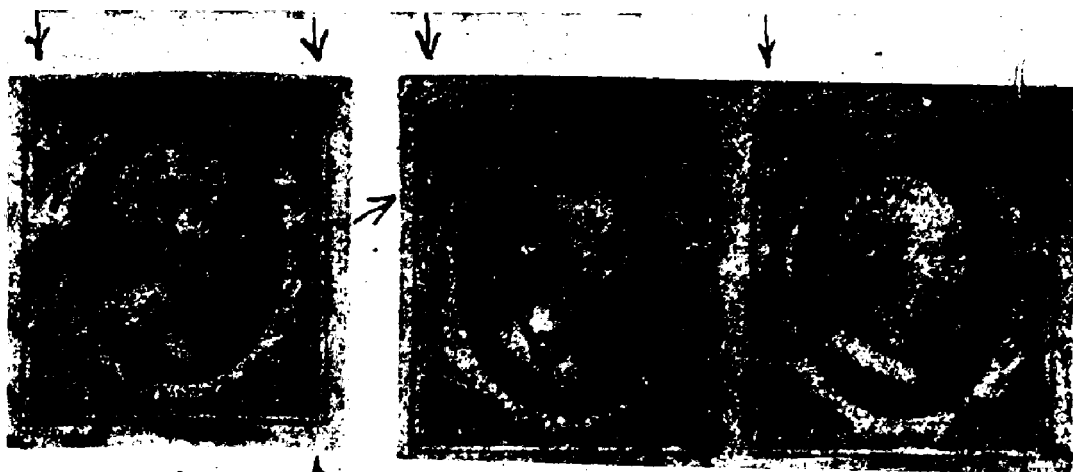


Plate X.

blurs extending down and along the frame lines outside the design. These blurs look just as if the extreme edges of the die had also been impressed upon the roller.

There are only two printings, one like the previous "Horn retouched," and the other a paler colour, with no body in it.

The earliest date found on entire is 26th March, 1862, and from the number seen, there can be no doubt about the fresh plate. Haas only queries 1862 as the date of use, and so concludes his list of the 10 cents.

PLATE X. 1862.

As in the case of the 5 cents, the actual evidence of the stamps is quite conclusive as to yet another plate, the impressions from which are in a different shade, more approaching Plate II., and having a softer finer appearance. There are a number of retouches, of which the most noticeable are illustrated below. The lower frame line is found deeply cut and with a heavy characteristic blur on the line, only seen on this plate.

The left side is retouched at the top inner angle by one or more thick lines before POST; the inner side line, the Swan scroll and the scroll under P are also re-outlined. Some stamps show all these, others only one. The right side is also retouched from top to bottom including the corners after ZEGEL and "C". Top corners are found retouched before and after the lettering, and both are known on one stamp.

As in the 5 cents, we also find the last printings to be upon a soft pliable paper, rather thinner, the same retouches of course recurring. My earliest date for *hard paper* is 1st July, 1862, and for *soft paper*, 4th December, 1863, but both should be improved upon. This concludes my classification of the 10 cents plates.

SUMMARY.

- (1) The postmarks are of course the same as in the 5 cents.
- (2) The variations in the lower frame line.
 - Plate I.—Redrawn right along on every stamp, many delicate retouches to design.
 - II.—Line broken or *frayed* under "10". Strong retouches at both sides and right corner. Blurred T of Post.
 - III.—No retouches to line or design.
 - IV.—Nearly every line retouched, some broken or crookedly drawn.
 - V.—No retouches to line. White space defect. Later prints blurred and washy.
 - VI.—Lower line redrawn at each end. Also retouches to top right angle and *criss-cross* lines.
 - VII.—"Horn" plate.
 - VIII.—"Horn retouched."
 - IX.—Top outer corners retouched. Long blurs outside frame lines.
 - X.—Lower line strongly re-cut at centre and strong blur on the line. Many retouches top angles and right side.
- (3) The shade of colour does not help here much. No very marked changes.
- (4) Soft paper used for Plate X.

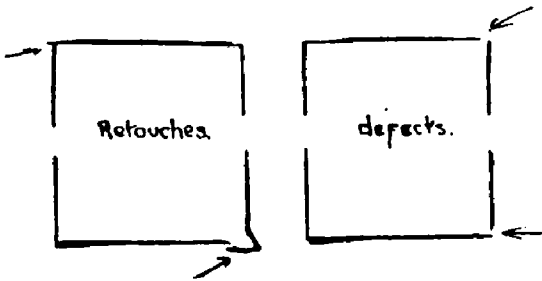
PLATE I. 15 CENTS, 1852.

So far as can be ascertained there was only one plate used for the 15 cents, and Captain Haas gives 7th October, 1851, as the date when it was ready for use.

As pointed out in the introduction, the secondary dies differed from each other in



small details, and there can be no doubt that they were retouched, producing the variations. The 15 cents plate shows this very clearly; the lower frame line is always very thick under the left corner, the left inner side line is clearly drawn and continuous from the swan scroll to the value tablet. The top and bottom right corners are always thinned or open except when retouched, and, on a superb block of twenty unused in Mr. Wade's collection, every stamp shows these features. Retouches to the plate are rare, and occur on the frame lines; both the top and the lower right corners are known slightly projecting, and some open corners have been filled. The only prominent retouch known shows what must have been a very wide open corner at the lower right, repaired by short thick lines, both badly re-drawn outside the proper design.



This occurs in a block of four unused (Warren) in which it is the lower right stamp; the upper left has a projecting corner.

The colour was at first a fine deep orange, fading to a pale orange yellow. Only 23,825 sheets were printed, against 379,175 of the other two values, and none were printed in 1855, 1856 and 1858.

So far no copies have been found upon the pliable soft papers used for the 5 and 10 cents.

"SPECIMEN" COPIES.

The stamps of this issue were not demonetised until 1879; there was evidently some small stock left, as Mr. Warren possesses a set surcharged SPECIMEN, but he has ascertained through M. Zumstein that no copies occur in the U.P.U. archives at Berne.

So concludes my account of this truly fascinating issue; written to stimulate interest by providing a basis for study and criticism—whether destructive or constructive matters not—it will, I trust, serve its purpose, and be used as a stepping stone to further and fuller information.

Fourth Philatelic Congress of Great Britain.

CONGRESS NOTES.

THE latest date for the nomination of Delegates is April 1st, and the names and addresses of Delegates and particulars of resolutions, etc., must be in the Hon. Secretary's hands on or before that date.

Visitors to the Congress (other than Delegates) will be accommodated with seats in the rear of the Congress Hall, but the Committee desire it to be understood that collectors and others who are not Delegates can only attend as spectators, and are not entitled either to vote or to take any part in the Debates.

The social programme, however, is open to visitors without restriction.

The Executive are happy to announce that the Right Hon. Lord Northcliffe has kindly consented to become a Vice-Patron of the Congress.

The following are the latest additions to the list of Delegates:—

Birmingham Philatelic Society.—Messrs. W. Pimm, T. W. Peck, W. F. Wadams, and G. Johnson, B.A.

Bolton Philatelic Society.—Messrs. W. Ward, and H. O. Moscrop.

Christ's Hospital Stamp Exchange Society.—Rev. A. E. Woodward, M.A., and Mr. H. Inskip.

Carlisle Philatelic Society.—Mr. J. Fred Marriner.

Hull Philatelic Society.—Messrs. H. Inmen-camp, and E. V. Teesdale.

Societies who have not already appointed their delegates are urged to do so at the earliest possible moment.

Further donations to the Congress Fund are acknowledged with thanks to:—

	£	s.	d.
The Junior Philatelic Society and Birmingham Philatelic Society, three guineas each ...	6	6	0
W. H. Peckitt, Major Evans and Baron Leijonhvfud, and Third Philatelic Congress, 2 guineas each ...	8	8	0
Wilmot Corfield, M. P. Castle, Fred. J. Melville and Hugo Griebert, one guinea each ...	5	5	0
Stamp Trade Protection Association	1	1	0
Victor Marsh and P. J. Evans, half-guinea each ...	1	1	0
Carlisle Philatelic Society ...	0	5	0
Previously acknowledged ...	20	3	0
	£41	13	0

Donations of Stamps for sale at the Auction in aid of the Congress Fund are earnestly solicited from all philatelists interested in the welfare of the Congress, and should be for-

warded without delay to Mr. C. W. Siggers, 33, Cliftonville Avenue, Margate.

All other communications on Congress business to be directed to:—

The Hon. Secretary,
D. B. ARMSTRONG,
"Llanadern,"
BROADSTAIRS.



March, 1912, Report.

List of Officers and Committee, 1911-12.

Hon. President: H. R. OLDFIELD.

Hon. Vice-Presidents:

W. DORNING BECKTON. H. L. HAYMAN.

MAJOR J. DE C. LAPPAN.

President: J. C. SIDBOTHAM.

Vice-Presidents:

W. SCHWABACHER. L. W. FULCHER. W. SCHWARTZ

Committee:

A. B. KAY. W. E. LINCOLN. GUY SEMPLE.
F. F. LAMB. P. L. PEMBERTON. E. W. WRITHERELL.

Hon. Sec. & Treasurer: T. H. HINTON,
26, Cromford Road, East Putney, London, S.W.

Hon. Exchange Superintendent: J. E. JOSELIN,
81, Bennerley Road, New Wandsworth, S.W.

Hon. Counterfeit Detector: W. HADLOW,
Grove Park, Lee, Kent.

Hon. Librarian: W. S. KING,
65, Cadogan Street, Chelsea, S.W.

Hon. Solicitors: MESSRS. OLDFIELDS,
13, Walbrook, E.C.

All Officers of the Union are ex-officio Members of the Committee.

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.

Joseph Wagenhaeuser, London.
Albert Graetzer

NOTICES.

The sixth meeting of the season was held at Essex Hall, on Thursday, 14th inst. Present: J. C. Sidebotham (in the chair), W. Schwabacher, L. W. Fulcher, W. Schwarte, J. E. Joselin, A. B. Kay, Guy Semple, P. L.

Pemberton, Wilmot Corfield, H. F. Johnson, J. Wagenhaeuser, J. B. Seymour, H. H. Harland (visitor), and the Hon. Sec. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. Wade, Mr. Semple displayed on his behalf the fine specialized collection of the first three issues of Holland, showing the various plates, printings and retouches exhaustively worked out, and including a very fine selection of blocks, strips, pairs and singles, unused and used. Mr. Schwabacher followed with an interesting collection of the fiscal stamps of this country (the earliest adhesive stamps known), together with a rare work on the Dutch Revenue duties, issued when the country was under the government of Marie Therèse.

A hearty vote of thanks to Messrs. Wade, Semple and Schwabacher was, on the proposal of Mr. Fulcher, seconded by Mr. Schwarte, and supported by the President, carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be held at Essex Hall on Thursday, April 11th, at 7.30 p.m., when our Honorary President, Mr. H. R. Oldfield, will give a display of the stamps of Bosnia, when it is hoped there will be a good attendance of members, and any visitors will be welcomed.

Subscriptions due on January 1st last; proposals for membership or any donations to the 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.

March 15th, 1912.

Current Chatter.

BY ANGUS MCTAVISH.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. W. H. Peckitt who has purchased the major portion of Lord Crawford's world-famous collection. This only proves what a half-page advertisement in the *P.J.G.B.* will do.

Saith the March number of one of America's most amusing stamp papers.

"Angus McTavish writes an interesting letter each month for one of England's best journals. Wit and humor are Angus' chief materials and he weaves them skilfully into all stamp news of the day."

The above refers to me and the *P.J.G.B.* What America thinks to-day, Manchester thought several years ago, Eh what?

The February 1st, number of the *Philatelic Gazette*, says:—

"We know of one prominent firm who has trained its employees to hinge stamps in such a manner as to allow transferring half-a-dozen times without requiring the renewing of a hinge."

In Holles Street, London, they keep a staff consisting of two Generals, four Majors, twelve

Sergeants, and a battalion of commissionaires purposely to train new arrivals destined to work in the approval departments. If, after three months' tongue drill they are unable satisfactorily to mount the small halfpenny South Australians and Victorians, they are allowed a trial in section eight of the commemorative approval branch of the business.

Continuing the subject the *P.G.* says:—

"Just as little as possible of the back should be covered, as any portion of the original gum, once covered by a hinge, is practically lost for ever."

It was ever thus.

The *Stamp Journal*, U.S.A., is responsible for the following:—

"Readers have not been at all backward about renewing their subscriptions—our list of inliuquents is much smaller this year than in previous years."

A very eloquent way of putting it, but surely a small pocket dictionary should be given as a premium.

The *Stampster* of Olathe, Kansas is an amusing little stamp paper. Its editor evidently has his likes and dislikes. He says:—

"Generally speaking, the surcharge is another freak that merits excoriation. What do you think of Nicaragua? Biff! This indulgent old gentleman is going to tell you what he thinks of Nicaragua. Last Monday he took a garden rake and cleaned the Banana Republic out of his album and gave the whole bunch to his little grandson to paste on the bulldog's back!"

The McTavish, also Biffs, but whose bulldog? Buster Brown's?

The same versatile scribe refers to the obsolescent U.S.A. series of 1908! I hope this isn't the result of Bertram having gone to live in California!

A year or so ago I commenced storing up my *P.J.G.B.*'s with the idea one day, when I felt strong enough, of reading Mr. P. L. Pemberton's series of articles on the stamps of Greece. The months slip past, and Mr. Pemberton's paper grows more and more like Tennyson's Brook. In the meantime I am studying the 1878 edition of the late Edward L. Pemberton's Handbook which says, *apropos* Greece

"REMARKS.—No attempt has been made to divide the shades; they are very marked, but innumerable."

Pemberton *père* seems to have got there in three lines.

The following are a couple of extracts from an American auction catalogue:—

"13.—Further, the question of gum on an unused stamp, or a straight edge or an off centered copy, should not be called 'damaged.' We do not so consider it. Many stamps are better off and safer to handle and keep if they have no gum. Others never had gum. Straight edges which are from the outside

stamps of the sheets were so issued as were also such stamps as are not perfectly centered.

"14.—Again, a weak place described in the catalogue does not affect the face or front of a stamp and cannot be generally noted unless the stamp is held up to the light, and if it is not a badly skinned stamp it is considered a good copy and frequently is of magnificent appearance."

13.—The stamp may be better off without gum, but the owner won't be.

14.—To obviate this difficulty either do not hold the stamps up to the light—or else always arrange your stamps in the sanctity of a dark coal cellar.

Correspondence.

3a Donnerbühlweg,

Berne,

28/2/12.

To the Editor, "*P.J. of G.B.*"

DEAR SIR,

POSTMARKS ON SWISS STAMPS.

In the February number of your *P.J. of G.B.* which I read with great interest, I find that you misunderstood the articles on "Les Postes Suisses à l'Etranger" and that you may be glad to be told about it and might rectify in your next number. The pair of 40 rappen *se tenant* is obliterated, one in the *Suisse post office of Brassus* and the second in the *French post office of Les Rousses*. The whole article was to prove that formerly the *Suisse post offices* abroad in the border districts played an important part and still play, as we have Swiss post offices still at Nanders (Tyrol) Domodossola (Italy), Pontarlier, Les Rousses in France. Kindly read the article once more and you will find that it is not *altogether* in MacTavishan style. I shall be pleased to give any further information.

I remain,

Yours truly,

DR. OMAR WEBER.

London,

22nd Feby., 1912.

The Editor, "*P.J. of G.B.*"

DEAR SIR,—

I extract the following from your issue of the 20th instant, page 36, and should be obliged if you would be so good as to explain your closing "200 forsooth. Nearer 20,000." The *Daily Telegraph's* simple statement seems to me sufficiently explicit. It should stand as it is meant to stand. Because 200 fends collect "Postage Stamps" under that name we are surely not compelled to suppose that the other fends are not also stamp collectors?

"COLLECTION FIENDS."

"France has its collection fends to the number of about 11,000. A writer in a Paris paper claims to have ascertained the following statistics: 300 of them collect autographs,

"140 fancy collections of pocket books, 4,000 collect rare books, and the rest may be summed up as follows:—

- "Collectors of old engravings, 1,700.
- "Heraldry, 300.
- "Military uniforms, 400.
- "Botany and entomology, 1,500.
- "Miniatures, 300.
- "Numismatics, 300.
- "Objects of art, 2,000.
- "Pictures, 1,300.
- "Postage stamps, 200.
- "Fencing and Hunting, 300.

"M. Léo Claretie collects statuettes, the Marquis de Broc longs for steam diligences, M. François Carnot looks only for tin soldiers of the eighteenth century, the Countesse Chandon de Briailles collects nothing but old travelling trunks, M. Jules Domergue has an assortment of 2,000 bells, the Vicomtesse de Chezelles has a cult for old warming pans, M. Pierre Delcourt and M. Watteville make a speciality of French clay pipes, M. Alfred Rey has a collection of all the posters of the brasseries, M. Carles Rabot takes an interest only in the dial plates of watches of the Revolution, M. Salomon collects diminutive volumes, M. Schaenerts stores up old clarionettes, and M. Furch Reynaud is content with coal shovels."

—"Daily Telegraph."

"200 forsooth. Nearer 20,000.

[Ed. P. J. G. B.]

All stamp collectors collect *autographs* (on cheques and notes) when they can get them. All go in for *pocket books*, now sold at 2/- with interleaved advertisements, while as for the *rare books*, have not most of us heard of or seen the Crawford Library? What are the most valuable stamps but *Old engravings*? *Heraldry*!—philately is stiff with it! The same remark applies to some extent to *Botany* and *Entomology*. *Miniatures* too? The Georgian heads on our current issues are miniatures or nothing. *Numismatics* then—go to Crete or Greece. *Pictures*!—ask for Columbus on U.S.A. stamps, or for Apes and Peacocks elsewhere, and you'll get them. Who are better at *fencing and hunting* than stamp collectors, more especially those of the dealer persuasion?

Both *statuettes* and *steam conveyances* are found on stamps, and the lady of title who collects *travelling trunks* has had many predecessors who have turned up scores of finds of "old Sydney Views," early U.S.A. "Postmasters," etc., etc., stored away in trunks hidden among the lumber of cellars and attics. Philatelic literature often dwells on such things. The 2,000 *bells* perhaps do not ring true philatelically speaking, and neither do the *warming pans* which Mrs. Bardell was told not to forget, but the Lion on the early Norwegians is really tugging at a bell-pull and the supposed Couch-shell of Travancore was originally meant to represent a warming-

pan. Specialists in French clay pipes are also a little obscure as to their full significance (though the officer on many French Colonials is pipe clay'd as regards his accoutrements), but the *posters of the brass series* might be explained satisfactorily. No doubt some slang French term is used: bras-arm, claw, or sponce, hence we look asconce at them. M. A. Rey has probably a fine array of Parisian picture-postcards, of course of a non-philatelic sort. *Plates* of course speak for themselves, and the Mr. Salomon, like Mr. F. J. Melville, collects *diminutive volumes*, though unlike that eminent editor, he probably does not also create them. M. Reynaud is content, it seems, with *coal shovels*. A poor spirited person.

Then, as to the word "Fiend." Fiends have their picturesque and even philatelic points, their artistic and philatelic possibilities. Ingoldsby sings of Cob, Mob and Chittabob, "dear little devils were they," and Ingoldsby was a clergyman. These young imps of mischief may have started a Junior Philatelic Society in Kent, which is Margate way, and possibly published an *Imperial Stamp Album*. Who knows to the contrary? A Fiend with a Fork would find it just the thing for perforation purposes. He has horns at the back of the head, so have several Scandinavian stamps. Watermarks are his peculiar worry. Do we not read of St. Dunstons and other pious people who never lost an opportunity of chucking holy water about and inconveniencing him badly? Then again the Colour question comes in where Fiends are concerned. What is more suggestive of Philately? Ingoldsby's "Oh dear! how he'll tickle our little black tails!" (c.f., Nova Scotia, No. 14, type 5 S.G. Part I., 1911 ed.) BLACK. According to the new John Bunyan window in Westminster Abbey the FIEND has got into a church at last (though very properly cornered there) and the complexion of the Pilgrim's defeated adversary is *vermilion*. (c.f., Antigua No. 7, type 1. S.G. idem, idem, vide supra) VERMILION. It seems also needless to add that everyone knows of others who suffer from the *blue devils* occasionally. (c.f., Canada No. 99, type 29 S.G., idem, idem, vide supra) DEEP BLUE. No respectable FIEND would get along without a forge, and what is a forge but a thing to make forgeries with? Ask the gentleman above mentioned with a weakness for coal shovels.

I am writing in haste, but it is only fair to stand up for the *Daily Telegraph*, a most worthy publication, I take it every day, and Mr. Melville writes for it once a week at least! Its *bona fides* should not be impeached. Your editorial postscript seems superfluous. "200 forsooth." I never knew you so paltry.

Yours truly,

DAK.



MARCH 20, 1912.

Philately at Home.

The February number of the *London Philatelist* contains an extremely interesting contribution in the shape of Baron E. G. E. Leijonhufvud's Notes on the Stamps of Sweden. This article, we are very pleased to see, is to be continued. The Baron writes instructively and entertainingly about the various issues. The following extract referring to the first "figure" issue of 1872-7 will make, we feel sure, the majority of our readers anxious to peruse the article *in extenso*.

ISSUE IN FIGURES, 1872-7.

Special dies were engraved for each of the values of this issue, and there are consequently as many types as there are values. They were also printed in sheets of two hundred in each complete or double sheet. This issue shows a number of type errors and differences caused by the wear of the plates. The most common is one to four dots in front of the word "Frimärke" or after "öre." A part of the plate has evidently been damaged and a new piece put in; in filing off the screws some unevenness has been left, which is the cause of the dots. The shading of some of the figures is caused by worn plates. Originally the plate had only the outline of the white figures, but as the plates became worn the cut-out bottom of the figures has touched both the colour and the paper. The paper was still the same, and the watermark similar with the exception of the lines in the edging, which are absent. The perforation is still 14. There are 3, 5, 6, 12, 20, 24, 30, 50 öres and 1 riksdaler. They have all several shades, the most marked being the well known 6 öre, grey. The 12 öre is seen printed from plates so worn that the circular line which surrounds the centre part has nearly vanished and the figures have become very thick. In this issue the word for twenty is spelt differently to what it was in the two first issues; it is spelt "Tjugå," instead of, as formerly, "Tjugo." The 30 öre is now spelt "Tretio" instead of "Tretio." The 50 öre has two distinct shades. The 1 riksdaler is printed in two colours, and each sheet had consequently to pass through the press twice. The middle part with the three crowns is frequently out of position. The 4 öre, grey, appears in 1877. The type of the figure "4" is different from any other, and as it was only printed twice there are not many shades.

Baron Leijonhufvud's contribution constitutes the only philatelic article in this month's *L.P.*, but it is indeed a host in

itself. An editorial, some Occasional Notes, New Issue list, and a couple of cleverly written reviews of recent philatelic publications all help to fill up the odd columns of our contemporary. Baron Percy de Worms, (the *L.P.* will be raising its subscription), who is responsible for the aforementioned reviews writes in a vein of dry humour which is very amusing.

The February number of the *Monthly Journal* contains, for its principal item, an elaborate article dealing with the 100 reis stamp of Brazil 1894-97. Mr. C. Lathrop Pack, whose name is almost as well known on this side of the Atlantic as it is in the States, has evidently devoted a great deal of time to the study of this interesting and fortunately easily obtainable stamp.

Readers of the philatelic press, especially those who have attended recent meetings of various Societies, when they have had the opportunity of examining Captain Napier's superb collection of Brazilian stamps will find that the result of Messrs. Napier and Pack's researches is practically synonymous. Mr. Pack's article is well illustrated and written up, and will prove of value to all collectors, especially those who like to hunt for rare varieties of quite common stamps.

Another interesting contribution, at least for those collectors who are interested in the recent emissions of Nicaragua, is Messrs. Ahrens' and Thornton's first instalment of their paper dealing with the Provisionals Issues of 1908-11. Editorial Notes, an instalment of Mr. Melville's "Postage Stamps in the Making," Correspondence, New Issues, Topical Notes, etc., all help to make up a very readable number. From Mr. Phillips' notes we venture to extract the following:—

I had an opportunity of attending a great sale of *British Colonials* in Paris (lasting four days), and I was greatly surprised at the very low prices at which I was able to buy ordinary and medium stamps, say, up to £2 each. Many of this class, in perfect condition with gum, I got for a half to one-third of our Catalogue prices, and even among the rarities I got many good things at reasonable figures; such things as four copies of the Shilling of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

On the other hand, a few stamps went at ridiculous prices, in cases where apparently two or more wealthy collectors were bidding one against the other.

The good old stamps of the genuinely interesting issues of South and Central America seem to have entirely disappeared from the stocks in Europe. I have agents who have travelled all over the Continent buying for me, and I have found in my recent travels that their reports to the effect that the market has been swept bare of stamps of the Argentine Republic, Uruguay, Chili, Mexico, Peru, Colombia, and Bolivia are absolutely true; all dealers want to buy these stamps, and none of them are to be found. A very great rise in the prices of the old issues of these countries will take place in the near future.

The February number of the *Philatelic Record* contains further continuations of Mr. F. J. Peplow's "Postage Stamps of Buenos Aires," and Mr. John N. Luff's "Otto's Printings of the Transvaal Stamps." Both articles provide excellent reading for collectors interested in the subjects discussed. From the former paper we make the following extract relating to the early "steamship" stamps of the Argentine.

"The stamps were printed on fairly uniform white wove paper, and with one exception, to be described later, the same paper seems to have served for the whole of the 'steamship' issues. It has a characteristic semi-transparency, which has been of no little value in guarding against forgeries, and the design can generally be discerned through the stamp. I have, as far as I can remember, seen only one copy of any of these stamps with full original gum, and this was a 1 peso (UN PS) brown, in the collection of Señor Rodriguez, the gum of which was brown and rather crackly. As the back of these stamps is very often discoloured brown, this is doubtless due to the gum. The quality of impression varies greatly from clear and well printed to heavy over-inked smudges, and the printers evidently had much difficulty in producing satisfactory results. Throughout these issues the design is occasionally found showing a suggestion of clouds above the rays of the sun, due probably to the plate not being clean. As I have already mentioned, almost every stamp in the plate shows distinctive features, though generally minute ones, but I have noted no varieties of sufficient importance to mention in the first issue.

"The colours of these stamps are difficult to describe, and it is not easy to say how far the shades are due to actual colour or to overloading of ink. Occasionally the impression is very 'dry,' producing a pale, thin colour. There were, however, probably several printings of each value, and there are well-marked shades, particularly of the 4 or 5 pesos, which I do not feel able to describe by any terms sufficiently distinctive."

Reviews, Auction Reports, Correspondence, Notes, etc., complete a good number of our most artistically "gotten" up contemporary.

The February number of the *Stamp*

Lover, received too late for review last month, contains a good deal of J.P.S.' matter, a lengthy instalment of Mr. L. W. Crouch's article entitled "The Postage Stamps of Honduras" and some capital essays in the form of four short papers contributed by junior members of the J.P.S.

Mr. A. R. Maisey's "A Beginner's Views on Collecting" is the one which appeals to us most strongly; we extract the following words of wisdom:—

I am a collector of no professed religion, and acknowledge no creeds or dogmas. I please myself. I do not collect for my pocket, but for my own pleasure, and safe I am in saying my pleasures in philately are as great as are the specialist's. Stamp-collecting is world-wide—so let our collections be. Limitations and simplifications do not tend to enrich our hobby. The first night I attended a meeting of this Society it was held in Exeter Hall, and then it was that our late Secretary, Mr. Savournin, shewed a fine lot of British stamps on the lantern screen, shewing the different varieties, etc., of all our early British stamps, information which was, of course, quite new to me, having just left school. This stimulated my desire to obtain a few stamps of my own country, and I have got together a representative collection of British stamps, as far as my pocket will let me. For, after all, the Triangular Capes and Circular Guianas cannot better the penny black, the grand old pioneer of our and the world's postage stamps, and incidentally of the whole art of philately. (Hear, hear!) I maintain that a small representative lot of British stamps, not complete and without the possibility of being complete, is a far greater prize than specialising collections of Wadhwan or Seebeckery.

As this is a Beginners' Night I have brought up part of my collection, and, as you will see, it is only the skeleton of a larger one which I only possess in my dreams. There are many blanks, but that is not my fault I can assure you—it is rather my misfortune.

Mr. H. Ray Secker chose "Stamp-Collecting in Schools and as a Guide to Useful Knowledge" as the title for his short lecture. He thinks that schoolboys should be allowed to receive gift packets of stamps from dealers, also plentiful supplies of approval sheets. Messrs. H. W. Armstrong and D. A. West are the respective authors of "The Beginner's Pitfalls" and "On South America in general and Venezuela in particular."

A month later we find Mr. W. H. Tarrant's paper dealing with Indian stamps; a lengthy and not particularly interesting instalment of Mr. L. W. Crouch's Postage Stamps of Honduras, and Mr. A. J. Warren's exceedingly readable paper entitled "Dutch Indies." Besides these three strictly philatelic articles we find a great deal of J.P.S. matter, principally dealing with the forthcoming Exhibition. We are pleased to note that the Juniors have already had considerably over £100 subscribed to their

war chest. The March *Stamp Lover*, a capital number, also contains some contributions of general interest, notably Mr. Dalwigk's article entitled "Philatelic Experts" wherein he draws attention to the fact that it is far too easy, for anybody so inclined, to pose as an expert. The following extract may possibly give rise to debate.

Now we would suggest the holding of philatelic examinations periodically under the auspices of some society, and we feel confident that such an experiment could not but do a lot of good.

A committee of examiners should be appointed by the Society undertaking this venture, and genuine advanced papers should be set the competitors.

The papers could be set on a graduated system—first, general philatelic questions, and finally, advanced specialistic questions on the country or countries the competitor wishes to master. When a collector has successfully passed his "specialist examination," he should receive a printed certificate to that effect—and then only—in our eyes—is that collector entitled to advertise and call himself an authority on this or that country, that is to say if his name is not before well known.

The sequence of this move must needs help the hobby in more than one way. It would provoke rivalry and renewed keenness among young collectors, it would link fellow specialists who had obtained their "degrees" together (as all successful candidates should have their names published in the philatelic press with the names of the countries they had qualified in), and it would give the unknown a chance of making themselves and their researches known.

The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, dated February 17th, is a chatty number of our welcome exchange. Mr. Wilmott Corfield, lately home from India, is the "Philatelist of To-day." Mr. F. W. Edwards contributes an interesting article entitled, "Locals of Edinburgh and Leith." A column of Mr. Irwin Faris's always readable "New Zealand Notes"; an extracted page relating to early Uruguays, Correspondence, New Issues, Reviews, etc., etc. complete a capital number. To Mr. Faris we are indebted for the following:

FULL FACES.—I have recently secured a copy of the 1d. brown with one side perf. 10 and three sides perf. 12½. I know that this exists in perf. 10 three sides × 12½ one side, also I have had sent to me for inspection a used copy of 2d. vermilion, imperf. all round. It is apparently genuine, and the wide margins preclude faking by clipping. It is a "variety," being evidently from a sheet that has missed the perforating machine.

INSURANCE.—The die of the 2d. red-brown (water-mark far apart) was broken in its later days—only one stamp in each sheet. The break is across the "2" in upper right-hand corner. This variety is worth hunting for.

"LAID" PAPER.—I have seen the 1s. King's Head on so-called "laid" paper—due to external pressure on the damped paper during printing. The varieties are not, however, worthy of special collection.

The copy dated March 2nd is described as a "Spring Number" and constitutes

the first number of the eighteenth volume of our twice a month contemporary. We find several capital contributions, notably the first instalment of an article, entitled "The Postage Stamps of the Nigerias." Mr. D. B. Armstrong, after a short geographical sketch, deals with the stamps of Lagos. The following extract will doubtless please many of our readers:

Prior to the issue of distinctive postage stamps, an early type of postal frank was in use at Lagos, similar to that employed at Corfu, Tobago, and elsewhere at that period, consisting of a small double-lined circle, broken at the top to admit of the insertion of a roughly formed Crown and inscribed "PAID AT LAGOS." It was struck in red and was first chronicled by the *Philatelic Record*, in July, 1882.

On its political severance from Sierra Leone the colony was provided with a series of postage stamps of its own. Whether or not the stamps of the latter colony had previously been in use by the Lagos Post Office remains to be discovered, but it is a point that commends itself to the Lagos specialist, and a systematic search amongst used copies of the stamps of Sierra Leone issued between the years 1860 and 1873 should be productive of information.

That an internal postal system was already in operation in Lagos previous to the issue of special postage stamps is clearly shown by the following official notice; the earliest that the writer has succeeded in tracing.

"Postal Service for Badagry, Palma, and Leckie.

—Notice is hereby given that the mails for Badagry will be forwarded from this office every Tuesday at 3 p.m., up to which hour letters and parcels will be received.

Mails will be forwarded from Badagry to Lagos every Friday and will be due here on Saturday.

Mails for Palma and Leckie will be forwarded from this office every Tuesday and Saturday, at 3 p.m., letters and parcels will be received up to that hour. Mails will be forwarded from Leckie and Palma every Tuesday and Friday, and will be due here on Monday and Thursday at 3 p.m.

The inland rate of postage is as follows:—

For a letter not exceeding ½-oz. in weight	1d.
For every additional ¼-oz. . . . .	.. 1d.
For every newspaper . . . . .	.. 1d.
For a parcel not exceeding 8oz. . . . .	.. 3d.
Above 8oz. and not exceeding 16oz. . . . .	.. 6d.

The above rates will be adhered to as closely as possible.

By His Excellency's Command,

W. C. PRATT, Postmaster.

Post Office, Lagos, March 5th, 1874."

The above notice is of interest as showing the respective uses of the first four postage stamps issued in the Colony. The postal rate to the United Kingdom at that period was 6d. per ¼-oz.

The first instalment of a paper entitled, "The Sunshine of Philately," read by Mr. George Milne, before the Aberdeen and North of Scotland Philatelic Society; a shorter contribution, in the form of Mr. F. S. Chilcott's paper, "The Colour Question," read before the Liverpool Junior Philatelic Society; Mr. F. W. Edwards', "The Local Stamps of Glasgow"; and an illustrated interview with Mr. J. C. Rix,

constitute the principal items in the "contents bill" of our exchange.

Congress News, New Issue List, Reviews, Correspondence, Auction Reports, etc., all add to the interest of the Spring number of the *S.C.F.*

The most enjoyable contribution to the February number of the *Stamp Collector* is a further instalment of Mr. C. H. T. Hayman's article dealing with the early issues of Chili. Taking the Local Post Office Prints for the subject of this month's discourse he writes, *apropos* the 5 centavos, as follows:

The orange-red is a really rare shade, and collectors must be warned that more than two-thirds of the stamps offered as orange-red at large prices, are wrongly classified in dealers' stock books. Out of several hundred Post Office 5 centavos which have passed through my hands, I have seen only twenty varieties properly belonging to this shade, and the real value of the pale watery-looking specimen usually designated orange-red is one penny net. A good rich orange colour must be looked for, and great restraint shown in a purchase, unless the stamp is properly expertised. The 10 centavos of this printing will give beginners the greatest difficulty, and unfortunately it is here that the catalogue will fail him. Good specimens are very like the 10 centavos of Desmadryl; a well printed slate-blue is like the last of Gillet's prints, while the deep blue has more than once been confused with the 10 centavos of the First London Printing. Blue is, in my opinion, the most difficult of all colours, and even given that the particular stamp in question is undoubtedly a Post Office 10, very close study and experience is required to apportion it to any particular shade given in the catalogue.

I put the various issues in the following order, which differs somewhat from the catalogue: 1856, indigo-blue; early in 1857, sky-blue, and the so-called deep bright blue; late in 1857, slate-blue; during 1858 and 1859, greenish blue and deep blue. For one thing, the numbers of green-blue and deep blue prints are included together as 480,000, and these two issues show by far the best and clearest impressions, most probably born of past practice and experience. The slate-blue takes the third place in order of merit, while the sky and bright blue labels are very crude and inexperienced attempts. It is very probable that the reason of the comparative clearness of the indigo-blue issue arises from the fact that the plates were clean to start with, and that the Post Office officials enlisted outside help from the local printers to show them the ropes.

Our Birmingham contemporary also contains extracts from Mr. W. H. Marsden's paper, dealing with the stamps of Bosnia, and Mr. Bernstein's paper, entitled "War Post Offices." A list of the books and journals in the library of the Birmingham Philatelic Society, a budget of Notes, and other contributions, complete our brief review.

The February number of the *World of Stamps* contains a further instalment of Mr. Leonard Goldsmith's paper dealing with the early stamps of British Guiana. This makes capital reading; the following

extract, although one of the evergreens of philatelic literature, will interest many of our readers:

THE ONE CENT: Printed in black on surface coloured magenta paper. This being undoubtedly the rarest stamp in the world a few notes as to its discovery will not be amiss. The stamp was found in 1873, by Mr. L. Vernon Vaughan, a youthful collector in British Guiana, in a search through a mass of letters and family papers for further specimens to add to his collection. Mr. Vaughan was interviewed in 1906, and stated that he thought very little of the stamp, which was a very poor specimen cut octagonally. Being anxious to enlarge his collection, he sent to Messrs. A. Smith & Co., of Bath, for approval sheets, and these arriving he was seized with the insatiable hunger to possess them that we philatelists know too well. He was somewhat short of ready cash at the time, and decided to sell one or two stamps from his album to obtain the wherewithal to purchase new specimens. Among the chosen for sacrifice was the uninviting 1 cent of 1856. Mr. Vaughan states that although this was the only copy he possessed he thought he could easily replace it by a better specimen on his next search through the family papers.

He took his stamps to an old collector in the colony, a Mr. M'Kinnon, who bought several of his specimens, but he would, at first, have nothing to do with the One Cent, its bad preservation and octagonal shape prejudicing him against it. Eventually he was persuaded to "risk" six shillings on it, and the purchaser impressed upon Mr. Vaughan that he was buying the stamp as a favour and never expected to recoup himself. The One Cent remained in his possession for ten years, and in 1883 (*sic*) was sold to a London merchant, one Mr. Wyatt, for £25, which at the time was regarded as an extremely good price for any stamp.

The stamp was again heard of in a letter from Mr. Pemberton, the doyen of British stamp dealers to Judge Philbrick. It was offered to him by Mr. Wyatt, together with four of the circulars and the price asked for the five stamps was £110. Although fully intending to close with the offer he neglected to do so until too late, and the stamp was sold to M. von Ferrary for a price that has not been made public. Mr. Pemberton remarks: "The lot included a ONE CENT, red, 1856!!! as genuine as anything ever was. . . . The one cent '56 is queer; no doubt went with the four cent blue—nothing *unlikely* in that; it was a dreadfully poor copy." Judge Philbrick was one of the very few people who have had a sight of this great rarity; he says "Having examined it myself, I must agree that the copy is very poor. The shade of colour is neither full nor bright; the appearance is as if it had been washed out, while the value is not clearly legible."

Other interesting articles are Mr. Costello's paper relating to the early stamps of Trinidad; an illustrated description of some of Messrs. Harrison's attempts at postage stamp printing; and a further instalment of Mr. Ellis Gee's "New Dies for Old." A capital list of New Issues, another of Mr. Goldsmith's Perforated Parodies, and other matter, all help to make the official organ of the Society of Stamp Collectors a welcome addition to the stamp world.

The February number of the *West-End Philatelist* contains the usual amount of

boiled down philatelic information. Mr. Séfi, in a short editorial, bewails the unfairness of Messrs. Gibbons in not cataloguing the recently overprinted New Zealand stamps for use in King Edward VII. Land. The same writer also describes some of the errors of overprint on the Convention State stamps of India; tabulates a long and unhealthy list of Bosnian Postage Due perforations; and also illustrates, and describes, the various varieties of the "Half Penny" on 6d. surcharge of Natal, 1895.

We learn that the stamps of Chamba, Gwalior, Patiala, Nabha, Faridkot, and Jhind, have franking power throughout British India.

The March number of the *Monthly Report* of the Herts Philatelic Society contains a varied assortment of interesting matter.

Mr. E. D. Bacon contributes some notes relating to the "cheque" stamps of British Central Africa. We also find Mr. Reichenheim's paper reprinted from the *L.P.*, dealing with the *se tenant* types of the "Peace and Commerce" stamps of France, and the first instalment of a paper, entitled "Notes on Belgium: Its History and People," read by Mr. Ashley, before the Herts Society, last month. Reviews of recent publications, a page of "Philatelic Crumbs," etc., complete a readable number.

The March number of the *Philatelic Circular* contains a short article entitled "Noteworthy Prices in Greek Stamps"—its sponsor, Mr. A. C. Constantinides, has recently sorted out a parcel of many thousands of the first type; his remarks will be found of interest to all collectors interested in these fascinating stamps. A capital chronicle of "Georgian" new issues, a page of the Editor's "Market Notes," and some odds and ends, complete a good number. Many of the "Market Notes," however, have a very ancient twang, for instance, we are told that the "demand for old Europeans abroad is growing apace," also the "current stamps of Portugal, or rather those in current use in that country, want watching." Next month we shall expect to be informed of the lamented death of Queen Anne.

The following brief extract, referring to our omission to correct a printer's error

in the last number of the *P.J.G.B.*, is distinctly good:—

"By the way, dear Mr. Editor, I have heard of Chinese Pork, but what the Dickens is Peekins Bacon?"

Philately in the Colonies and Elsewhere.

The principal item in the January number of the *Australian Philatelist* is Mr. Walter A. Hull's continuation of his excellent article, entitled "Principal Minor Varieties of Australian Stamps." This is well illustrated and deals with recent varieties of N.S.W. and New Zealand.

Another lengthy and readable paper is an instalment of Mr. D. B. Armstrong's "West Australian Early Issues," Correspondence, Reviews, Editorial Notes, Societies' Reports, etc., etc., all make good reading. Under the heading "Commonwealth Postage Designs" we find the following:

We have to chronicle another move on the "Commonwealth Stamps" chessboard. It was not unexpected, for as soon as the present Postmaster-General (C. E. Frazer) got a good grip of his department, the Commonwealth stamp designs were brought under his notice. The only question which the public has no means of learning is, who moved in the matter, whether the late P.M.G. who, we are told has taken to philately, or the Secretary to the Postal Department. At all events it is an open secret that none of the designs entered for the prize competition, not even those which were awarded the prizes, met with the approval of the Government. Recently the Victorian Artists Association were asked to nominate one of its members to prepare a number of designs for postage stamps, and we learn that they are now in the hands of the Minister. They embody nearly all phases of bush life, such as stage-coach, bullock waggon, sheep, kangaroo, magpie, jackass and swan. The P.M.G. is said to favour the swan, which is typical of West Australia only, but not of the Commonwealth. Additional designs may be called for.

Can any one find a Federal subject of importance that has been more mismanaged than the Commonwealth stamps? If there is one we should like to know it.

Recent numbers of the *Philatelic Gazette* all contain some capital articles of real philatelic value. In the copy dated January 15th we find some Notes on South Australia, contributed by Mr. C. B. Bostwick, who says, by-the-bye, that no other country has ever given him more pleasure in his thirty years of collecting. He also says: "As most of the devotees of philately have to stop to consider the cost, it may be well at the outset to say that at present a moderate outlay of cash

is sufficient to give one a very fine start in South Australian specialism."

Major F. L. Palmer contributes a lengthy instalment of his exhaustive treatise dealing with the postal issues of the Philippines. The first chapter of what promises to be a good check list of Western Express Franks used on U.S. envelopes, and other matter, all help to make our American Exchange very welcome. A fortnight later we find another lengthy instalment of Major Palmer's article, some highly interesting notes on Mr. C. B. Bostwick's collection of Cayman Island stamps, a short contribution of Mr. J. B. Leavy's, relating to early Austrian varieties, and other contributions of general value.

The January number of the *Australian Stamp Journal* depends on a plentiful supply of "Items of Interest," a well compiled review of the Australasian section of the new Gibbons' Catalogue, and a list of some of the rarities in Mr. F. C. Krichauff's collection, for its principal contents. From the review of Gibbons' Catalogue we extract the following:

The New South Wales 1/- diadem watermark 8 No. 110, still remains at 50/- used. From an Australian point of view, this is exceedingly cheap. We venture to say that there are not a dozen fine copies in this country. It is conspicuous by its absence in many good collections, and specimens very seldom come on the market. We would advise our friends to secure a fine copy at 50/- while they have the chance.

A South Australian correspondent draws our attention to the following:—The S.A. 3d. thick postage watermark Cr. and A perf. 11 (referred to in these columns a few months back) is not listed. The 8d. and 10d. (Nos. 362a and 364a) watermark Cr. and A perf. 12 have not yet been issued. He doubts the existence of the 2½d. on 4d., No. 259a (variety "2" and "½" close together, perf. 10 compound with 11½ or 12½) as the part of the sheet where the variety occurred was only perf. 10. He also asks why is the 8d. deep blue and ultramarine listed and none of the other values, nearly all of which have similar differences in shade on the same stamp. He wonders why the current 5/- (No. 354) is priced at 10/- unused, and he expresses the opinion that some other alterations are erratic.

Lord Crawford's Stamps.

A GREAT COLLECTION SOLD.

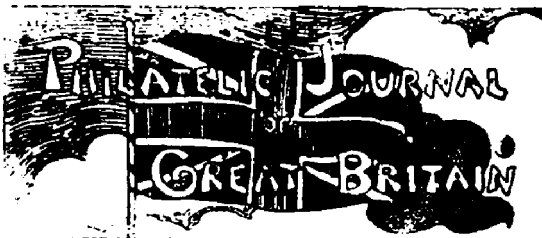
We are able to announce one of the most important private sales of rare postage stamps that have ever taken place. The Earl of Crawford, president of the Royal Philatelic Society, has disposed of his unrivalled collections, save only the series of Great Britain and the United States, to Mr. W. H. Peckitt. No price has been named, but those

privileged to have seen Lord Crawford's treasures are able to realise their magnitude; and it may be stated that the present sale is of considerably greater extent and importance than the dispersal of the stamps accumulated by the late Sir William Avery, Bt., for which in July, 1909, Mr. Peckitt paid £24,500—at that time a record cash price for a stamp collection. A still larger price—£35,000—was realised in the present year for Herr Holitscher's general collection.

Lord Crawford is not relinquishing his interest in philately, but will limit his future attentions to the postage stamps of his own country and the United States.

—Daily Telegraph, 6/3/12.

THE STAMPS OF GREECE.—The continuation of Mr. Pemberton's article is unavoidably held over until next month.



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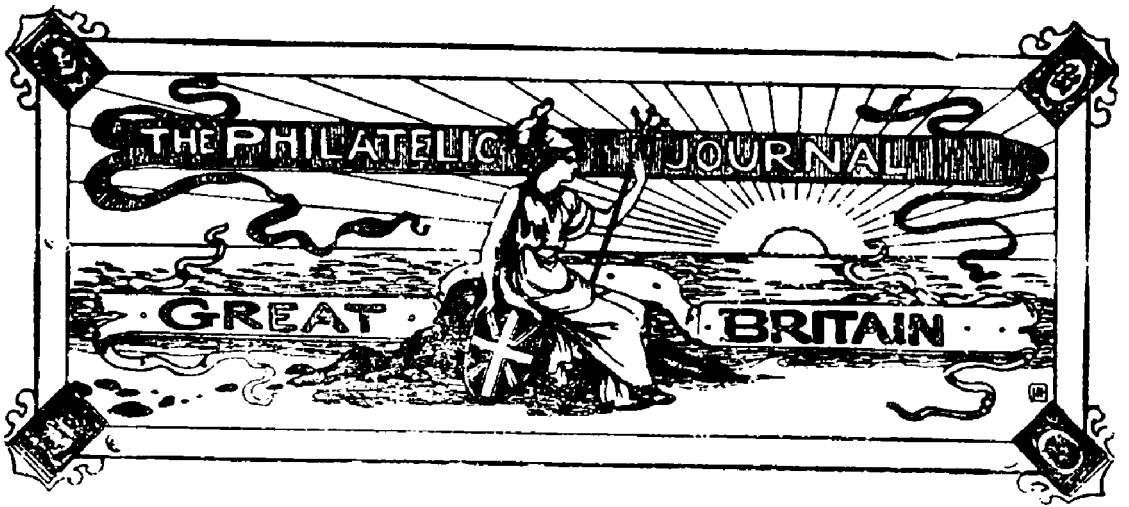
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♦ ♦ Editorial. ♦ ♦

THERE are few better methods of adding to a small general collection of stamps than by buying from one or more of the very numerous Exchange Clubs which exist throughout the country.

Practically every stamp society has its exchange section where members can circulate their own duplicates and make additions to their collections,

Exchange while the cost of subscrip-
Packets. tion is usually quite nominal.

Unfortunately, however, this method of adding to a collection has its limitations for we find, after many years' experience of club packets, that the stamps circulated always bear a wonderful resemblance. In fifty cases out of a hundred the stamps for sale duplicate the very ones which we ourselves are trying to dispose of. If collectors would bear this in mind and price their stamps at more reasonable prices we feel sure they would dispose of more of their duplicates, especially to the dealers who buy fairly extensively from such sources. In many Exchange clubs there is, however, a certain proportion of members who make a practice of buying stamps purposely with the idea of selling them at an enhanced price through the channels offered by the "Exchange" sheets of their respective Societies. The majority

of these gentlemen would be shocked did anybody venture to suggest that they were competing with members who buy and sell stamps as a method of earning their living.

The majority of Club Packets are open to both professionals and amateurs alike, so that it is extremely hard to say where to draw the dividing line; we should like to protest, however, against the members (most Societies have more than one) who price their stamps, (not necessarily duplicates) at prices which are absurdly high. Such a method of doing, or trying to do business, is extremely childish when the stamps in question are similar in nature to nearly fifty per cent. of the rest of the specimens circulated by members.

Exchange Packets, as we have tried to make clear, are an admirable medium, but we should like to draw attention to the pettifogging methods of the amateur dealer who buys, either at auction, or more privately, with the sole idea of selling at a profit to other members. Such a procedure might even become meritorious were the stamps priced cheaply, but unfortunately these speculators have such a high opinion of their own talent, and stamps, that their so-called duplicates are priced at double market value,

with the result that buying members have to wade through a number of absurdly overpriced specimens.

Another club peculiarity which we should like to draw attention to, is the method some members have of arranging half a dozen more or less common stamps on a page, and surrounding each precious label with a veritable halo of descriptive notes. Such a method is only annoying

to the possible buyer, who wants stamps and not a mass of catalogue definitions, while, as a safeguard against the light fingers of the changer, should the Society be unfortunate enough to harbour such an unsavoury character, its value is *nil*.

In fact we should think that such laborious precautionary methods would make the stamp tweezers of the substitutor dance with eager anticipation.

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.

Great Britain. Last month we chronicled the 1d. stamp of Great Britain overprinted "Levant." We did not make it clear to our readers whether it was the re-engraved, or the original George head. As we have now received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. specimens of both halfpenny stamps and of both the pennies we will formally chronicle them.

Adhesives. King George.
Overprinted for use—Levant.
½d. green.
1d. carmine.

Re-engraved stamps, similarly overprinted.
½d. green.
1d. carmine.

Mr. Charles Davies, of Frodsham, has shown us a new variety of overprint on the 2½d. blue overprinted "1 Piastre." Compound perforation. The new variety is considerably smaller.

Bermuda. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the following values in the Ship design:—

Adhesives.
Ship design.
½d. brown.
6d. lilac.
1/- green.

Brunei. We are indebted to the *London Philatelist* for the following information:—

We have seen the following stamps in new colours:

Adhesives.
Multiple C A wmk. Perf. 14.
4c. claret.
5c. orange.
8c. ultramarine.
10c. violet on yellow.
25c. violet.
50c. black on green.

Cyprus. The *London Philatelist* has evidently been favoured with an early sight of the following novelties.

"We have seen five values of a new issue, Type II. of Gibbons', but bearing the *new Colonial large size head of King George.*"

Adhesives.

Multiple, ordinary. Perf. 14.

30 paras violet and green.

½ piastre green and crimson.

1 .. rose and blue.

4 .. olive-green and purple.

6 .. sepia and green.

Gilbert and Ellice Protectorate. The *London Philatelist* says:—

"We have seen the new 5d., 6d. and 1s. values of the Leeward Islands type, but bearing the *small head of King George.*"

Adhesives.

Multiple, chalky. Perf. 14.

5d. mauve and pale olive-green

6d. mauve and purple.

1/- black on green.

India. Mr. W. T. Wilson has very kindly favoured us with a copy of the new 1 anna Indian stamp overprinted for official use.

Official.

Head of King George.
Overprinted "Service," in black.
1 anna carmine.

Jamaica. The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* chronicles the new 3d. stamps with portrait of King George. These stamps are said to bear a strong likeness to the current 2d. King Edward.

Adhesive. King George.
3d. purple on yellow.

Mauritius. The March number of the *London Philatelist* bubbled over with its chronicle of King George stamps. Nothing is said of their having been overprinted "Specimen."

"We have seen the new 5c., 25c., and 10 rupees values, Type of 1910, but bearing the *small head of King George.*"

Adhesives. Perf. 14.

5c. grey and carmine, multiple; ordinary.

25c. olive-green and crimson on yellow, multiple; chalky.

10r. dull green and red on pale green, multiple; chalky.

New Zealand. The *Australian Stamp Journal* chronicles the receipt of the 4d. value printed in yellow instead of in orange.

Adhesive.

King Edward. Perf. 14 x 14.
4d. yellow.

Queensland. We are indebted to the *Australian Stamp Journal* for the following:—

"One of our Brisbane friends who is now on a visit to this city, brought in to us last week 10 Queensland 1d. vermilion stamps, current type, on Q & Cr. paper: consisting of three pairs and a block of four. One pair is unused, the others are used. An examination reveals the fact that they are all perf. 12 horizontally, and perf. 9½ vertically. One is a vertical pair showing the usual margin of the sheet, and there is no perforation on the marginal side of the stamps. All the perforations are very rough, and in nearly every case the vertical perfs. (9½) have still got the white discs adhering. The block of four bears the postmark 'Kilkivan Queensland Dec. 19.06.' One pair was posted at Kangaroo Point, Queensland, the only portion of a date showing being 'DE.' The other pair bears the date Aug. 13, but the year and town are indistinct. The stamps seem to have been used in the ordinary course of business, and we understand that 'Kilkivan' and 'Kangaroo Point' are many miles distant from each other.

"Our friend informs us that he discovered these stamps accidentally amongst several thousands of common kinds which he purchased in Brisbane a few months back for £10. He has, besides a block of eight, and there may be others. He does not pretend to be an advanced philatelist, and he brought the stamps to us in order to ascertain what they really were."

Seychelles. The *London Philatelist* says: "The new 2c. and 15c. stamps, bearing the small head of King George, are before us."

Adhesives.

2c. red-brown and pale green, mult.; ordinary.
15c. bright blue " "

Sierra Leone. Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. tell us that they have just received a supply of the 6d. stamps printed in purple and mauve on multiple chalky paper.

Ewen's Weekly Stamp News for April 13th says that the 6d. lilac is to be issued with name and value in carmine! Collecting King's Head stamps must be a bewildering hobby.

Straits Settlements. The 4c. multiple wmk. stamp has now reverted to dull purple. As it is printed on chalky paper, it will be possible to distinguish it from the stamp of 1908.

Adhesive.

King Edward. Multiple. Chalky.
4c. purple.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Denmark. Mr. W. T. Wilson has very kindly sent us specimens of the recently issued provisionals. He also tells us that S.G. Nos. 127 and 128 have been reissued.



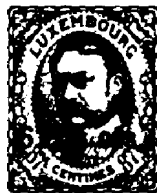
Provisionals.

35 öre on 16 öre brown and blue.
35 öre on 20 öre grey and red.
35 öre on 32 öre green official stamp.

Japan. The *Monthly Journal* says:—

"Several contemporaries report that the 3c. carmine, of 1906, has been overprinted with two Chinese characters, 'Gundji,' signifying 'War' or 'Field Service.' These are said to have been issued since 1.12.10 to the troops stationed in China and Corea. Only two stamps per month are supplied to any one applicant, and these only for his own correspondence, so that they are likely to be exceedingly scarce, especially in an unused condition."

Luxemburg. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us a copy of the recently surcharged 87½c. stamp.



Provisional.

62½c. red on 87½ blue.

Portugal. To the two values chronicled last month we have to add a 2½ centavos value.



Adhesive.

2½c. violet.

From the *Monthly Journal* we extract the following:—

"Some time ago, we chronicled the 25r. Manoel stamp with the 'Republica' overprint in blue. We have recently seen the 10r. and 20r. with the same-coloured overprint. On examination, these overprints appeared to us to be genuine.

"At last the long-promised 'permanent' issue has begun to make an appearance. Three values only have at the moment of writing reached us, the 1c., 2½c., and 5c. This issue brings us a very welcome change in the currency (we personally have never been able

to remember the exact fraction of a farthing represented by 1 real), which in future is to be in centimos (sic) and escudos, the latter approximately equalling \$1 U.S. currency. It is to be hoped that this standard will be properly maintained. The design is one of those already published in the *Monthly Journal*, and makes a very satisfactory stamp.

"For Azores, the same stamps are to be overprinted.

Servia. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*, for April 6th, chronicles an error on the sheets of the 20 para. It appears that the 27th stamp has the value "50" instead of "20".

The 1868 Issue of Mexico.

WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE RETOUCHE VARIETIES.

By P. L. PEMBERTON.

(Continued from page 49.)

THE 50 cents of the thick figures series contains ten main types as in the case of the other values and two of them are without the period after the numerals. These last are frequently confused by the uninitiated with the stamps of the thin figure settings which are always without the period. Some of the types show signs of slight retouching on the intermediate stone. The top outline of the design on type 10 presents perhaps the most marked example of this.

The types of the 50 cents may be distinguished by the following points:—

1. Long 5 resting on the line below it. Minute break in top outline near left corner. First stroke of X curves downwards in centre.
2. Break in lines above the back of C of CENT.
3. Second diagonal of M thick at top.
4. O of Mexico thickened at lower left. 5 well shaped, thin at bottom and with distinct ball.
5. First diagonal of M broken. Curved outline of section of column in N.E. angle more hollow than in any other type. (See illustration No. 12).
6. Line under E of CENT thickened slightly. The numerals 5 and 0 spaced, the 5 being nearer the corner ornament than in any other type.
7. Vertical line after O very much broken or entirely missing. Back of C of CENT rather weak in centre. First diagonal stroke of N slightly broken at bottom. (See illustration No. 11).
8. Small dot on left of first stroke of M near top. Small dot after T immediately above, and in a line with, the period.
9. No stop after 50. Second stroke of X broken at top.

10. No stop after 50. Top outline of design redrawn and thickened from a point above the X to the end at right.

I have found two retouched varieties on this value. The first of these is very easily discernible, but the second, which occurs on type 5, is a correction of a fault in that type, which makes it more like the normal stamps. These retouches are as follows:—

- A. This somewhat resembles B of the 25 cents, in that the retouching is effected in the section of column, corner ornament and adjoining outer frame-line in the right lower corner. In addition, the outline of the circle in the part which adjoins the section of column and the spandrel, is very irregularly redrawn. A reference to the illustration will give a better idea of the extent of this retouch than any amount of description, but it will be noticed that the upper point of the section of column is quite different in shape from the normal, and its inner curved outline is missing. This occurs on type 7. (See illustration No. 11).



No. 11.



No. 12.



No. 13.

B. To appreciate this retouch it is necessary to examine a normal specimen (illustration No. 12) of type 5. It will be seen that in this the inner curved outline of the section of column in the top right corner is hollowed out much more than usual. In the retouch the hollow space thus formed is filled in with a thick line which is extended upwards so far that it touches the vertical outline of the small spandrel under the O. Specimens of this retouch (illustration No. 13) must always show the first diagonal of the letter M very much broken in its upper part, this being the distinguishing point of type 5.

A peculiar fact about this retouch is that I have found it more often than any other in proportion to the number of stamps which I have examined. This may be only a coincidence, or it may be that two or more of the stamps of this type on the sheet were retouched.

The 100 cents, like the 50 cents, has two of its ten types without the period after the numerals. One of these (which I call type 10), is very frequently mistaken for a stamp of the thin figure series owing to the numerals being rather long; there should, however, be no confusion as the numerals are not only much thicker but more distinct.

The following is the description of the types:

1. Figures and word very close together, leaving barely any room for the period. Lower part of back of C of CENT weak.
2. First stroke of M is thickened at foot. Outline of the stamp broken to left of N.W. corner ornament.
3. Dot slightly to right of foot of first stroke of M. Inner outline of circle thickened just below centre at left.
4. Vertical lines to left of N.E. corner ornament weak or broken. Both "O's" tall and rather thin; there is a slight thickening of the line under the second O.
5. The second O is noticeably shorter than the first and is very square. The top angle of the E of CENT is broken.

6. Lower part of O of MEXICO thickened. Inner double outline at top over star in N.W. corner has a small break in it near the left. Both "O's" the same size and almost the same shape; they are rather large and not narrow.
7. Line under E of CENT thickened. O of MEXICO flattened at left. The first two of the numerals forming the value lean slightly to left, the second O is upright.
8. There is a small indentation in the top outline of the small triangular shaped block in the spandrel under O of MEXICO. Second o of 100 larger than the first and touching line below it.
9. No stop after 100. The "O's" rather short and rounded, the second being shorter than the first. Top of numeral 1 is well short of the line above it.
10. No stop after 100. The "O's" rather long. Top of numeral 1 touches the line above it. There is a dot below the line under first o of 100. An extra thick line outlining the topmost lock of hair on the right side of the head (left side of stamp).

I have not seen any specimens of the 100 cents shewing retouches apart from those minor ones which were effected on the intermediate stone, and which serve to differentiate the types. As in all the other values these are mainly found in the hair over the right ear. There is a possibility that stone retouches may yet be found on the 100 cents, and more than a possibility that the list of those which I have described on the other values will be added to as times goes on.

Errors of the 12 cents are known printed in the colour of the 6 cents, and of the 50 cents in the colour of the 25 cents. I do not know how these errors occurred, but I think that, at any rate in the case of the lower value, it was due to a whole sheet or sheets being printed on the wrong paper. The 50 cents error, blue on pink, is very much rarer than the 12 cents black on brown and *might* have been caused by a transfer of the 50 cents being mixed up by mistake among the 25 cents

and corrected after a few sheets had been printed. This point could be determined by an examination of the known copies; if these are all of one type it would be conclusive proof that it was a transfer, and not a printer's error.

The 12, 25 and 50 cents vary considerably in shade. One shade of the 12 cents is very rare, especially without the "Anotado" overprint. This is generally known as the sea green; it is described by Gibbons as blue-green and is only listed in the catalogue in the "Anotado" set, whereas it is perfectly well known in the ordinary issue.

The stamps were issued both imperforate and perforated concurrently. The perforations, of which there are several kinds—various forms of roulette and pin-perforation—are a study in themselves, and I do not propose to describe them. Suffice it to say that they never answered their purpose, being so badly made as to be absolutely useless. Their functions were always usurped by the scissors and consequently specimens showing the perforations all round are very scarce.

The stamps were overprinted, before being distributed to the various districts, with a number and abbreviated date, generally reading downwards on the right side of the stamp. On the consignments reaching the different post offices the name of the town was also overprinted on the stamps, generally on the left-hand side, and they were then ready for issue. The dates were '68 on the thin figure set, and either '68, '69, '70, '71 or '72 on the thick figure set. Of the latter '68 and '72 are uncommon.

The following is a list of the district names with their corresponding numbers:—

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Mexico. | 22. Durango. |
| 2. Vera Cruz. | 23. Oaxaca. |
| 3. Guadalajara. | 24. Cuernavaca. |
| 4. Puebla. | 25. Acapulco. |
| 5. S. L. Potosi. | 26. I. del Carmen, and |
| 6. Guanajuato. | 27. La Paz. [Campeche. |
| 7. Monterey. | 28. Chiapas. |
| 8. Mazatlan. | 29. Tula de Tampas, C. |
| 9. Matamoros. | Victoria, Camargo. |
| 10. Morelia. | 30. Saltillo. |
| 11. Colima. | 31. Ures. |
| 12. Queretaro. | 32. Tixtla. |
| 13. Zacatecas. | 33. Huejutla. |
| 14. Jalapa. | 34. Maravatio. |
| 15. Tulancingo. | 35. Tula. |
| 16. Toluca. | 36. Aguascalientes. |
| 17. Pachuca. | 37. Lagos. |
| 18. Orizava. | 38. Tabasco. |
| 19. Merida. | 39. Tampico. |
| 20. Cordova. | 40. Tlaxcala. |
| 21. Chihuahua. | 41. Guadalajara. |

There are many errors and varieties of numbers and dates. The commonest of these is, perhaps, S. L. Potosi, with number 8 instead of 5, which is found on the thick figures stamps.

It will be noticed that Guadalajara has two numbers, 3 being used in '68 and part of '69,

and 41 from the latter part of '69 to the end of the issue. On the other hand, some towns share a number between them. The overprints are generally in black, but the town names of Potosi, Matamoros, I. del Carmen and Chiapas are often printed in blue. Occasionally the number and date are printed on the left instead of on the right, in which case the name is usually on the opposite side. Aguascalientes, I. del Carmen, Zacatecas and S.L. Potosi generally have the name printed diagonally, and Chiapas horizontally. Tampico is found printed variously,—vertically, diagonally or horizontally. All these variations, and many others which it is not my province in this short article to describe, afford considerable interest to specialists.

My remark at the beginning of these notes to the effect that this is the most interesting issue of Mexico is therefore based on the following facts:

The issue is naturally divided into two sets, with thin figures to start with and thick afterwards. Both these sets are found imperf. and with several varieties of perforations; both are also found with the different overprints of number and date. The various values of the thick figures set may be further divided into the ten types and if the collector is lucky he may come across some of the retouches.

FURTHER NOTE ON THE THIN FIGURES STAMPS.

Since last month I have had the opportunity of examining entire sheets of the first transfers of the 6 and 12 cents, thin figures, each consisting of 50 stamps, but find that the secondary flaws are not the same as on the second transfer. Consequently my statement that the second transfers were taken from the intermediate stone used for making the first transfer is incorrect. I am still of opinion that they were constructed from some intermediate transfer which was used for the 6 cents, if not for all values; the indications point to there having been three transfers, of this value at least, of which the second is the one at present in doubt.

With regard to my chart of the arrangement of the types in one setting of the 12 cents, thick figures, as published in last month's issue, there were one or two errors. I will not point these out here as, in the interesting article by Mr. J. H. Barron, which is published in another column, the chart is certainly correctly given.

COLLECTORS interested in the early perforations of New Zealand, must not miss the May number of the *P.J.G.B.* We hope to publish an interesting article from the pen of MR. IRWIN FARIS, dealing exhaustively with this subject

The 12 centavos of 1868-72, Mexico.

By JOHN HALL BARRON.

THE setting of this value given in the March number of the *Journal* does not differ materially from that contained in the article by Messrs. Wilson and Wetherell, published in the *P.J.I.*, of October, 1909, but as the latter is rather more extensive it may be usefully reproduced to illustrate a point that throws light on the number of the settings.

2	1	9	7	2	6	5	4	4	2
5	1	1	9	10	7	1	8	3	10
3	2	5	8	8	6	4	3	8	9
10	4	10	7	1	8	4	4	5	1
2	8	7	2	3	3	7	8	6	1
9	6	3	4	4	7	6	5		
3	1	8	2	7	5	6	7		
6	10	6	10	9	10	7	4		
8	8	5	1	1					
9	6	3	4	6					

The authors proceed to suggest that two other fragments may belong to the same setting, five stamps from the right side of a sheet and part of the two lowest rows on the right, which read as follows:—

3	5
5	7
	3

2	3	9	6	2
5	8	4	10	3

Though the first piece may form part of this arrangement I am tolerably certain that the second does not, and the reason for this conclusion may shorten the wearisome process of deciding whether other small pieces are to be linked up with this arrangement or go to make up another. It will be observed that though 84 of the stamps are given, no type occurs more than ten times, those that reach this number being types, 1, 4, 6, and 8. Despite the experience of plating the 1872 issue, one would expect to find the types equally recurrent, that is to say ten of each however they may be disposed on the sheet. The 6c. is thus arranged, though the setting given in the March number does not appear to be plate I., any more than that given above is plate I. of the 12c. So far as I have been able to trace the first "plates" in both issues the vertical arrangement, though not perfect is far more closely maintained. Even the *Porte de Mar* stamps of 1879 show the vertical system. But we are not compelled to found our expectation of ten repetitions upon the 6c. only. Another sheet of the 12c. which I have charted, reads as follows:—

10	6	2	10	9	1	7	6	1	2
5	5	3	1	6	4	6	9	5	8
4	4	5	2	7	2	5	5	9	1
8	8	3	8	1	8	10	10	4	10
3	5	6	3	9	4	10	9	3	2
1	8	3	7	9	7	8	7	4	3
7	2	4	10	6	1	2	3	7	7
6	9	1	1	5	8	4	6	10	9
9	10	1	9	6	2	3	8	7	8
10	2	2	4	4	3	7	6	5	5

In this setting it will be noticed that the ten types recur exactly. Neither of these show much approach to regularity, but, I think, it can be concluded safely that if the partial setting first given were completed the types would occur ten times each. If this be so, the second piece charted in Messrs. Wilson and Wetherell's article, as it contains types 4, 6, and 8, does not belong to their arrangement and shows a third setting, in point of number not of date. When one goes into the question of the date of use it almost seems from used copies as if two stones were employed simultaneously in 1870 and 1871, but I think I can carry the full chart back to 1869 by means of a bottom row pair issued in that year. Pieces dated in 1869, however, do not usually fall into either of these arrangements and when the first setting is discovered or rather published, for knowledge of these things exists, I am sure, though not in print, I shall not be surprised to find a general arrangement in which the combination

8	1	10	6	3	5	4
---	---	----	---	---	---	---

recurs with approximate regularity. Pieces suggesting this grouping are dated 1869, prior to which the second variety of the catalogue (thick figures with stop) does not occur frequently, and no doubt was printed from the stone that lasted until 1870. This first setting gives us a fourth and there may be others.

The corresponding value of the 1872 issue was in use for a much shorter period and, allowing for some expansion of the postal system, the wear of the stones cannot be less in proportion than 3 : 2—this agrees with the catalogue quotation though I am not responsible for the *datum* line—; yet of the 12 centavos of 1872 there were at least five settings, several of which have now been almost fully charted.

Current Chatter.

By ANGUS MCTAVISH.

THE following thunder bolt is from the February number of the *Australian Philatelist*:

We have on several occasions noted that some Continental journals are in the habit of appropriating a number of our news items without acknowledging the source.

In an endeavour to catch one or more of them tripping, we (falsely) stated in our last number that the *jd. King's Head*, New Zealand, had been overprinted in black, for use in the above mentioned Island, whereas the colour is red.

What a smug little idea. By the time the Continental journals have misled their readers, and reached Australia it will be late in April or early in May. By then the mighty staff of the *A.P.* will have lashed itself into titanic fury. It is sincerely to be hoped that if the *Blankenberghe Booster* does see black, when it should have seen red, that Australia won't declare war on Belgium. In the meantime all the worms of Europe tremble.

A month or two ago I must have scratched the back of the editor of the *Australian Stamp Journal*, for, in his February number he says:

We always turn with a certain amount of pleasurable anticipation to the "Current Chatter" by Mister Angus McTavish, even if he does give us a "rap over the knuckles" now and again.

Every rose bush has its thorns, in the meantime, dear St. Patrick, keep on scratchin'.

There is, I believe, very little truth in the rumour that the White City of Shepherd's Bush is to be removed *en bloc* to Margate for the benefit of Congress Delegates. Nor will there I am told be any wild elephant hunting allowed with the herd of elephants which is to be imported as a special Congress week attraction. I believe, however, that it will be possible to turtle!

Mr. M. P. Castle writing in the *L.P.* says of British Guiana that:

"The nearest point of contact with the West Indian Islands group is Trinidad, which is about 100 to 150 miles distant.

One of the drawbacks of living in the West Indies is that you never can tell, within fifty miles or so, how far it is to the mainland.

For some years there has been, so I am told, a wish to change the name of Margate to Marrusalem. The visit of the Congress delegates next month ought to give the movement an impetus.

Mrs. McTavish, until she read a *Herts Monthly Report* thought that no Club meetings broke up before mid-night. Now she wants to know the meaning of "a most enjoyable meeting terminated at 8.25."

Mr. Ricketts, of the States, is compiling a marvellous Philatelic Literature Bibliography Index of all "articles and notes contained in philatelic publications of all kinds and all languages from 1863 to 1912." I have seen Part I. and it is immense. IMMENSE. In case the monumental article, note, or paragraph referred to below should have been forgotten by even one of the world's workers I extract the following item from Mr. Ricketts' index.

"Abroad, Philately, List of Journals with addresses. Pub. and Sub. 1908. See Lamb, F.F."

THANKS.

Has yet another Cornelius Wrinkle stepped

into the limelight or is dear old Corney of the *Postage Stamp* becoming broader minded. In a recent copy I find:

"Yet when the philatelists go to Scotland for their Congress in 1913 it will become them to sample the to-be celebrated blend which one of the philatelic Macs (a Tavish probably) is to be invited to invent with a view to making the Congress in Auld Reekie an occasion of high spirits and rollicking memories."

A month or so ago Cornelius was belching forth sarcasm and wrath because a delegate at the last Congress, fortified with a recipe for "rollicking memories," dared to hurl, in the sacred room dedicated to Congress palaver, "projectiles of paper pellets" (half-penny a line). If the Coal Strike is really over before the middle of 1913, I hope to meet Cornelius on the 'tother side of the Tweed, and persuade him to join me in sampling the already famous Scotch blend. After all, it is only Cornelius who would dare to suggest that a Southerner should try to teach the men of Edinboro' how to mix their drinks.

Last month the *P.J.G.B.*, for the first time in nearly a quarter of a century, omitted to have an Editorial! Since then there has been a coal strike, the Oxford and Cambridge boats sank, and Mr. Albert Harris has got married.

The dear old *S.C.F.* has opened a Shilling Fund for the benefit of the Fourth Philatelic Congress. To enable readers of the *P.J.G.B.* to participate in a good thing I have opened a subscription list to help pay my expenses as delegate to the Edinboro' Congress in 1913. Every bank-note will be conscientiously applied. In the event of Mr. P. doing me in the eye, as he has this year, the funds will be equally conscientiously dissipated in Bruxelles or elsewhere. In the event of death they will help to buy a nice wreath. In any case the money will be put to a good object. Cheques for less than £10 respectfully declined.

Next month, if I feel well enough, I hope to concoct some limericks? dealing with various members of a well-known Society which has its headquarters close to Broad Street Station. This preliminary feeler will enable members to save up. Fees for immortalization One Guinea. Cost of purchasing exemption Two Guineas. Both bargains, the second certainly the cheaper.

To prove that this is no empty threat I append a couple of doggerels: *

There once was a Librarian named Brand,
Who with the Societies lore to his hand,
Should have spotted a member of that glorious
band,
Which inverted was shipped to Liberia's strand;
But he didn't, and so lost a tenner did Brand.

There was once an official named Higlett,
Whose name, however I tickle it
And puzzle, and puzzle, and wriggle it
Always, and always rhymes with piglett,
But for that he doesn't care a Liberian figlett,
does Higlett.

* So called because they made the author's dog ill.

"The Postmaster-General is to be asked by Mr. Bottomley, M.P., whether he is aware that some of the books of stamps issued by the Post Office contain advertisements of pork sausages, and whether, as in the case of intoxicating liquors, he will give instructions for the removal of advertisements offensive to a section of his Majesty's subjects."

Evening Standard, 13.4.12.

Which, I wonder, of the Stamp Societies wants a Congress debate for its delegates.

Yet another "par" from the same evening paper :

"By sticking postage stamp edging over a crack in the wall of Hook Church it has been found that there is no serious subsidence of the structure, as the paper, left for some time, showed no signs of snapping.

This only draws attention to the strength of the repairing material.—(Ed.: 'Ook it).



April, 1912, Report.

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All Officers of the Union are ex-officio Members of the Committee.

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: G. S. Brameld, Nottingham; proposed by Miss Brameld, seconded by T. H. Hinton.

NOTICES.

The seventh meeting of the season was held at Essex Hall, on Thursday, April 11th. Present: J. C. Sidebotham in the chair, H. R. Oldfield, J. E. Joselin, Guy Semple, W. Schwarte, A. B. Kay, W. S. King, J. Wagenhauser, J. B. Seymour, and the Hon. Sec. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. H. R. Oldfield, Hon. President, gave a display of the stamps of Bosnia, of which he is making a special study. The interest of the display was enhanced by the reading of Mr. Oldfield's notes, in which he has raised several points of interest in the production and dates of issue of these stamps. A hearty vote of thanks, moved by Mr. Schwarte, seconded by Mr. Kay, and supported by the President, concluded a pleasant evening.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers and Committee will be held at Essex Hall, on Thursday, May 9th, at 7.30 p.m. (Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.) Displays of Errors, not exceeding twelve each, will be given by members present, and all who can possibly do so are urgently requested to attend.

LIBRARY.

The Hon Librarian acknowledges with thanks: Their 1912 Catalogue and Handbook on "Sudan," from Messrs. Bright & Son; and *Le Journal des Philatelistes* as published from Monsieur Th. Lemaire, Paris. Any donations to the Library gladly received and duly acknowledged.

The Hon. Sec. will be glad to receive Subscriptions due Jan. 1st last, proposals for membership, or any donations to the Forgery Collection.

THOS. H. HINTON,
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Int. Phil. Union,
26, Cromford Road, East Putney, S.W.
April 13th, 1912.

New Leaves to Cut.

GRENADA.*—By A. J. Séfi.

THIS little book, another of Mr. Field's series of "W.E.P." red-coated little handbooks, is a very useful addition to the library of the general collector and moderate specialist. Mr. Séfi, the author of the book, writes well and gives the philatelic history of the Island of Grenada in a concise and easily digested manner. As the articles, now published as a handbook, have already appeared

*Published by D. Field, The Royal Arcade, Old Bond Street, London, W.

in serial form in the pages of our contemporary, the *West End Philatelist*, and have already been referred to in these columns, we can do little more than draw our readers attention to the fact that they can now procure in a handy form the latest information that has been written about the fascinating stamps of Grenada.

For the benefit of our new subscribers we can only add that all issues, from 1861 to date, have been carefully considered, while Mr. Séfi has been able to give his readers a good deal of hitherto unpublished information relating to the provisional surcharges and overprints.

Fourth Philatelic Congress of Great Britain.

ARRANGEMENTS both for the business and social side of the Congress are now complete, and it is confidently anticipated that the fourth session of the British Stamp Parliament will prove productive and enjoyable.

The Secretary has pleasure in announcing that special facilities will be afforded Delegates and Visitors to the Congress by the majority of the Railway Companies, return tickets available from April 30th to May 5th, being issued at a *single fare* and a *third* on presentation of a signed voucher, obtainable from the Secretary, which will be supplied to every Delegate.

Thirty-nine Societies will be represented by ninety-one Delegates, so that with the various Committees and Visitors the attendance will be considerably over 100.

The Congress Fund has now reached a total of £77 13s. 6d., but as considerable over £100 will be necessary to meet the heavy expenses entailed, additional donations are urgently appealed for in order that the Congress may be a financial as well as a social success.

Donations of stamps, and philatelic literature for inclusion in the Auction in aid of the Congress Fund are also earnestly solicited, and should be forwarded without delay to C. W. Siggers Esq., Hon. Auction Secretary, 33, Cliftonville Avenue, Margate.

The special Congress souvenir stamps designed by Mr. Wm. Ward and recess printed by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., are on sale, price 3d. per set of six, and may be obtained of the Hon. Secretary.

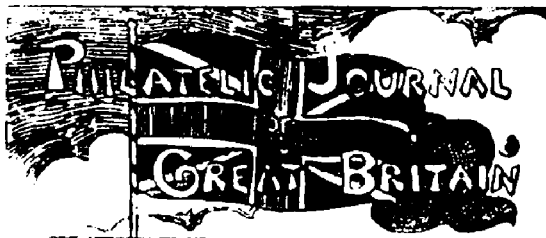
The Congress opens at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday May 1st and concludes with the official Banquet on Friday evening May 3rd.

Collectors desirous of attending the Congress Sessions as spectators will be furnished with Passes enabling them to do so on application to the Hon. Secretary.

Special Pension terms are quoted to Delegates and Visitors by the Queen's High Cliffe Hotel, Margate, which is the Congress Headquarters, viz. 12/6 or 10/6 per diem inclusive, according to Room, for a stay of not less than three days. Extra tickets for the Official Banquet 6s. each.

Delegates, visitors and collectors staying in Thanet during the first week in May will be assured of a hearty welcome at the hands of the Isle of Thanet Philatelic Society, and it is hoped that as many as possible will take advantage of the occasion for a great philatelic re-union.

Hon. Secretary,
D. B. ARMSTRONG,
"Llanadern,"
BROADSTAIRS.



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The Stamps of Greece.

By P. L. PEMBERTON.

(Continued from page 36.)

THE ERRORS OF THE NUMERALS AT BACK.

Having finished the description of the printings of the stamps with figures at the back, I will now give an account of the various errors and varieties which may be found in the numerals. The main errors are due to one or other of the following causes:—

- I.—Numerals intended for one value printed on the back of another, such as 80 on 20 lep.
- II.—Numerals reversed, such as 02 instead of 20.
- III.—Other errors due to mistakes in setting up the printing *formes*, such as 0 and 00 on the 10 lep., and 8 on the 80 lep.
- IV.—Numerals omitted entirely, which happened in the case of three different printings of the 10 lep.
- V.—Numerals printed on the face as well as on the back, such as the 10 lep.
- VI.—Numerals inverted, due to a whole sheet being printed upside down.
- VII.—Numerals twice printed—all values.

The *varieties* are due to shifted and defective type, and other minor accidents which are not of sufficient importance to be termed *errors*.

I have already described under the Paris prints two of the errors which occur on the 10 lep. of that issue. Since writing that chapter I have found an error which has hitherto been unchronicled, namely, the 10 lep. with figures at back inverted. This error was almost certainly due to an entire sheet being printed upside down, in which case, as there must have been 150 stamps, it is somewhat remarkable that it has not been discovered before.

The errors occurred very seldom in the early printings, but became gradually more frequent as time wore on, the printings from 1870 to 1880 accounting for the large majority. Taking all the facts into consideration it is certainly a matter for surprise that the list is such a short one; the opportunities were very great. In those days, fortunately, stamp collectors were not catered for by the printers, and instead of errors "creeping in" by design, as is now so frequently the case in many countries, those of Greece were undoubtedly accidental.

In the following list I take each value separately through all its printings.

5 LEPTA.

5 double. On printings K and O.

No other errors, so far as I know, exist on this value. That on K is very much rarer than the other. There are several varieties of spacing of the double numerals on O (the thin paper printing, commonest shade) which proves that several sheets (or part sheets) must have been so printed. In one of these the figures occur one above the other, but not quite clear of each other.

Kohl catalogues a variety of the green on cream of 1876 bearing the first type of 5, which is peculiar to the first Athens print. I do not believe in this variety. I have seen one which was greatly prized by its owner, but which was certainly a later printing (without figures) to which this type of numeral had been fraudulently applied.

10 LEPTA.

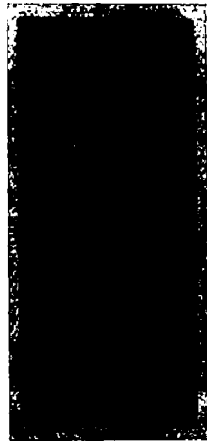
- a. 01, being the numerals reversed (not inverted), on D, E, F and M.
- b. 0, on printings H, I, J, K, L, M. (Exists inverted on I).
- c. 00, on M.
- d. 1, on M.
- e. 110, on M (being *d.* corrected).
- f. No figures, on printings A, I and L.
- g. 10 double, on C, L and M.
- h. 10 inverted (not to be confused with *a.*), on H, I and M.
- i. 10 inverted on the face of the stamp and normal at the back.

Remarks.

- a. This error occurred once on the sheet at the left hand margin of the printings named, and is not due to whole sheets being printed upside down as is the case with *h.* It was evidently corrected early in 1867. (See illustration No. 1).
- b. Apparently the numerals were re-set early in 1873. From the examination of pairs and strips shewing this variety it would seem that there were two on each sheet with the numeral 1 missing. One is the ninth stamp in a horizontal row, as I have seen marginal pairs in which the "0" error occurs on the left hand stamp, and the minor variety "1 0" spaced on the right hand (marginal) stamp. Other pairs prove that there must have been another of this error somewhere nearer the centre of the sheet. I have only observed this with regard to the last printings L and M, and it may be that in I, J and K there



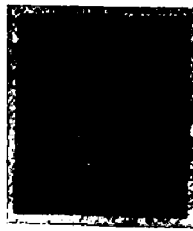
No. 1.



No. 5.



No. 2.



No. 3.



No. 4.

was only one error on the sheet. The fact that I have not found the "10" spaced variety earlier than L seems to support this theory. (See illustration No. 2).

- c. There were also two of these on the sheet of the last printing. One occurred on the first stamp of the bottom row but there is no evidence to show the position of the other. (See illustration No. 3).
- d. This is a curious error. The numeral 1 is shorter than in the normal. (See illustration No. 4). It no doubt occurred only once on some sheets of the last printing, for it was corrected in—
- e. which sometimes reads 110 but more often shews the second 1 covering the first and smaller numeral. Why the printers should have taken the trouble to correct this and leave the other errors on the sheet is a mystery.
- f. This error on printing A has always been regarded as a separate printing, namely, the first Athens. It is Gibbons' No. 12. I have only seen one specimen, which is that in the collection of Mr. Beckton, and with all due respect to that authority I cannot agree with him that it is a separate printing, still less that it is the first

Athens. It has not the distinctive appearance of the earliest Athens prints and in my opinion is an error of printing A due to an entire sheet or part of a sheet having missed the printing:

This error on printing I is well-known. Mr. Hausburg has a block of four (which came originally from the Jonas collection) in which the top two stamps have "10" inverted and the lower ones are without numerals. There are also vertical pairs, the lower stamp in each case being without numerals, in the collections of Mr. Beckton and Mr. Hall. Apparently these errors occurred in the bottom row of the sheet. (Illustration No. 5).

I have seen two specimens of printing L without figures at back. Though they came to me from totally different sources at an interval of many years, they were both used at Smyrna and dated Sept. 1877, so that it is fairly safe to assume that one entire sheet was issued without control and was sent to this Levantine post-office. As it happens to be the printing on yellowish paper, there need be no confusion between this error and any stamps of later printings which were normally issued without figures at the back.

- g. This is due to entire sheets having the numerals twice printed. No specimens

should be accepted as the error unless both numerals are clearly twice printed, as many smudgy numerals, which are due to the paper shifting at the moment of printing, may be found.

- h. The inverted 10 variety is the commonest of all the errors. It is due to entire sheets being printed upside down. Curiously enough, it did not occur (in my experience) until 1872; it is quite common on printings H and I. This error on M is sometimes in a different category, as there is a variety which is not due to an entire sheet being printed upside down. It occurs twice, I believe, on the sheet. The o and the r are spaced rather far apart, the o, which is inverted, slanting slightly to the left; the r is normal. The ordinary inverted "10" also occurs on M.
- i. The very rare variety with "10" inverted on the face occurs only on D. I have seen three or four specimens of it, all of which look as though they might be off the same sheet.

It will be noted that six out of the nine errors on the 10 lepta are found on M—the last printing—before the system of printing the numerals at the back was abolished. As some of them occurred more than once on each sheet, it is likely that in each entire sheet of M there were nine or ten errors out of 150 stamps.

(To be continued.)

International Exhibitions.

ARE THEY BENEFICIAL TO THE INTERESTS OF THE HOBBY?

Having read with interest a paragraph entitled "Ausstellungen" in the *Deutsche Briefmarken-Zeitung*, I venture to make a few remarks and comments upon the statements contained therein.

The chief arguments in the aforementioned article are; that International Exhibitions only cost money, are of interest to only a limited number of collectors, and are monopolised by the "Grossen Kanonen" (Great Moguls). On the other hand the holding of small competitive displays is upheld as being both useful and of much more interest.

I cannot but agree with the main theme of this idea, and I feel sure that many readers are also likely to be thoroughly of the opinion of our German contemporary? To come to the point; what benefit does the average collector derive from his visit to an International show? It is, of course, true that a small minority go to such shows for the purpose of study, comparison, and also to learn; but it cannot be denied that these

visitors form the minority at all large Exhibitions. The casual visitor (the great majority), merely goes out of curiosity to see the "Raræ Aves" there displayed; rarities which crop up at every Exhibition, and periodically obtain a Gold Medal! The late Mr. Nankivell was a great writer upon what he termed "the unfair monopoly of the Great Moguls."

There can be nothing more worthy of admiration and wonderment than the great and famous exhibits of the heroes of philately but at the same time one cannot but think that the owner of this or that well-known accumulation, having once obtained an award might hold this same collection back at the next Exhibition, to the advantage of some other competitor.

All said and done, monetary value plays *far too great* a part in the world of stamps, and especially is this the case in the relative interest shown in displayed collections. Cannot a highly specialised collection of, say, Falkland Islands be equal *in merit* to a specialised display of British Guiana, even if the difference of their monetary value is enormous? If the aforementioned remarks be true, is the display of wealth in stamps at International Exhibitions to be recommended; that is to say, when it is overdone as is obviously the case at present?

In reading the press accounts of Exhibitions it is always the same old monotonous tale dished up for our benefit. Mr. A. was awarded a medal for his well-known collection of B. Turning up our Journals we find mention of this collection at the last half-dozen Exhibitions, and also in the reports of another half-dozen philatelic societies! Such being the state of affairs one would imagine that at the next Exhibition Mr. A. would give his collection of B. a rest, but no, we are again treated to this feast, and for the *few* who have not already seen the famous accumulation it proves a veritable attraction. From a study of the contents of this collection, we are able to assume that the owner is a philatelist of no mean income, and as such belongs to the minority. This fact brings out another point well worthy of discussion: namely whether the display of wealth in stamps does not act more as a wet blanket than a stimulator to the vast majority of sightseers, the ordinary collector cannot afford to lay out a large amount of cash on his hobby, so when he goes to an International Exhibition and sees the vast displays of wealth, does it not rather damp than add to his ardour? Taking the facts as they stand, one is led to the conclusion that if the smaller and cheaper countries were allowed more scope, the public would, without doubt, have a more genuine and wholehearted interest in the displays, because they would then see good collections of countries which they themselves could take up.

Famous collections and rarities are, as I have already stated, most meritorious and resolve the greatest credit to their owners, but I maintain that the repeated display of such at the expense of the smaller, cannot—in the long run—add to the popularisation of the hobby through the medium of International Exhibitions.

R. E. R. DALWICK.

In the World of Stamps.

FORTHCOMING AUCTION.

We have duly received Messrs. Plumridge & Co.'s Auction Catalogue of their 412th sale to be held on May 2nd and 3rd next. From a peep at the illustrations it would appear that there is likely to be very keen competition for many of the lots. We notice such items as some superb used copies of Cape Woodblocks, both in singles and pairs, on and off the original covers, dozens of singles pairs and blocks of the Perkins, Bacon, and De la Rue labels. Amongst the ever popular Australians we find a block of four 3d. Sydney Views, together with a number of superb singles and pairs of the other two denominations, some useful New Zealand, stamps from all the States of the Commonwealth, together with a nice show of Europeans, West Indians and others, should attract a goodly number (more than usual) of collectors to Messrs. Plumridge's sale rooms.

* * *

The Liverpool Philatelic Society has just issued its Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st March. From a perusal of the figures we can heartily congratulate the Society on its financial condition, especially with regard to the very favourable item of £55 odd carried forward on the balance.

* * *

NEW IRISH STAMPS!

STATEMENT BY THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

An interesting sidelight on the Home Rule Bill is the fact that Ireland will have her own postage-stamps, presumably of her own design.

This was confirmed this morning by Mr. Herbert Samuel himself, who informed a Central News representative that Ireland would in all probability fall into line with the colonies in the matter of separate postage-stamps.

Another interesting point, especially to philatelists, was submitted to the Postmaster-General, and this was whether until Ireland had installed her own stamp-making

machinery English stamps would be used with cancellation marks.

"Oh, that's a very small point," observed Mr. Samuel.

Inquiries at the General Post Office showed that the time had not yet arrived when the officials could discuss the details of the subject, much less the actual design proposed.

—*Evening Standard*, 12/4/12

* * *

AS OTHERS SEE US.

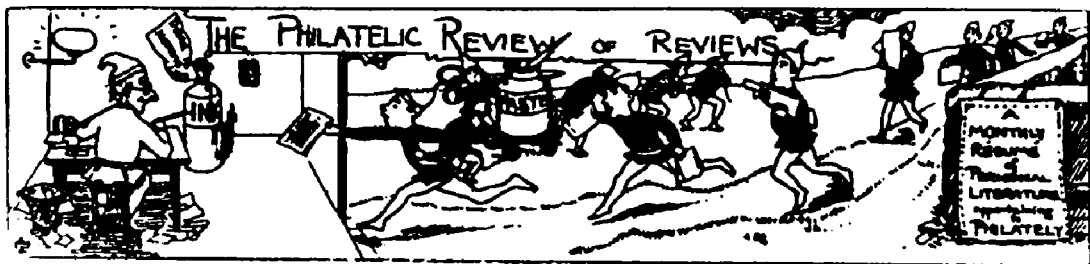
THE *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* published on December 20th, 1911, acquaints readers that it was their twenty-first Christmas number. We congratulate our contemporary on having lived so long. Without wishing in any way to disparage our other exchanges, we must say that we find the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* the most entertaining of all. Through the perusal of the "Philatelic Review of Reviews" we have frequently been induced to read something in another journal which under ordinary circumstances might have escaped our notice.

Australian Stamp Journal.

City of London Philatelic Society.

OWING to the Easter holidays the monthly meeting of the Society which is usually held on the second Wednesday in the month was postponed until the third Wednesday. As this Journal went to press on that day it was impossible for us to print the usual report. Our readers may, however, rest quite assured that the evening was spent in an enjoyable fashion and that a good paper, or display of stamps, together with the usual show of novelties gave pleasure to a score or more members. The City of London meetings are always well attended and collectors in London, or visitors from the country, will always find that the committee has arranged a most enjoyable entertainment, while they may rest assured that the meetings of the Society are not encumbered with that undue formality which does so much to frighten shy strangers from repeating their visits. We believe, by the bye, that the Society has a rule framed against collectors attending as guests more than two of the meetings during any one season. If this is so, there has never been any need to enforce it, because all visitors who have attended once have always taken jolly good care to send in their subscriptions by an early post and so become entitled to participate in the many advantages the Society offers.

THE Publishers of the *P.J.G.B.* are always pleased to see any of their foreign, or country subscribers, who may be in town, and at all times will be glad to be of assistance.



APRIL 20, 1912.

Philately at Home.

The March number of the *Philatelic Record* contains further instalments of Messrs. John N. Luff's "Otto's Printings of the Transvaal Stamps," and Mr. J. B. Leavy's "Belgian Postage Stamps of the Nineteenth Century." The latter article is largely concerned with official decrees relating to the stamps of 1891 to 1894. We make a very brief extract:—

"While on the subject of express or special delivery stamps it might be well to mention that on 27th February 1883, a Royal Decree provided that the tax for express or special delivery might be paid by either a postage or telegraph stamp of 25 centimes. Again, in 1887, the Government sanctioned the use of telegraph stamps in payment of express consignments, where such consignments were placed in a letter-box. The following telegraph stamps may therefore be classed under the head of special delivery stamps.

- 5 centimes, bistre.
- 10 " violet.
- 25 " dark green, pale green, yellow green."

Mr. Luff's article shews, as is only to be expected, a great deal of research, and those of our readers who are specialists in early Transvaals should peruse it at length.

A short note relating to the Twenty-first Anniversary of the Manchester Philatelic Society, and the usual pages devoted to Bibliography, Notes and News, New Issues, Auction Reports, etc., complete our brief review. From the columns devoted to prices realized at auction we extract the following relating to Sydney Views sold by Messrs. Glendining:—

	£	s.	d.
New South Wales, Sydney View, January 1850, 1d. lake, an exceptional strip of four	17	0	0
Ditto, 1d. carmine, horizontal pair superb	7	7	0
Ditto, 1d. pale red on bluish paper, horizontal pair, superb	9	0	0
July 1850, 1d. red, variety no trees on hill, superb	4	10	0
Ditto, 1d. lake on bluish paper, superb	5	7	6
Ditto, 1d. lake, an exceptional copy	5	0	0

Ditto, 1d. deep red, horizontal pair, one the variety hill unshaded, superb	10	10	0
Ditto, 1d. red, horizontal pair, one the variety no clouds, superb	13	10	0
April 1850, 2d. blue, Plate II, brilliant copy	3	15	0
Ditto, 2d. blue, early impression, superb	6	15	0
September 1850, 2d. grey-blue, brilliant mint	40	0	0
May 1851, 2d. blue, variety fan with six segments, on piece of original, superb	4	5	0
1850, 3d. deep green, superb	4	2	6
Ditto, 3d. bright green, variety no whip, exceptional copy	6	10	0

The *London Philatelist* for March contains two very valuable contributions in the form of Mr. M. P. Castle's exhaustive article dealing with the 1853 issues of British Guiana, and a continuation of Baron Leijonhufvud's "Notes on the Stamps of Sweden."

The former article is accompanied by a plate illustrating eighteen stamps and we find that it embodies a very great deal of research, although its author modestly claims that he has endeavoured to indicate the lines upon which future research should proceed. The following extract will interest very many of our readers:—

I will now refer to what I call the Retouches. These are fairly distinct, and I think it will be obvious that they denote additions made to the lithographic stone after placing the transfers in position. This was undoubtedly due to careless placing by the workmen employed of the two several portions of the design, which were allowed to disclose white spaces of varying dimensions and thus giving the stamps a decapitated appearance. These vacant spaces were therefore filled in by hand with a brush, pen, or some lithographic tool, and in my view "are on all fours" with some similar varieties in the first issue of Victoria.

I have described these variations over the accompanying specimens in my collection, so that I need only allude generally to them. It will be seen that in some cases there are pairs, one with and one without retouch, and that the latter have been identified by me as being types of the so-called "white line" variety. Probably only a defective specimen here and there was so retouched, but judging by the apparent number of varieties with and without retouch, I am inclined to think that more than one transfer of this value was made. I should add that the proofs in black which I possess of all varieties of the 4c. denote exactly similar peculiarities to those I have described.

I have examined the dates of thirty or forty speci-

mens, the earliest being October 18th, 1853, and the latest 1860. The bright, full blue with sharp impression occurs with the earliest dates, and the pale blue "woolly" impressions have the latest, and these colours doubtless denote the issue of the respective shades.

Baron Leijonhufvud's paper, although relating to current, and quite recent stamps, is very interesting. Regarding the surcharged long official stamps, he says:—

In 1906 a surcharged 10/12 was discovered with perforation 14: it caused considerable flutter among collectors, and millions of Officials were now carefully examined. The first copy is said to have fetched 500 crowns. The result of all the searching was that eight copies, all postmarked "Vesteras Oct 1889" were found. Since then five more have been found all with the same cancellation, showing that one sheet of the old Officials got into the package ready for surcharging, and that this particular sheet was sent to the Vesteras post office. There must have been fifty of these surcharges, perforation 14, and I had the luck to come across the only copy known to be unused.

Our worthy contemporary also contains a most up-to-date list of new issues, a readable budget of Occasional Notes, Auction Reports and other features—to say nothing of some very belated Reviews and Societies' Reports.

The March number of the *Monthly Journal* contains a further instalment of M. L. Hanciau's "Stamps of the Spanish West Indies, 1855-1876." This gentleman devotes a good deal of time trying to fathom the meaning of the overprint "Y $\frac{1}{2}$ ". It is truly a case of why.

A more interesting, and more valuable contribution, is a further translation of Mr. Marco Del Pont's paper dealing with the Rivadavia stamps of the Argentine Republic. Two other articles of note, also dealing with American stamps, are Mr. G. Regelsperger's paper referring to the Porte de Mar stamps of Mexico, and Messrs. H. M. Ahrens' and M. Thornton's instalment of their "Provisional Issues of Nicaragua, 1908-11." A capital chapter of Mr. F. J. Melville's "Postage Stamps in the Making," a short note contributed by Mr. C. L. Pack, relating to the Newspaper stamps of Brazil, and the usual complement of New Issues, Topical Notes, Societies' Reports, etc. complete a good number of Messrs. Gibbons' publication.

From the translated article dealing with the Rivadavia stamps we venture to make the following rather lengthy extract referring to the contract between the American Bank Note Co., of New York and the Argentine Post Office Department.

This contract was approved by the Government on the 31st of the same month. Its terms are as follows:—

"Art. 1. The American Bank Note Company, of the city of New York, undertakes to engrave, print, perforate, and gum for the Post Office Department of the Argentine Republic, the postage stamps, engraved on steel plates and on the best paper made for the purpose, with the inscription and design that shall be selected, for the following price:—

"For a plate engraved on steel with a hundred stamps £40

"For the printing per thousand, in which will be included the ink, paper, gum, and perforation £7

"Premising that each steel plate will contain hundred stamps, so that each thousand will produce the number of one hundred thousand stamps.

"Art. 2. The representative of the Government of the Argentine Republic in the United States, or in his absence, the Consul resident in New York, will intervene, with the formality which the Government may consider necessary, in the manufacture of the postage stamps contracted for with the Company, as also in everything respecting the safe custody of the plates.

"Art. 3. The Company will guarantee thirty thousand good impressions from each plate, and binds itself to retouch them when they are worn for half of the original cost, guaranteeing a further twenty-five thousand impressions.

"Art. 4. The cost of the aforesaid plates engraved on steel, and of the impressions which the Company will make in accordance with the terms of Art. 1, will be paid by the Argentine Government in pounds sterling and in drafts at sixty days on London, on delivery of the postage stamps in Buenos Ayres.

"Art. 5. Every time that the Company completes the orders given by the Post Office Department through the representative of the Argentine Government in the United States, or the Consul resident in New York, it shall forward a certificate emanating from the Argentine Chancellery and legalized by a public notary, of the total number of impressions taken from each plate, that is to say, of each sheet of hundred stamps of such and such a value or colour.

"Art. 6. When the Company receives the order to proceed with the printing, it undertakes to deliver the invoice six weeks after.

"Art. 7. As the plates must remain in the custody of the Company, but sealed by the Minister or Consul of the Argentine Republic, these seals must not be broken without a special order from the Director-General of Posts, in the presence of the Agent or Argentine Consul, for the purposes laid down in this contract, of which we sign three of the same tenor, in order that our respective obligations may be clear, forwarding one copy to the National Government for its approval, etc."

The March number of the *West-End Philatelist* is almost entirely devoted to the first instalment of Mr. A. J. Séfi's article entitled "The Postage Stamps of Malta." Few countries have been more extensively written up than has Malta; we find a very readable introduction giving a brief summary of the events prior to the use of British stamps, a long list of the various plate numbers known with Maltese cancellations, and the following notice relating to their withdrawal.

"General Post Office,
Valetta, December 9th, 1884.

"Notice is hereby given that on and from the 1st

January, 1885, Postage stamps of the United Kingdom will be useless for the prepayment of postage on correspondence posted in Malta and Gozo, and that all letters, etc., bearing Imperial Stamps posted after the 31st December, 1884, will be treated as unpaid and charged on delivery.

"Imperial Postage Stamps, if unused, clean, and in saleable condition, will be purchased at the General Post Office up to the 24th December inclusive at par; but between that date and the 31st of December a charge will be made of the commission indicated at page 16 of the current edition of the Imperial Post Office Guide."

The *Monthly Report* for April contains the first instalment of a valuable and interesting paper entitled "Prepayment of Correspondence in Money in European Countries." Mr. Reichenheim has evidently given this branch of our hobby a good deal of attention and his paper will be appreciated by all interested in "frank" postmarks. He deals with the following countries: Gt. Britain, Austria, Bavaria, Brunswick, France, and German Empire. Mr. Reichenheim also contributes a few more notes relating to the "Two Types *se tenant* of the 'Peace and Commerce' stamps of France." A page of "Philatelic Crumbs," "Reviews," etc. all make capital reading.

The following short note, contributed by Mr. E. D. Bacon will doubtless prove of interest.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.—My little article in the last number of the *Monthly Report* has elicited an interesting communication from Mr. T. Rosendahl. This gentleman has sent for my inspection a specimen of the Provisional One Penny stamp of 1898, which has a combination of what I have described as the distinguishing features of the first and second settings. That is, it has the vertical frame lines of the stamp continued beyond the corners, while the letter "P" of "Postage" is only 2 mm. from the left frame-line. The stamp is on part of an envelope on which it was used, it bears the very early postmark of "Zomba Mr. 12, 98," and Mr. Rosendahl tells me that it has the initials of Mr. J. T. Gosling, the acting Postmaster-General, on the back. It appears, therefore, that there must have been either a third distinct setting, or else that Mr. Rosendahl's specimen formed one of the varieties of which the first setting was composed. Possibly the latter, as nothing is at present known as to the arrangement or number of varieties of this setting. It will be seen from these remarks that there is still something more to discover regarding the printing of these local stamps.

The March 16th *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* contains an illustrated interview with Mr. Albert Ashby. Mr. D. B. Armstrong, writing about the Postage Stamps of the Nigerias, continues his discourse on the stamps of Lagos. The following extract relating to a variety of the C.C. 14 stamps is of interest.

A somewhat curious variety of this issue is recorded in "Africa" Part II., and one whose occurrence it is difficult to account for. This is none other than the

4d. denomination with the watermark Crown C.C. sideways instead of upright. Now the sheets of Crown C.C. paper contained 240 watermarks, grouped in four panes of sixty, each containing ten horizontal rows of six watermarks; the four panes being divided by plain vertical and horizontal margins bearing the watermarked inscription "Crown Colonies". In printing the stamps of Lagos, therefore, the full sheets were cut up into panes, each designed to accommodate sixty impressions of the design in ten rows of six. In the event, therefore, of the paper being inserted in the press sideways only seven rows (forty-two stamps) at the most could be printed upon it, since the paper would necessarily be longer than it was wide, even allowing for one row of stamps being printed on the margin. Under these circumstances, therefore, and especially considering the great care with which all work at the De La Rue factory is examined and checked it is hard to find a satisfactory explanation of this anomaly.

Watermark Sideways.
4d. carmine.

Our contemporary also contains two or three papers (read before Philatelic Societies) a good list of New Issues, some Stamp Chatter, etc., and a page or more of Correspondence. Under the *nom de plume* "A Delegate" we find the following very sensible remarks relating to the "Congress labels":—

The Manchester Congress of 1910 (*sic.*) were satisfied with a special postmark and got up a petition to The Universal Postal Union and H.M. Postmaster-General against unnecessary issues, for which they got snubbed for their pains, and which in the light of subsequent events would seem to have been merited. The next year we find the Second Congress coming out with Special Souvenir Stamps in several colours—and although of no philatelic value—they were scrambled for at the platform at the close of the first meeting. This was followed up last year at Birmingham by another lot of stamps and postcards, with a worried Post Office Official on the premises affixing a special postmark to these articles and anything else people chose to bring along. But it has been left to the Fourth Congress officials to prepare and advertise in advance of the Congress a set of six fancy varieties for 3d. in order to help raise the wind for the other picnic performances. To my mind this issuing of stamps and playing at post offices savours far more of puerility than philately and is not at all calculated to increase the respect for our hobby in the mind of the scoffer.

Exactly.

A fortnight later (March 30th) we find a very readable interview with Mr. W. J. Cochrane, the President of the North of England Philatelic Society. Another instalment of Mr. D. B. Armstrong's "Postage Stamps of the Nigerias", in which he concludes the first portion of his article dealing with the stamps of Lagos, and the usual complement of up to date news all make good reading.

The February number of the *British Philatelist* contains the announcement that our wee contemporary is four years old. Congratulations. As usual we find a

budget of notes relating to English stamps, an instalment of Messrs. Bernstein and Nissen's "British Stamps Used Abroad," and a further chapter of the "Embossed Stamps of Great Britain."

The March number of the *Stamp Collector* contains an illustrated interview with Mr. Edmund Shorthouse of the Birmingham Philatelic Society. We also find some editorial notes drawing attention to the need there is for stamp collectors—by not neglecting to enthruse youthful collectors—to look after the future of philately.

However, there is ample scope for Junior-coaching, and we ourselves are looking forward to the time when every Philatelic Society worthy of the name will foster and subsidize a Junior Branch, and when a Federation of British Philatelic Societies will be established, one of its main objects being to undertake propaganda work among the Juniors. It is the duty of the present generation of philatelists, if they are worth their salt, to build a sure foundation for the future.

Mr. W. H. Milnes Marsden continues to write about minor varieties of Bosnian stamps, while Societies' Reports, Correspondence, etc. all help to fill the spare pages of our Northern contemporary.

From Mr. A. J. Warren's paper, read before the Birmingham Society, we make the following extract.

A very interesting item with which the company were favoured was a sheet of the latest innovation in Holland—scarlet labels, on yellow paper, requesting non-delivery of letters on Sunday. A curious story, too, of postal procedure in the Dutch Indies was related:—In the good old days, postage on letters was very frequently not prepaid, and if the addressees refused to receive the letters, as was often the case in our own islands before the introduction of adhesives, they were returned to the senders, who had to pay double postage, and if these latter resented the imposition, and refused to pay, all other letters were held back until payment in full was made. Unique envelopes now in use for insufficiently prepaid Post-cards and Printed matter, transparent in front and opaque behind so that the information forwarded may not be read before surcharged postage is paid, were also exhibited, while another smart custom cited makes the receivers pay the postage on all letters from Government Departments, there being no issue corresponding to our O.H.M.S. series.

The April *Stamp Lover* inaugurates a new feature, namely a capital list of new issues, we congratulate our contemporary on its enterprise.

We also find a continuation of Mr. L. W. Crouch's "Postage Stamps of Honduras," and the first instalments of Messrs. Lionel Wiener and W. Haworth's articles dealing respectively with the 1894-1911 issues of Brazil, and the Post-cards of Chili. Correspondence, J.P.S. reports, etc., complete a readable number.

The March number of the *World of*

Stamps did not arrive at the sanctum until the 10th of April. Our contemporary is an excellent publication for the beginner and also for the general collector; we find a short paper, entitled "Things in General" from the pen of Mr. P. C. Bishop. We also find continuations of Mr. Ellis Gee's paper "New Dies for Old." Mr. T. Costello's article referring to early Trinidad stamps and Mr. L. S. Goldsmith's capital article, "The Earlier Stamps of British Guiana."

Details of an interesting competition, an excellent list of New Issues, some notes on the "Dock" stamps of Bermuda and another of "L.S.G.'s" Perforated Parodies all provide very good reading matter. We venture to cull an odd verse or two of this month's "Parody."

Ye have borrowed the stamps of the Boer to surcharge them V.R.I.,

The white Antarctic glacier sees the home-bound mail sweep by;

To mountain-girdled Lhasa the fur-swathed post-men fare—

Where go the Stamps of the Nations? Lands of the World declare!

The North Land spoke: From Tromso your stamp-franked billets go,

Rough-scraved by bearded whalers afloat near the Disko floe;

From icy, snow-girt Finland, 'neath the quick Aurora's lamp,

Your letters journey southward, by grace of the Postage Stamp.

The lean white bear hath seen them in long, long Arctic night;

The musk-ox knows the mail sledge that skims the wastes of white;

Where go the Stamps of the Nation? Ye have but my bergs to dare,

Ye have but my drifts to conquer. Go forth, and seek them there!

Never is isle so little, so wrapped in the breakers' foam,

But over the scud and the spindrift its stamps speed letters Home.

Where go the Stamps of the Nations? Ye have but my reefs to dare,

Ye have but my swamps to traverse. Go forth, and seek them there!

Philately in the Colonies and Elsewhere.

The February number of the *Philatelic Journal of India* mainly consists of short notes relating to various Indian "Convention States" stamps, one or two extracted articles, and a brief review of some philatelic papers. We learn that Sir David Masson, a frequent contributor to our contemporary, has left India; we hope that when he can spare time he will contribute to the English press. The following extract relating to the recently

overprinted 3 rupees, Queen's head stamp, for ordinary use in Gwalior may interest our readers. Sir David writes:—

The latest overprinting of this stamp, on which the word GWALIOR measures only 13 mms., will be one of the greatest rarities in surcharged State stamps. I at first concluded it was overprinted by mistake, seeing it appeared so late and together with Rs. 2 and Rs. 3 King's Head stamps, but have since learnt that this was not so. Under a standing order in the Office of the Comptroller of Stamps, King's Head stamps were not to be overprinted until the supply of Queen's Heads had been entirely exhausted: the supply of Queen's Head Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 stamps was so exhausted, but similar stamps of the Rs. 3 denomination were still available, and these latter were accordingly used side by side with King's Head Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 stamps.

King's Head stamps had in fact been used for all denominations in the first supply overprinted with the 13 mms. surcharge, the standing order above referred to having been overlooked by the clerk in the Asst. Comptroller's Office, whose duty it was to send the required stamps to the Superintendent of Printing. This was in December, 1909. When, however, the next supply of high values was overprinted a year later, the standing order was adhered to and five sheets of Queen's Head Rs. 3 stamps were used together with the Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 King's Heads. The supply of Rs. 3 Queen's Head stamps in the Comptroller's Office is now exhausted, so there can be no further overprinting of these, hence their rarity. But they must not be confused with the earlier overprintings, on which the word GWALIOR measures 14 mms. (the surcharge otherwise also differing, as stated in the *Journal* for March, 1911): the latter are common enough, for there were many printings of them.

The March number of the same publication contains the usual complement of interesting reviews, short pars, and other readable, but homœopathic doses of philately.

The most valuable contribution is one dealing with Sind Dāk stamps; it appears that Sir Charles Stewart-Wilson has dug up a fresh official letter of Sir Bartle Frere's relating to these interesting labels.

We venture to extract the following:—

Extract from a letter No. 236, dated the 1st July, 1853, from Mr. H. B. E. Frere, Commissioner in Sind, to the address of the Right Hon'ble Lord Viscount Falkland, Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

"There can be no possible hardship in insisting on pre-payment, if stamps are procurable at all receiving offices.

"I do not think there can be a doubt on this point, for the system in question has been tried for the last 12 months, and found to answer in the District Dāks in Sind, where the ignorance of the people, and the want of trained establishments, made the introduction of any postal system a matter of difficulty; but it was found that the plan of giving a small sum ($\frac{1}{2}$ an anna) for a Government stamp, which entitled the letter to which it was affixed to free transmission by Government Dāk was one which a native could at once understand, and with the requisitions of which he found it easy to comply.

"I would therefore limit this clause, so as to provide for the levy of the sum deficient on letters to which stamps are affixed, though of less value than are required by the Act—letters altogether unstamped being at once returned to the sender."

The February number of the *Australian Philatelist* contains a further instalment of Mr. Walter A. Hull's interesting article entitled "Principal Minor Varieties of Australian Stamps." He deals with some recent South Australians and Tasmanians, together with the two varieties of the early 4d. stamp of the latter colony. Another readable article is a further instalment of Mr. D. B. Armstrong's paper dealing with the early stamps of West Australia. An editorial, dealing with catalogue values as a guide to rarity, and the usual reviews, new issue list, etc., complete a very good number.

Recent numbers of the *Philatelic Gazette* all contain articles of considerable merit. In the copy dated March 1st we find Mr. Pack's paper dealing with the 100 reis Brazil, of 1894-97. This article, which evinces a very great amount of philatelic labour, has already been referred to in these columns, as it appeared in the February *Monthly Journal* reviewed last month. We also find several articles of value to collectors of U.S.A. stamps and stationery, and a further instalment of Major Palmer's treatise dealing with the stamps of the Philippines, together with other readable contributions.

A fortnight later there is a continuation of Dr. Chase's paper entitled "An Easily Plated U.S. Stamp," wherein he describes varieties of the imperforate 3c. of 1851. Major Palmer still continues to write about his beloved Philippines while we also find many other notes of general interest.

The February number of the *Australian Stamp Journal* contains, besides a very readable budget of notes, a lengthy account of some of the treasures in Mr. Dixon's (N.S.W.) collection of Australian stamps, and two capital articles dealing with the early perforations of New Zealand. Mr. W. D. Ulph, a well known collector in New Zealand, writes interestingly on this subject.

As there have been several articles relating to these stamps in the columns of this journal, we think the following extract will interest our readers.

Mr. A. T. Bate, for whom Mr. Phipson claimed the honour of knowing all about the Dunedin perforations before Mr. Hausburg came on the scene, acquaints us in a letter that his recollection is that he knew of the perforations having been made by Ferguson

and Mitchell, of Dunedin, before Mr. Hausburg visited New Zealand, and he knew also that some of the Dunedin perf. gauge 13. He was under the impression that he had mentioned the Ferguson and Mitchell perfs. in some early notes which Mr. E. D. Bacon transformed into a paper which he (Mr. Bacon) read before the Philatelic Society of London; but his memory is not too good on this point (so he writes), and Mr. Hausburg may be correct. He has not had time to look up his old correspondence with Mr. Hausburg, and his notes on early N.Z. issues were handed to Mr. Hamilton long ago. Mr. Bate writes further, "Mr. Phipson, however, was mistaken in attributing the discovery to my researches. I have never claimed this, because I got my information at second-hand, possibly from Mr. Hausburg, although, as before stated, my impression is that I knew of it before he visited New Zealand.

The question, who was the first to discover the Dunedin perforation, need not be discussed further. No doubt this does concern the individual, but to the general body of philatelists it is, who first gave reliable information to the public on the matter and put it on a definite footing so that ordinary collectors could understand and investigate further for themselves? For this philatelists are certainly indebted to Mr. Hausburg's article in the *Herts Philatelic Monthly Report*, December, 1907. Mr. C. J. Phillips quoted it in *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*, and calls them "very important particulars." Apparently most if not all of it was "news" in England, and it was fresh information to many collectors in Australia and New Zealand. It seems to us, therefore, that Mr. Hausburg is entitled to the "honours."

There has been little doubt in our mind for some years, and, certainly after reading Mr. Bates' letter we should think there would be none in the minds of our readers.

Philately on the Continent.

The *Schweizerische Philatelistische Nachrichten* brings us some unpleasant information touching the new Liechtenstein stamps. It was generally known that these stamps could be purchased at the G.P.O. in Vienna, but it also appears that the G.P.O. obliterates them if desired with a Vaduz postmark! This obliteration bears the letter "b" in the lower part of the circle, whereas the genuine Vaduz obliterator shows the letter "a". Most of the Viennese obliterations bear the date 1.2.12, and as the stamps were obliterated in sheets à la Bosnia, the postmark usually only covers one corner of the stamp. Comment is superfluous.

The *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* is always well to the front in all matters concerning Chili. The two numbers before us almost amount to a Dictionary of Chilean National Biography. Herr Dittrich deals with the current presidential series and he accompanies the description of the stamps with a lengthy biography of the ex-president portrayed on each. A valuable contribution to both philately and history.

Correspondence.

PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF PHILATELIC CONGRESSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

29, Holland Villas Road,
Kensington,
London, W.
23rd March, 1912.

To the Editor, "P.J.G.B."

DEAR SIR,

I beg to inform you that I received the following letter from the Joint Honorary Secretaries of the Leeds Philatelic Society:—

LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Hon. Secretary, Permanent Congress Committee.
Dear Sir,

We have pleasure in communicating to you a hearty and unanimous invitation from the Leeds Philatelic Society for the Philatelic Congress to meet in Leeds about the beginning of May, 1912.

The Society and its members will do all that is in their power to render the Congress successful and enjoyable to all who take part in it.

We shall be pleased to learn that you can accept this invitation and are

Yours most sincerely,

(Signed) W. DENISON ROEBUCK, Hon. Secs.
W. K. SKIPWITH

This invitation assures the holding of Philatelic Congresses of Great Britain for the next four years:

1913 ..	Edinburgh	1915 ..	Newcastle
1914 ..	London	1916 ..	Leeds

and I am sure that it will be received with universal satisfaction and unanimously accepted.

Yours faithfully,

FRANZ REICHENHEIM,
Hon. Secretary.

United States Stamps at Auction.

SOME PRICES REALIZED AT THE MARCH 7TH 1912,
AUCTION SALE OF EUGENE KLEIN, INC.

	Dollars
1851, 1c. type III.	21.50
30c. orange, unused	252.00
1861, August, 1c.	310.00
10c. mint	50.00
1867, embossed 13 x 16, 3c. mint	36.00
1883, Special Print, 4c. unused	21.00
1894, 6c. vertical pair, imperforate horizontally, mint	23.25
1898, Trans-Mississippi, 8c. vertical pair, imperforate horizontally mint	50.00
1901, Pan-American, 1c. invtd. centre mint	32.50
1909, Bluish Experimental Paper, 3c. block of four, mint	28.00
Ditto ditto 4c. ditto ditto	324.00
Ditto ditto 5c. ditto ditto	53.00
Ditto ditto 6c. ditto ditto	18.00
Ditto ditto 8c. ditto ditto	360.00
Ditto ditto 10c. ditto ditto	40.00
Ditto ditto 13c. ditto ditto	184.00
Ditto ditto 15c. ditto ditto	20.00
Navy, 2c. green, mint,	50.00
State, \$5, mint	120.00



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

No. 257. VOL. XXII.

MAY 20, 1912.

[PRICE 2D.]

♦ ♦ Editorial. ♦ ♦

THE recent total loss of the huge White Star liner *Titanic* at sea, following as it does so quickly on the heels of other maritime disasters has caused us to wonder what numbers of rare stamps are lost. The great earthquake and its attendant fire at San Francisco a few years ago was responsible for the total annihilation of several valuable collections of stamps; since then we have had many catastrophes which have doubtless contributed to make rare stamps the rarities they are. During the past six months we can recall three serious shipping disasters, the *Delhi* off the coast of Morocco, the *Oceana* in the English Channel, and the recent appalling loss of the *Titanic*. Although attended by loss of life the two first disasters have been dwarfed by the awfulness of the recent Atlantic tragedy; in each case, however, there was none of the passengers' luggage saved, with the exception of a little from the *Delhi*. This being so, and safely assuming that some of the many passengers were stamp collectors there can be little doubt but that many stamps have been lost to the philatelic world.

In the case of the *Titanic* we have the additional knowledge that she was laden with thousands of sacks of mails of which

a fair proportion were devoted to registered packets. This being the case surely it is safe, in these days of universal correspondence, to assume that not only were some entire collections wiped out of existence but that several dealers' approval selections met with a similar fate. Such losses must help to make the remaining stamps of greater value. In addition to the loss of stamps at sea we should say that a steadier, and a much more considerable loss to philately takes place through the agency of fire. Every year thousands of dwelling houses and their contents are consumed and it is only fair to assume that in the yearly list of sufferers there would be some who mourned the loss of treasured stamps. In a smaller degree but one by which many collectors have lost valuable property is the ever present chance, during the winter months, of carelessly consigning stamps to the flames, or even to the waste paper basket, which, in its turn frequently has its contents emptied in the fire-place.

The hyper-cautious collector can guard against the last two contingencies, but no amount of foresight on his part can guarantee that his stamps, once he trusts them to the over-seas mails, will not go to swell the huge accumulation of treasure which is irretrievably lost.

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

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BRITISH EMPIRE.

Great Britain. More King George head stamps are promised for next month.

Morocco Agencies. Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. tell us that they have received the current 4d. orange overprinted "Morocco" in black.

Adhesive.
4d. orange.

Bermuda. To the three values chronicled last month we now have to add the 2½d. value.

Adhesive. Ship Design. Multiple wmk.
2½d. blue.

Brunei. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us the following values, being ones which we have not, we think, previously chronicled.

Adhesives. Multiple wmk.
30c. orange and purple.
\$1 red and black on blue.

India. The *London Philatelist* chronicles the 6 annas, Georgian type, with Service overprint.

We illustrate the types below.

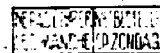


Official. Overprinted Service.
6 annas, olive-histre.

New Zealand. Our publishers have found in their stock a copy of the 2d. rose, perforated "nearly 12" × 12½. Hitherto this variety has not been noted, so far as we are aware. The perforations at top and bottom exactly fit those of the ½d. of 1875 perforated "nearly 12" (Gibbons No. 113), and it is evident that the single-line machine used for that stamp was used for the horizontal rows of perforation on this variety of the 2d., in conjunction with the ordinary 12½ machine for the vertical rows.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Belgium. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. and other correspondents have very kindly sent us specimens of the new stamps. The following values are the only ones yet to hand:



Adhesives.
1c. orange.
5c. green.
10c. carmine.

Bulgaria. Mr. J. Kennedy, of Sofia, tells us that he possesses the "only existing" copy of Gibbons No. 114, 1901 issue with the head of Prince Ferdinand omitted.

Chinese Republic. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co tell us that they have received the following values surcharged in red, 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 16, and 50c., and in black, ½, 4, 7, 20, 30c., \$1, \$2 and \$5.



The S.C.F. for May 11th says:—

"From Messrs. Whitfield King & Co's 'Monthly List,' we learn that, previous to the provisional issue already chronicled, a small number of stamps received the overprint 'Ching Hua Min Kuo' in blue, which was considered unsatisfactory, but they were nevertheless issued and used. It seems that only the lower values from ½c. to 30c., were overprinted in blue, and most, if not all, of these were sent to Hankow, and quickly sold

out. The 'Provisional Neutrality' stamps, referred to as having been withdrawn, have been re-issued with the additional 'Chinese Republic' overprint. The first overprint is horizontal and the second vertical, so that the two are cruciform. Our friends are officially informed that a permanent set of Chinese Republic stamps is being prepared, and will be issued as soon as possible."

Denmark. Mr. W. T. Wilson sent us, just too late to be included in last month's *Journal*, a copy of the new 35 öre stamp, uniform with the other values of the King Frederick VIII. type.



Adhesive. Wmk. Crown.
35 öre, orange.

French New Hebrides. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have very kindly sent us a complete sheet of sixty of the new 5c. stamps. The watermark consists of the letters "R.F.", only one letter to each sheet of sixty stamps, so that some of the sheets bear the letter "R" and the others the letter "F". Apparently the sheets have been cut before printing, as the values 5c. and 10c. are in sheets of sixty, without any perforation round to show that they are in panes, part of a complete sheet. These new stamps are of exactly the same values, colours and designs as the old ones, the only difference is the watermark. The values above 10c. are in similar sheets of thirty only.

Holland. Another value of the "one colour" set of Postage Due stamps is to hand from Ipswich, namely the ½c. all blue. The *Monthly Journal* also chronicles the 2½c.

Italy. The *Monthly Journal* says: We are indebted to Dr. Diena for the following:—

"By a Royal Decree of the 4th of April, the issue has been authorized of postage stamps, the use of which is optional, to commemorate the inauguration of the Campanile of St. Mark, which has just been rebuilt.

"The above-mentioned stamps are of two kinds; 5 centesimi, printed in black-blue, and 15 centesimi, in deep brown. The design, which is the same for both values, has as its principal features the five domes of the Cathedral of St. Mark and the rebuilt Campanile.

"These Commemorative Stamps will be put on sale at the Post Offices in the City and Province of Venice, and also by the stamp vendors at Venice, from the 25th of April to

the 31st of December, 1912, at their face value, without any addition.

"It has been decided that, during the period for which the sale of these stamps is authorized, the use of them being optional, correspondence circulating within the kingdom, or addressed to the Colony of Eritrea, to Italian Somaliland, or to Libya (Tripoli and Cyrenaica), may be franked by means of the Commemorative Stamps in question. They will not be regarded as available for correspondence addressed to foreign countries, as Article 11 of the Convention of the Universal Postal Union forbids this.

"In order to prevent any misunderstanding, notice is given to the Post Offices that, although the sale of these stamps takes place solely in the Province of Venice, the use of them is permitted for the franking of correspondence originating in other parts of the kingdom."

The occasion is one well worthy of commemoration, but, as in so many other cases, we doubt whether the issuing of special postage stamps is quite the best method.

"Campanile" labels.
5c. blue-black.
15c. deep sepia.

Portugal. Two more values of the new permanent set have now been allowed to dribble out, namely, the ¼c. and the ½c.



Adhesives.
¼c. brown.
½c. black.

Cape Verde. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have very kindly sent us some values of the King Manoel stamps, overprinted "Republica." The list in *E.W.S.N.* is as follows:—

Adhesives.	
2½ reis,	lilac.
5 ..	black.
10 ..	green.
20 ..	rose.
25 ..	brown.
50 ..	blue.
75 ..	brown.
100 ..	brown on green.
200 ..	olive-green on salmon.
300 ..	black on blue.
400 ..	black and blue.
500 ..	green and blue.

Mozambique Company. Dr. Paton has shown us the 80 and the 100 reis, of the 1894-97 set, perforated 11½. Hitherto, this perforation does not appear to have been chronicled for these values. The same correspondent has also shown us the 150 reis

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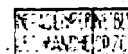


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5	"	black.
10	"	green.
20	"	rose.
25	"	brown.
50	"	blue.
75	"	brown.
100	"	brown on green.
200	"	olive-green on salmon.
300	"	black on blue.
400	"	black and blue.
500	"	green and blue.

Mozambique Company. Dr. Paton has shown us the 80 and the 100 reis, of the 1894-97 set, perforated 11½. Hitherto, this perforation does not appear to have been chronicled for these values. The same correspondent has also shown us the 150 reis

brown-orange on rose, perf. 12½, with numeral 1, type II. (according to Kohl's arrangement).

Portuguese Guinea. We have been shown, by Dr. Paton, a copy of the 80 reis, grey, of 1886, perforated 12½. Although this stamp is not in Gibbons' Catalogue, it can hardly be looked upon as a discovery, since it has been chronicled in Kohl's Catalogue for some years.

Spain. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. tell us that they have received the 1 peseta value with the portrait of King Alfonso.

Adhesive.
1 peseta, lake.

Spanish Guinea. We are also told that the following values for this Colony have now been issued. Design similar to that illustrated in the February *P.J.G.B.*

Adhesives.
2c. purple-brown.
5c. green.
10c. red.
15c. claret.
20c. red.
25c. blue.
30c. lake.
40c. carmine.
50c. orange.
1p. dull purple.
4p. mauve.
10p. green.

Sweden. Two new values on the un-watermarked paper have made their appearance since we published a list of these stamps in the February *Journal*.

Head of King Gustaf.
8 öre, violet.
50 .. grey.

City of London Philatelic Society.

REPORT OF 10TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

THIS, of course, was purely a business meeting, and it speaks well for the position of the Society when I say that there is very little to report in the way of alteration to the regime. The minutes of the previous meeting having been dealt with, our delegates to the Congress were called upon to report concerning the proceedings transacted on behalf of the Society, and it was announced that our resolution had been carried by a large majority, but not without some spirited opposition, as will be seen by the Press reports regarding the Congress proceedings.

The Interim Reports of the various Officials showed that the Society is still progressing very favourably indeed, which has been the case every year since its inception in 1902.

The Rules of the Society will remain unaltered for the coming season, and the Executive will suffer to no extent regarding changes thereon. Unfortunately for myself, I could not follow my own inclination and

offer myself for re-election, but the Committee anticipate no difficulty in transferring the small amount of work connected with the post to another member.

The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* was once more selected unanimously to fill the position of Official Organ.

The only set-back which the Society has experienced has been in the matter of new members, and, although we now number 118, there is plenty of room for still more. Members are urged to introduce the Society to the notice of their philatelic friends, with the object of producing at the first meeting in the new season a record number of applications for membership.

The Hon. Treasurer reported that we are financially in a better position than ever, and it seems that the increase in the funds for the past eight months has been very notable.

Although the meetings have now ceased until October, members will be kept well informed as to the work of the Committee in their interests during the interval, and short reports will appear in the Official Organ each month.

A. C. CONSTANTINIDES,
Hon. Sec.

New Leaves to Cut.

MESSRS. BRIGHTS' CATALOGUE OF "ENTIRES."*

MANY of our subscribers, being collectors of the old school of philately, will welcome the new and up-to-date catalogue of the world's stamped stationery which Messrs. Bright and Son have just published. This branch of our hobby is frequently neglected by collectors who have joined the philatelic fold during the past few years, we therefore are glad to have another opportunity, granted by the publication of the latest and most reliable guide, to point out the manifold charms which are associated with the collecting of envelopes, post-cards and wrappers. The publishers of Part II. of the "A.B.C. Catalogue" have evidently the courage of their convictions, for it is only a week or two ago that they purchased the famous collection formed by the late B. W. Warhurst. This collection numbered nearly 12,000 varieties, to say nothing about duplicates, so readers may rest assured that Messrs. Bright & Son will be able to fill, with few exceptions, all the want lists they may receive. Those of our readers who feel the call of the entire, even to the extent of including only *one* example in their collection should procure a copy of Part II. of the A.B.C. Catalogue.

*Published by Messrs. Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C.
1/9 post free.

The Stamps of Greece.

By P. L. PEMBERTON.

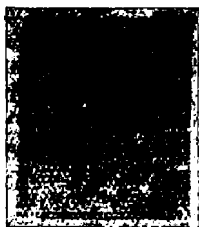
(Continued from page 77.)

THE ERRORS OF THE NUMERALS AT BACK. 20 LEPTA.

- a. 80 instead of 20, on printing D.
- b. 2 " " " " C.
- c. 02 " " " on printings K, M and Zb.
- d. 02 inverted on Zb.
- e. No figures, on E.
- f. 20 twice, on A, I, J, L, P, T and U.
- g. 20 twice, once inverted, on M.
- h. 20 inverted, on K and Za.

Remarks.

- a. This occurred as an error on the sheet for a very short time only.
- b. Of this I have only seen one satisfactory specimen, which is in Mr. Dorning Beckton's collection. There is no trace of the O. It must have been corrected very soon after it occurred.



No. 5.

- c. This first occurred on the 1870 printing K and was soon corrected. It was the first stamp in a horizontal row. It turned up again in M, the numeral "o" being totally different in shape from that in the earlier error. This also was soon corrected, but the same mistake occurred once more in the very last printing—the ultramarine, this again having a different shaped "o".
- d. This is a curious error, occurring only on the last printing. It is not due to an entire sheet containing c printed upside down, but is certainly an error of setting which occurred once on the sheet. The upper part of the "2" is always defective in this variety.
- e. As in the case of b I have only seen one really satisfactory specimen without numerals, in the collection of Mr. Beckton.
- f. Although the double 20 is found on seven different printings, it is by no means common, probably only one sheet of each being so printed. In most cases the two pairs of numerals are from $\frac{1}{4}$ to 2mm. apart, but in one variety they are so far apart that portions of the superfluous figures appear on either edge of the stamp.

- g. Mr. Beckton has a copy of this, which has every appearance of being genuine. It is on printing M and bears a postmark dated 29 June, 1873.

- h. This, which is due to whole sheets being printed upside down, I have only found on printings K (in an exceptionally deep shade) and Za. Those I have seen on K are all used at Patras.

40 LEPTA.

- a. 20 corrected to 40, printing H.
- b. 40 twice, printings B and J.

Remarks.

- a. This curious error was apparently noticed and corrected by hand, possibly after a certain number of sheets had been printed. It has been chronicled as existing without the correction, but as I have never seen this I do not include it.
- b. The double 40 on printing B shows the figures almost on the top of one another, but clear enough to prove that it is really a double print and not a slip. On printing J the extra numerals are lower down and a long way from the others, part of the o showing at the left, and the 4 and part of o on the right.



No. 6.

80 LEPTA.

- a. 8 on printing D.
- b. 80 with 8 inverted on A, B, C and D.
- c. No figures, printing D.
- d. 80 inverted, on H.

Remarks.

- a. This occurred once on the sheet in printing D. It was certainly in the bottom row—and was possibly the right corner stamp. (Illustration No. 6).
- b. In printings A and B this was on stamp No. 9 in the top row. In C and D it occurred somewhere in the first vertical row. (Illustration No. 7).

- c. This is only known in printing D and is extremely rare.
- d. I have seen three or four specimens of this and have heard of others. They are all in the same shade (rather deep) and on thinnish paper. Two were used in Alexandria (Egypt) in 1874 and the others in Athens (undated). (Illustration No. 8).



No. 7.



No. 8.

In addition to the errors above described, all of which are quite unmistakable at a glance, there are minor errors due to the O in the 10, 20 and 40 lep., and the 1 in the 10 lep. being inverted. Strictly speaking such errors should be as important as any of the others, but as there is very little difference in the appearance of these numerals, whether they are in the right position or inverted, they are not generally considered of much importance. The difficulty in detecting these inverted figures is heightened, especially in the case of the numeral 1, by poor or smudgy printing.

Though I agree that the varieties of which I am speaking are relatively of small importance they should certainly be taken into account by a specialist. I have made a particular study of the inverted O on the 20 lep. and have found that prior to 1870 the variety was very common: there must have been several on the sheet. Thus the first and the last stamps in the top row had, in the printings I and J at least, the O inverted. With the printing of 1870 (K) the inverted O disappears until the issue of the stamps on cream paper. I have examined hundreds of specimens of printings I and J, which have yielded between 5 and 10 per cent. of inverted O's; I have probably seen an equal number of printings K to S, but have not found among them a single example of this error. This proves con-

clusively either that the inverted O's were corrected for the 1870 printing, or that the type was entirely distributed and re-set. It seems difficult to believe that they should have taken the trouble to correct the inverted O's, as their appearance is most unobtrusive in print, but it must not be forgotten that the compositor would probably be able to detect the inverted type in his *forme* more easily than on a proof. As a matter of fact, I believe that the type was not entirely re-set, as I have examples of broken type occurring in the *same* position on the sheet in printings J and K, which would be an extraordinary coincidence if the type had been re-set. On the other hand I have a specimen of printing I with inverted O, showing a small break at top and bottom of the numeral. This stamp also has three small but distinctive flaws on the face of the stamp. I have two specimens of printing K, showing the same three flaws, but with the O at back, with the same break at top and bottom, turned the right way up. This, I think, is distinct evidence that the type was not re-set but that all that was done was to put the O's the right way up. It was probably in making these minor corrections that the more serious error "02", which occurred for the first time in 1870, crept in. The inverted O turns up again in 1876, on the cream paper issue, but is very uncommon.

With regard to the other values with this minor error, I am unable to give much information further than to say that the inverted "O" is common on the 10 lep. (I have seen a block of four of which three show the variety) and very scarce on the 40 lep. The inverted 1 on the 10 lep. is also fairly plentiful. A curious fact with regard to these values is that the errors seem to occur on them more frequently after than before 1870.

MINOR VARIETIES OF THE FIGURES.

These consist of broken or battered type, of misplaced numerals, or any other minor accident. It would be impossible to give a list of all the noticeable variations in the numerals, the number of which gradually increased as the type became more worn, until the majority of the type (at any rate on the 20 lep.) was in some way defective by the time the system of printing the numerals at the back was finally abolished. So much is this the case that I believe it would be possible to plate printings L and M of the 20 lep. by means of these broken figures *and* the small flaws and scratches which by that time had become common on the face of the stamps. The task would be *very* difficult and of little utility, but I think it could be done.

It is obvious that the numerals were either reset at different times or that some fell out and had to be replaced, because most of the errors, as we have seen, occurred only in certain printings, and I have evidence that some of

the broken types occurred in different positions on different printings, which shews the difficulties in the way of making a complete study of the numerals. Such a study would hardly be worth the trouble if it were not that it assists in the arrangement of the printings—for the defects began at various dates and continued until the end.

In the following list I only give those varieties which are most pronounced:—

5 LEPTA.

- 5 with a perpendicular line before it, making it appear as "15." The stroke is very thin and is caused by a printer's bit becoming loose. I have seen this on printings K and M.
- 5 with only the flag and lower half of the body showing. I have seen this on I and O and some intervening printings.

10 LEPTA.

- 10 with a perpendicular line before the 1, making it appear as 110. Caused by a printer's bit becoming loose. Printings H, K and M.
- 0 of 10 with centre shaped like a keyhole. Printings H and M.
- 1 of 10 considerably above the level of the 0. Printing M.
- 0 of 10 noticeably above the level of the 1. Printing M.

20 LEPTA.

- 2 with tail and part of head missing. All printings from L to Zb.
- 2 with part of head broken off. This variety is curious, as it is evidently the identical piece of type which is found inverted on Zb in the "20" error. It is found on printings P to Za inclusive.
- 0 of 20 very much above the level of the 2; this I have only found on printing U.
- 0 with its centre shaped like a keyhole. Printings O, P, Q and Za. I have seen the same variety but with the keyhole inverted on printings T and Zb.
- 2 and 0 spaced nearly 3mm. apart, instead of the normal 1 to 1½mm. Printings T to Za.

40 LEPTA.

- 0 of 40 raised above the level of the 4. I have only found this on printing L, but it will probably be found on all subsequent printings.
- 0 with its centre shaped like a keyhole, inverted. Printings P and Q only.

80 LEPTA.

- 0 with its centre shaped like a keyhole. Printing H. (Thinnish paper).

(To be continued).

Members of the International Philatelic Union, and of the City of London Philatelic Society, are welcome to the loan of any hand-book in our publisher's philatelic library.

Jubilee International Stamp Exhibition.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL HALL, OCT. 14-19.

DISTINGUISHED VICE-PATRONS.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph Ward, Bart., has consented to become a Vice-Patron of the forthcoming Jubilee International Stamp Exhibition. The Rt. Hon. Sydney Buxton, M.P., President of the Board of Trade, has also consented to be Vice-Patron.

NOTABLE EXHIBITS.

Sir Joseph Ward has kindly arranged that the Government of the Dominion of New Zealand shall be represented by a display at the Exhibition. The display will include specimens of the stamps of New Zealand and its dependencies, and other articles of philatelic interest, to be sent from the Postal and Stamp Department of the Dominion.

Arrangements are already being made for the establishment of a model stamp-factory at the Exhibition, with working machinery which will be engaged in the various operations of the stamp manufacture during the period the Exhibition is open. Already the Executive Committee has arranged for a number of machines never hitherto viewed by the philatelic public to be shewn in operation.

THE STAMP BAZAAR.

The plan of the stalls for hire by dealers, publishers, etc., is now ready, and a number of positions have already been allotted to leading stamp dealers. Particulars of terms and copies of the plans may be had by dealers, etc., on application to the Hon. Secretary, H. F. Johnson, 44, Fleet Street, E.C.

THE EXHIBITS AND AWARDS.

The Baron Erik Leijonhufvud has offered the Executive Committee a Great Gold Medal for the best specialised exhibit of a single issue of stamps of any country, in the special class for collections of single issues.

THE ART CONTEST.

The greatest interest has been aroused by the offer of prizes for suggested designs for new and improved postage stamps for Great Britain. The closing date for entries for this competition is August 1st. Particulars of the conditions of the contest may be had from the Hon. Secretary.

GENERAL PROSPECTUS.

The draft prospectus has been prepared but is not yet finally approved. It is hoped, however, to have the complete prospectus in the hands of intending exhibitors in the course of a few weeks. Those who have not yet sent in their names and addresses, for entry on the register of persons interested to receive all printed matter connected with the Exhibition, should lose no time in doing so.



May, 1912, Report.

List of Officers and Committee, 1912-13.

Hon. President: H. R. OLDFIELD.

Hon. Vice-Presidents:

W. DORNING BECKTON. H. L. HAYMAN.
MAJOR J. DE C. LAFFAN. DR. E. F. MARK, M.A.

President: J. C. SIDEBOTHAM.

Vice-Presidents:

W. SCHWABACHER. L. W. FULCHER. W. SCHWARTZ.

Committee:

A. B. KAY. W. E. LINCOLN. GUY SEMPLE.
F. F. LAMB. P. L. PEMBERTON. E. W. WETHERELL.
WILMOT CORFIELD. J. B. SEYMOUR.

Hon. Sec. & Treasurer: T. H. HINTON,
26, Cromford Road, East Putney, London, S.W.

Hon. Exchange Superintendent: J. E. JOSELIN,
81, Bennerley Road, New Wandsworth, S.W.

Hon. Counterfeit Detector: W. HADLOW,
Grove Park, Lee, Kent.

Hon. Librarian: W. S. KING,
65, Cadogan Street, Chelsea, S.W.

Hon. Solicitors: MESSRS. OLDFIELDS,
13, Walbrook, E.C.

All Officers of the Union are *ex-officio* Members of the Committee.

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: W. Hadlow, jun., Lee, Kent, proposed by T. H. Hinton, seconded by J. E. Joselin; Kenneth M. Beaumont, London, proposed by P. L. Pemberton, seconded by F. F. Lamb.

NEW MEMBER.

G. S. Brameld, Nottingham.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers and Committee for 1912-13 took place at Essex Hall on Thursday, 9th inst., present W. Schwabacher (in the chair), W. Schwarte, J. E. Joselin, Guy Semple, A. B.

Kay, W. Hadlow, F. F. Lamb, P. L. Pemberton, J. Wazenhauser, J. B. Seymour, W. F. Hadlow, jun., and the Hon. Secretary. Owing to the regretted absence of the President, through illness, W. Schwabacher, Vice-President, was unanimously voted to the chair.

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, having been read and confirmed at the opening of the season were taken as read, and the minutes of the last Ordinary General Meeting were read and confirmed. The report of the delegates to the recent Congress being called for, the Hon. Sec. made a report of the business done as far as he was able to attend, and after a discussion as to the issue of "Congress Stamps," moved the following resolution which was seconded by Mr. Guy Semple and carried unanimously, the Hon. Sec. being instructed to include the same in his report, and to forward copies to the Hon. Sec. of the Permanent Congress Committee, and to Hon. Sec. of the Society organising the next Congress.

Resolved that this meeting regrets to note the methods adopted at the recent Congress in issuing the "Congress Stamps" and considering the inclusion of so-called stamps and errors of the same in an Auction Catalogue as subversive of the best interests of Philately. It is suggested to the Permanent Congress Committee and to the Committee responsible for carrying out the arrangements for the next Congress, that if a commemorative label is contemplated, it should be confined to the issue of one postcard, stamp, or envelope, together with the use of a special postmark, if such is authorised by the Post Office.

The Hon. Sec. then presented the Annual Report and Balance Sheet for the year ending December, 1911. Starting the year with 102 members on the roll, there had been two deaths, five resignations, and one member dropped from the roll, whilst eleven new members had joined, making a total of 105 on the roll at January, 1912. Since this date eight new members had joined bringing up the total to 113, including eight life members. During the season a successful programme had been carried out, including seven displays and a well attended smoking concert.

On the motion of Mr. Schwarte, seconded by Mr. Hadlow, the Report and Balance Sheet was received and adopted subject to audit, the Auditors of the past year, Messrs. Guy Semple and J. E. Strong, being thanked for their services and reappointed. In the absence of Mr. King, owing to business engagements, the Hon. Sec. reported on the Library on his behalf, and a list of the Library was promised to be laid on the table at the opening of next season. Mr. Joselin reported on the working of the Exchange Packet Section, to which he desired more support from members to increase its usefulness and success. Mr. Schwabacher voiced the regret

of all present at the illness of Mr. Sidebotham preventing his attendance, and wishing him a speedy recovery, and proposed a vote of thanks for his services and his re-election as President, which was seconded by Mr. Schwarte, and carried unanimously.

On the motion of the Hon. Sec., seconded by Mr. Hadlow, the Vice-Presidents, Messrs. Schwabacher, Fulcher and Schwarte, were thanked for their services and re-elected; as was also the Hon. President, Mr. H. R. Oldfield, and the Hon. Vice-Presidents, Messrs. W. Dorning Beckton, H. L. Hayman, Major J. de C. Laffan, with the addition of Dr. E. F. Marx, M.A. The Officers and Committee, as noted at the head of this report, were then elected, and Messrs. Oldfields were appointed Hon. Solicitors, and the *P.J.G.B.*, official organ for the ensuing year.

The Hon. Sec., in acknowledging a hearty vote of thanks, moved by Mr. Hadlow and seconded by Mr. Schwarte, thanked the Committee for their support during the past year, and counted upon the continued support of the new Committee for the coming season, to make arrangements, for which a meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, Sept. 5th. On the conclusion of the formal business, displays of errors were given, amongst those contributing, being: The President (who showed the very rare Saxony 2 grs. and Baden 3 kr. errors of colour), Guy Semple, P. L. Pemberton, and the Hon. Sec. A hearty and unanimous vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the meeting. The annual balance sheet will be published, after audit, in June report.

LIBRARY.

The Hon Librarian acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the *Monthly Journal* for April from Mr. C. L. Pack, the *Philatelic Gazette* from New York; and a parcel of Philatelic Literature from the Hon. Sec. Any donations to the Library gladly received and duly acknowledged.

The Hon. Sec. will be glad to hear from the few members who have not yet replied to his application *re* back subscription, to enable him to close accounts.

THOS. H. HINTON,

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Int. Phil. Union,
26, Cromford Road, East Putney, S.W.
May 11th, 1912.

Current Chatter.

By ANGUS MCTAVISH.

In a recent number of *Meekel's Weekly Stamp News*, the paper which borrows nearly all its literary contents (even going to the extent of "lifting" Current Chatter) I notice an *original* (if not, no acknowledgment) article entitled

"Pleasures of Stamp Collecting." This we are told was written many years ago, while in it a new word is coined. Readers of *M.W.S.N.* are asked to find the word.

As thousands of my readers will doubtless write for copies of the above-mentioned paper, and will become extremely excited over the competition (?) I will extract one or two sentences containing words which, I think, are clues.

"Stamps came into general use *scarcely* more than fifty years ago."

"There are now thousands of these *philunatics* scattered throughout the whole civilized world."

"Stands by in undisguised amazement and, *mayhaps* disgust."

P.S.—The *clues* are in italics.

The same author writes:—

"All collectors can well be placed into one of two divisions, namely: collectors of natural objects, as animals, birds, insects, fossils, oars, plants, etc."

There are oars *and* oars, some belonging to division I., and some to division II., which contains, so we are told, "things made by men." After all it is more a matter of spelling than of pronunciation.

Last year, I am told, a visitor to the Congress arrived at Birmingham in a very merry mood, having, as they say in Canada, "got a glad on." This year, at Margate, there being no restaurant car on the train, he arrived quite sedate. This oversight on his part, was by diligent perseverance soon rectified.

The *Stamp Journal* says that:—

"Bohr State stamps are not entirely obsolete."

Nobody ever said they were.

The Tentative Programme of the Fourth Philatelic Congress, in giving a list of the Congress Committees lists nine gentlemen as members of the "Philatelic Terms Subcommittee." If that is the best the gallant nine can do, I don't think much of it. One of the members of the above mentioned Committee is listed as E. D. Bacoh. It rather looks as if the Philatelic Terms crowd meant business.

Delegates to the Congress were presented with a Borough of Margate "Complimentary Pass" entitling the holder to free use of the Bathing Accommodation at Palm Bay and Westonville. Several delegates grumbled because no mention was made of free accommodation at the local Chill on the Liver Hospital.

The same "Pass" entitled Delegates to free use of the Corporation Chairs on the Sands and Sea Front.

Stretchers and ambulances used after the banquet were however not classed as Corporation Chairs.

It is an ill wind which blows nobody any good. So said McSlither when, after his last grand jamborree, he dropped his album into a bath

full of hot water. By the time he had fished it out nearly all his Russian stamps were the scarce varieties with centre and background omitted. (S.G. 115 and 124 *se tenant*.)

On the Saturday following the Congress nearly all the newspapers contained a paragraph headed "Serious Gas Explosion." It did not refer to anything which took place at Margate.

True to my threat of last month, I append two or three verses. If any of the lines don't rhyme—or scan—or do the things that they ought to do—it is the fault of the C. of L. members, who have such funny names.

There once was a Sec. named Constantinides,
Who freezes on all early Greeks that he sees,
And studies them minutely at leisure and ease,
Except when they're damaged, and then he
says D's,
And wishes for keyholes and errors, does
Constantinides.

There was once an official named Leon,
Who at chess could give me a peon
And still on the winning side be on;
But at banquets, or spotting Siam's with a
"10" on,
He could take very long odds could friend
Leon.

There once was a Vice-President named
Harris,
Whose philately was of London and not
of Paris,
And who does not collect N.Z.'s *a la* Paris,
Or write in his paper in the style of McTavis,
But his M.C.C. denotes plenty of energy in
Harris.

There was once a President named Burton,
Who lived in the road known as Curtain.
Once in the chair he would be found pretty
certain,
In the days when he had a real stampic
spurt on.
But he now goes there no longer does Burton.

There once was a member called Lamb,
Whose name 'tis well known rhymes with —;
His sheets of Victorias, *not* printed by Ham,
Were declared by experts an out-and-out
sham;
So he consoled himself down at Wetgate,
did Lamb.

There once was a member called Lincoln,
Who for jokes was top sides with the Pink 'un,
Of a kind which makes 'em get a wink on,
And causes poor scribes to spoil paper and
ink on;
But he's one of the best is young Lincoln.

Congratulations to Léon Adutt and Armstrong; they deserve a Congress at Margate every week. Congrats also to P. C. Bishop for his column of aftermath in the May 11th S.C.F. It was splendid.

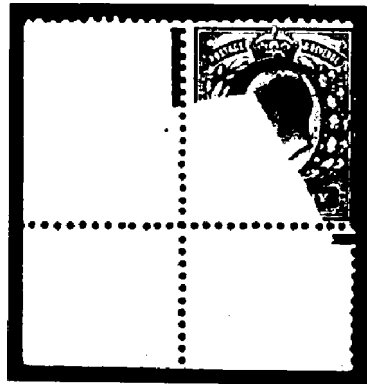
From Frank Wadham's report of the Congress in the May *Philatelic Circular* :

"I went to bed about 1.30, leaving Sparrow and a small crowd pouring over a collection of Cape triangulars."

Pouring what? And what did the owner say when he found out? Also, did the early bird spot any worms?

In the World of Stamps.

OUR publishers have just purchased a curious illustration of what the printers of the present Great Britain stamps *can* print, also of what can escape the lynx (?) eyed gentlemen who are supposed to see that badly damaged stamps do not filter through to the public. The stamp in question, as a glance at the illustration will show, is the left-hand corner stamp of the sheet and shows no trace of the outside edging having been doubled under. We are informed that the stamp was purchased, with others, over the post-office counter in the ordinary course of business and that the owner, a non-stamp collector, only retained the one stamp as a curiosity. When the inevitable collector came along he was persuaded to part with his freak; had he used it on a letter in the ordinary way it would be interesting to know how the Postal Authorities would have treated it.



An Unsolicited Testimonial.

(ONE OF MANY).

Saint-Omer (P. d. C.) 3, Rue St. Bertin,

April 13, 1912.

DEAR SIRS,

I beg to thank you, having made my insertion on four occasions in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, but as I have sufficient exchanges for the present, will you kindly not make any more insertions.

Yours faithfully,

MAURICE DUHAMEL.

The 12 Centavos of 1868-72, Mexico.

By P. L. PEMBERTON.

SINCE the publication last month of the article by Mr. John Hall Barron under the above heading, Mr. Hausburg has shewn me the lower half of a sheet which enables me to complete the chart of the transfer which was left unfinished by Messrs. Wilson & Wetherell. This is as follows:—

2	1	9	7	2	6	5	4	4	2
5	1	1	9	10	7	1	8	3	10
3	2	5	8	8	6	4	3	8	9
10	4	10	7	1	8	4	4	5	1
2	8	7	2	3	3	7	8	6	1
9	6	3	4	4	7	6	5	3	5
3	1	8	2	7	5	6	7	5	7
6	10	6	10	9	10	7	4	7	3
8	8	5	1	1	2	3	9	6	2
9	6	3	4	6	5	8	4	10	10

From this it will be seen that, instead of the types recurring ten times each exactly, as might reasonably have been expected from what we know of one other setting of the 12 cents and the 6 cents, they actually recur in the following numbers:—

Type 1—10	Type 6—11
" 2—9	" 7—11
" 3—11	" 8—11
" 4—11	" 9—7
" 5—10	" 10—9

It will also be seen that the fragments which Mr. Barron quoted from Messrs. Wilson and Wetherell do, after all, belong to this transfer, though the last stamp in the larger fragment is erroneously described as type 3, instead of type 10.

Now that two settings are fully charted, it will be very interesting to find out exactly how many others there may be, and I shall be pleased to hear from any readers who may have blocks which do not fit into either of the two published arrangements.

Note from "Post Office Circular."*

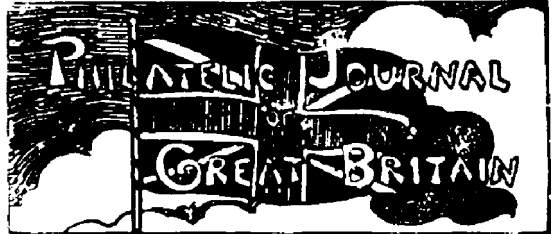
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* Kindly sent us by Mr. C. Davies, of Five Crosses, Frodsham.

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Next month we hope to publish an article of great interest on the King Edward and King George stamps of Great Britain, with a list of the numerous varieties of paper, shade, etc., which may be found in the various printings of Messrs. De La Rue, Messrs. Harrison and Somerset House.

The Early Perforations of New Zealand.

BY IRWIN FARIS.

IN the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, of 20th October, 1911, there appeared two articles

- (a) "The Early Perforations of New Zealand," by Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg.
 (b) "Perforations of Full-face N.Z. Stamps," reprinted from the *Australian Philatelist* (August, 1911).

The former is in reply to the latter, and both are the outcome of my notes on the same subject published in the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, of February and May, 1910; in which I recorded the discovery of compounds of the 13 and 12½ perfs.

I must first put myself right with regard to a paragraph in the *A.P.* article, viz. :—

"Mr. Irwin Faris, in the *S.C.F.*, gives the history of the first perforations of the full-faced stamps as compiled from official sources." (The italics in this, and in succeeding paragraph, are mine).

Mr. Hausburg justifiably comments upon this :—

"It is stated that Mr. Faris had been fortunate enough to obtain official information on the subject of the early perforating machines. If he has been so fortunate I am extremely glad to hear that the information I was given to the effect that all the official records about the early days of the Post Office had been accidentally destroyed by fire, is incorrect. At any rate, I do not think he has unearthed much about the '13' machine that had not already been published by me."

Mr. Hausburg is correct throughout. My information was not gathered from "official sources," nor have I ever asserted, or implied, that it was. I have merely studied the question to the best of my ability, eagerly sought information from all sources, read available articles, discussed it with dozens of advanced collectors, examined thousands of specimens, and, naturally, arrived at certain conclusions.

My *S.C.F.* articles (condensed) were as follows :—

24th Nov., 1909 (published February, 1910)—I notified the discovery of a 2d. blue, Star, full-face, compound of 13×12½, and stated that it had "apparently been partly perforated by both machines" (the Government 12½ and the Dunedin 13).

6th April, 1910 (published 28th May, 1910)—I replied to a doubt expressed by this *Journal* (*P.J. of G.B.*) regarding the discovery, saying *inter alia* :—"I merely record such facts (or seeming facts) as come under my notice, adding my personal opinions and theories. These may, or may not, be based on correct premises, and may, or may not, coincide with

those of other collectors, but Philately is not an 'exact science.' I see no reason to alter my first opinion. I hold that a 2d. blue, Star, full-face, apparently partly perforated 13 and partly 12½, or (to be a little more precise than previously) perforated 12½ on three sides and 13 on the other, the latter perfs. being smaller and more cleanly cut than the former. It appears reasonable to assume that the two different perfs. were made by two different machines, and that the two machines were the 'Dunedin 13' and 'Official 12½,' seeing that no others existed in the Colony"

From various sources and authorities I glean the following, upon which my opinions and remarks are based :—

- (a) "From 1856 to early in 1865 stamps were printed at Auckland and supplied to all centres (including Dunedin) from there."
 (b) "These were, until about June, 1864, imperf. when forwarded from Auckland."
 (c) "From end of 1862 (or beginning of 1863) until latter half of 1864, imperf. sheets (and probably partly perf. sheets also) were, upon arrival at Dunedin perforated 13 (full), a small, clean-cut perf."

(NOTE.—I now wish to explain that the reference to "partly perf. sheets" is only applicable to such as were received at Dunedin during "latter half of 1864," viz., between the starting of the Government 12½ and the cessation of the Dunedin 13 machine. This is obvious in view of my previous statement "(a)").

- (d) "About June, 1864, the first official machine was installed at Auckland. It gauged 12½-12½ clean, large holes. It was about the end of 1866, refitted and gave 12½-13 small holes, rough perfs. Dates are of course approximate and are those quoted by various investigators."
 (e) "The 12½ machine was, early in 1865, transferred from Auckland to Wellington."
 (f) "The use of the Dunedin 13 machine ceased about the end of 1864"

Finally, I believe as follows :—

"That the stamp I hold was one of the sheet partly perforated 12½ at Auckland (during latter half of 1864) in which a line, or lines, was missing when received at Dunedin, and that at Dunedin the omission was rectified by the insertion of a line (or lines) of 13 perf. If more than one line of perf. was inserted only one of them affected my specimen."

8th July, 1911—"The specimens (viz., two found by Messrs. Fred. Hagen & Co., of

Sydney) were submitted to Mr. A. T. Bate, of Wellington, who expresses perfect confidence in their genuineness, and gives exactly the same opinion as I did regarding their cause."

I have always understood that the credit of the discovery of the "13" machine is due to Mr. Hausburg or to Mr. Bate, or both conjointly; and, so far as I am aware, no one has "unearthed" any further information relative thereto since the publication of Mr. Hausburg's article of 1907. The bare facts, then and now, being that stamps were unofficially perforated at Dunedin on a privately owned machine guaging 13 (full), the period of its use being uncertain.

There are, I take it, only two points at issue, viz. :—

1. Was the Government 12½ machine always a comb, or always a single-line, or was it originally a comb and afterwards converted into a single-line?
2. Was its use contemporary (or nearly so) with the Dunedin machine?

I have not found any proof, nor even reasonable indication, of its having ever been a comb. It is extremely difficult to distinguish comb perfs. from single-line perfs. on singles or pairs, but on blocks or sheets the intersections of the lines of perforation generally reveal certain differences which enable a decision to be arrived at. Mr. Hausburg may be able to obtain access to such blocks or sheets? Until proof to the contrary be forthcoming I am inclined to believe the Government machine to have been a single-line at all times, but am confident that it was a single-line during at least a portion (I believe the greater and later) of its existence.

I have seen blocks with the characteristic intersections of single-line perforating, and, moreover, the many decided differences in width and length of stamps (*i.e.* the varying differences in distance between parallel vertical lines, and between parallel horizontal lines, of perforation) indicate a single-line machine, as a comb machine does not in this respect vary to any great extent, particularly as regards width.

(To be continued.)

Correspondence.

To the Editor, "P.J. of G.B."

The Cedars, Epsom,
30th April, 1912.

THE STAMPS OF HOLLAND.

DEAR SIR,

You know what interest I take in the issues of Holland and Colonies, and how glad I should be to see more enthusiasm created

(even in your own breast) for these highly interesting stamps. Your publication of Mr. Wilkinson's articles in your paper, November to March last, shewed to many, I feel sure, that there was much interesting work to be done among the early issues, and I have been hoping my Dutch friends would now take the matter up in earnest.

I was, therefore, a little surprised and much interested to hear that a writer was already taking the matter up in an American paper. In the "Philadelphia Stamp News" I found an article by Mr. J. B. Leavy, dealing with his own collection and settled down to enjoy it. But alas he says "Articles written about the stamps of Holland" ending with Mr. Melville's hand-book and Mr. Poole's article in *S.G.W.* Oct. 1910."

Well, I began to be sorry he had missed Mr. Wilkinson's articles and a few oddments of my own, and yet I feel sure he must have seen the articles in your paper. This information is at first so correct and so exactly the same as Mr. W.'s, and so *also is one important mistake!* He writes of "the results of an examination of the official reports of the Mint" (using Mr. Wilkinson's own words) as if he had read it in Capt. Haas' article in the Dutch Monthly Journal—how comes it then that in alluding to said journal he also uses Mr. Wilkinson's title "*Der Nederlandsch Tijdschrift voor Postzegelkund.*" Could they both *accidentally* make *three identical* mistakes in quoting the name of the journal? I really think that Mr. Leavy, writing for the *Phil. Stamp News* of 30th March, must have seen the first two numbers of the *P.J.G.B.* He has, however, brought Plate IV. Oct. 1858 right on to the "soft thin paper" which appeared in 1862/1864, so what he is going to do with Capt. Haas' Plate V. Oct. 1860, as given by him in the *P.S.N.*, we shall not know until we get their April number. Your January number will make Mr. Leavy re-arrange his collection at this point.

Yours truly,

A. J. WARREN.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have seen two more numbers of the *P.S.N.*, and am glad to see that Mr. Leavy has discovered Mr. Wilkinson as a "recent writer" using also his terminology and technical terms. Has Mr. Leavy no dated samples of stamps on soft paper? Has he found the same retouches on this as on plate 4? Let him follow Mr. W.'s plan of placing stamps by dates, and he will really improve his collection.

AT MERRY MARGATE.

The Assistant Editor P.J.G.B.

MY DEAR MCTAVISH,

I was very sorry that you were unable to attend the Margate Congress; of course

I know that dozens of Societies requested you to act as their representative, but in the fulness of your heart you gave others the chance to achieve success. Well, as I was there, I will tell you all about it. I certainly was a little late for the opening ceremony, but still in plenty of time to dress for dinner. Somebody, a rather officious sort of person, a delegate or somebody, said that on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday there had been a Congress or something when somebody had suggested that somebodies should call themselves a Committee or something and report next year at Edinboro' or somewhere on something.

I do not wish to worry you, however, with little details of that nature, it is the Fourth Congress I wish to tell you about. At about half-past eight the Congress began—I wasn't quite up to time, being with some of the Congress in a funny little room down a few steps—but I arrived in time to rescue a sardine—which fish, never knowing what to call itself, masqueraded as an *hors d'œuvres*. The Congress then partook of turtle soup, so called because *four* dear little turtles went up to London next morning, all addressed to the "Ship and Turtle." It would have marred my pleasure had I thought that *five* turtles left London for Margate. Possibly the Congress *chêf* was too kind hearted a man to wring their necks.

The Congress—all attired in evening dress, some of which had not seen the light of night since the Third Congress—proceeded to grow merry and bright, especially the former. About 10.30 some Mayors and others made a lot of speeches—quite good speeches with a lot of long words, then, at 11 o'clock, somebody wanted to have a game of snooker, the billiard-marker, perspiring from the duties of waiting, said it was 5/- an inch. This seemed cheap for one inch, or even two, or maybe three if close to a pocket, but taking the square of the table, extremely dear. At 12 o'clock, the speeches being over, the Congress left the banqueting hall and disposed itself round little tables. At 1 a.m. a good deal of the Congress went to bed. I saw some off myself. At 2 a.m. there was very little Congress left, only a score or so. At about 2.30 somebody or something said the Congress was over. I was not surprised, as I hadn't seen any of it for a good hour. At 2.45 the last of the Congress was taken up and put in nice white little beds—en route the staircase got bumped. I wouldn't mention names for the world—but as I was present in the spirit to nearly the very last you may, my dear Angus, be quite sure that my report is absolutely veracious. I even felt the places on the staircase where the bumps had been.

Congresses are a great success, and ought to be held every week.

Ever thine,

CUTHBERT MCKSOT.

P.S.—My name—Russian extraction—is pronounced as if it were written Cuth-bert, Soole-em.

P.P.S.—After all, I am glad you were unable to go to Margate, after Birmingham you wanted more than one year's rest.

P.P.P.S.—The following private advertisement has, I am told, been cut out of a local Thanet paper:—

"Will the Congress gentleman who wrote his life history on the shirt front of another Congress gentleman, please not take an *indelible* ink pencil with him to Edinboro'."

Fourth Philatelic Congress of Great Britain.

As all the philatelic papers are devoting pages of their valuable space to full reports of the recent Congress, we have decided but briefly to refer to the historic event. Lack of space prevents our publishing anything like a comprehensive report so, instead of spoiling the ship for a $\frac{1}{2}$ d. of tar, we will use practically none of that sometimes useful resinous substance.

Briefly then the following items, mostly extracted from the *Monthly Report*, convey the sum total of the business transacted.

The proposition of the Society of Stamp Collectors "to consider details and possibilities to establish in London a central rendezvous for Philatelists," and that of the City of London Philatelic Society "to form a National Philatelic Association," were left in the hands of Committees, which were duly elected, and will report the result of their deliberations to the next Congress. The proposition of the North London Philatelic Society, "drawing attention to the great danger of forgeries," was favourably accepted and referred to the "Forgery" Sub-Committee. Several propositions, *e.g.*, "to admit Delegates of Exchange Clubs to the Congress" and "to form a National Philatelic Association of all Philatelic Societies and Exchange Clubs for the purpose of eliminating fraudulent collectors," etc., were defeated.

Baron Leijonhufvud's resolution that automatic franking machines for postal purposes are a danger to philately, was submitted to the meeting and defeated.

Major Evans delivered a most entertaining "Closing Address," which should certainly be perused by all collectors with a keen sense of humour.

The social side of the Congress, especially the banquet, was a huge success, due to the untiring energy of Mr. Léon Adutt, Mr. Armstrong, and other members of the Committee.



MAY 20, 1912.

Philately at Home.

The April number of the *London Philatelist* contains an editorial wherein Mr. M. P. Castle pleads on behalf of the neglected "entire." We trust his remarks may induce one or two readers to take up this branch of our hobby.

Mr. Castle is also responsible for a lengthy, and extremely interesting and valuable first instalment of his paper dealing with the 1860-1875 issues of British Guiana. We venture to make an extract relating to the thick paper, perforated 12, stamps of 1860.

In default of either official information or knowledge on the part of the printers, I should say that the exact dates of all these issues must be hypothetical, and that the dates I have assigned have been suggested by the examination of dated specimens. I have inspected a considerable number of specimens, a table of which will be found at the end of my notes, and I anticipate, by future additions hereto, that a greater accuracy of the fixing of the several dates of issue may be attained. In the present Catalogues all these issues down to 1861 are only divided into "May 1860" and "1860-63," and they have long and palpably required more definite classification. This issue is rendered quite distinct from all subsequent ones by the nature of the thick white paper employed, which was abandoned after a year or two and of which only isolated examples are found in the subsequent issues. The most noticeable feature herein is the fact that within the short space of, probably, two years the one cent should have appeared in this issue—first on thick and then on thin paper in four entirely different colours, *i.e.*, pale rose, red-brown, deep brown, and black. The reason for the change from rose to red was probably its too close resemblance to the 8c., which in the first printing was brownish-rose (Mr. Pemberton called it brown-rose), while the later printing of the 8c. was in rose, a shade deeper than the 1c., at which time it is probable that the latter had been changed to the red-brown colour. These two shades of the 8c. are not catalogued, but they are absolutely distinct. The one cent, rose, must have had a short life, judging by the difficulty of securing the stamp in an unused condition. It is occasionally found thus very badly perforated, while postmarked specimens are not usually thus defective, and I am inclined to think that these irregularly perforated stamps may have been a rejection by the Post Office. At this date M. Moens and others had scarcely begun

their importations, and therefore this stamp, like many others of that epoch, has become exceedingly rare unused in good condition. The 12c. was printed in two quite distinct shades, lilac and grey. According to dated specimens the former was the first issued, and their present catalogue order should be changed. As to the remaining values, shades may be found in each, notably in the case of the 4c. and 24c., the printings in the deep shades being presumably the earliest. The 24c. unused has always been a rare stamp, and I may call attention to a used pair in my collection showing that thus early there was a use for a 48c. value.

Another valuable contribution is the conclusion of Baron Leijonhufvud's notes dealing with the stamps of Sweden.

The usual budget of "Occasional Notes," New Issue list, etc., complete a capital number of the Royal Society's publication.

The *Monthly Journal* for April contains its usual complement of good things; we find Mr. Charles Lathrop Pack's article entitled, "More about the Brazil 100 Reis of 1894-7" very entertaining. Mr. Pack has put in a good deal of time on these stamps and his researches will be very much appreciated by those numerous collectors who are on the look out for rare varieties of a very common stamp. The following lengthy extract helps to illustrate Mr. Pack's method of procedure.

I find the "projectoscope" very useful for examining stamps. By means of reflectors and a strong electric light, it enlarges the stamps and projects them on a damp white sheet or curtain. I have found nothing better for this purpose.

The illustrations recently published, in connection with my first article upon the 100 reis, were made in 1911, and the statements on some of them as to the earliest dated cancellations in my collection are already obsolete. The earliest dates I now have for the 100 reis stamps with substituted heads are:—

- With 700 reis head, June 26, 1895.
- „ 500 reis head, February 13, 1896.
- „ 200 reis head, April 16, 1895.

I should like to hear from collectors having copies of any of these borrowed heads with earlier cancellation dates.

Some of these 100 reis stamps with earlier cancellations were recently found in a large lot of several thousand copies received from Canada. This was,

indeed, a lucky find! In about 5,000 copies a careful examination disclosed twenty-eight copies with substituted heads, a much greater relative proportion than I have discovered in large lots before. The usual proportion I have found to be about one stamp in each thousand copies. Up to April, 1912, I have carefully examined over 70,000 specimens of the 100 reis. I will, before long, give a complete list or inventory of all the stamps with substituted heads that I have ever seen, with an estimate of the relative rarity of the varieties.

I also expect to publish, as requested, a check list of the varieties with flaws, etc., including those that have not yet been mentioned in print. The difficulties of typography are sometimes responsible for strange results, particularly when the making of the plates and the printing are not executed by the most experienced hands, and this was surely the case in the Rio Mint at that time.

It may be of interest, as well as a surprise to some dealers and collectors, to know that ninety-nine per cent. of the material that I have used in my collection of these stamps during the past year came from American and Canadian sources. Hardly anything has come from Europe, and up to this date (April, 1912) I have received nothing whatever from Brazil or the Argentine Republic, where there are many able and ardent collectors. There must be a large amount of material widely distributed in various dealers' and collectors' hands, which has not been critically examined by any one.

Other contributions of note are Messrs. Ahrens and Thornton's continuation of their article dealing with the 1908-11 provisional issues of Nicaragua, Mr. C. J. Phillips' paper dealing with new Paraguay discoveries, mostly colour trials and essays. This takes the form of a capital addition to Mr. Phillips' recently published handbook. Commander C. W. G. Crawford compiles a very handy little reference list of the perforations of Victoria down to 1883, while we also find another chapter of the translated article dealing with the Rivadavia stamps of the Argentine.

An editorial drawing attention to the Fourth Philatelic Congress, a goodly budget of "Notes," the usual comprehensive list of "New Issues," a further instalment of Mr. D. B. Armstrong's "Philatelic Itinerary of the World," and the usual Societies' Reports complete our brief review.

In the April number of the *Philatelic Record* we find another instalment of Mr. John N. Luff's masterly article dealing with Otto's Printings of Transvaal Stamps. Specialists in the stamps of this country should not miss Mr. Luff's treatise. Mr. J. B. Leavy concludes his paper entitled "The Belgian Postage Stamps of the Nineteenth Century"; as usual his article is largely supplemented by the inclusion of official decrees.

The most interesting contribution in

this month's *Record*, from the general collectors' point of view, is found hidden away under the heading "Notes and News," and consists of a long and capable report of the 320th meeting of the Manchester Philatelic Society, when Mr. J. H. M. Savage read a paper on the stamps of Hayti.

The following extract will, we feel sure, interest many of our subscribers:—

The first issue was engraved on wood, and the paper lithographically tinted in order to prevent forgery, similar to the 1876 "Peace and Commerce" type of France. The designer was M. Laforesterie, a Haytian sculptor, and the engraver and printer, M. G. Richard, of Paris. The stamps were typographed in six panes of 50, five horizontal rows of 10. The value is on a shield, which was interchangeable, small metal blocks being used, which not always being quite the same shape, and not always being fixed in the same position, caused numerous small varieties in the figures of the shield, which permit of this issue being plated. The tinted paper gives the stamps an oily appearance, and varies considerably in depth of colour. Some of the stamps are found printed on the wrong side of the paper and are therefore on white, notably the 1 and 2 cents. A variety occurs on the 5c. which has a dot between the words "Republic" and "D'Hayti," found on the second row of the pane, and it also occurs on the 4th stamp of the second row of the 2c., probably caused by a re-arrangement of the electro-types. The 2c. is also known tête-bêche from the lower rows of one pane and top row of another, with wide margin between; several varieties of these tête-bêches were also shown by Mr. Abbott in his collection, part of which was handed round in conjunction with Mr. Savage's.

The April number of *Griebert's Philatelic Notes and News* contains the first instalment of a capital article entitled "The 'Native' Issues of British Guiana." Mr. A. B. Creeke, Jun., well known as a careful and thorough writer, says that he pleads guilty to "compiling." Mr. Hugo Griebert carefully describes three sheets of forged Cordoba stamps—a task which will enable his readers to see if their own copies are genuine or not. We also find a page of excellent reviews of recent publications and a column of "Facts Worth Noting." The following is extracted:—

A short time ago we came into possession of a peculiar Provisional of Venezuela, which until then had been unknown to us.

It is a well-known fact that during the Revolution of 1902-3 there was a shortage of stamps in the Ciudad Bolivar, otherwise the issues of Carupano and Guyana would have been unnecessary. Moreover, it has not yet been proved that all the stamps issued by the Revolutionary party were really necessary, or that only an unimportant number of sets were used for postal purposes, in order that later on the stamps might be put on the market in large quantities as being Reminders or even Reprints. We are still in the dark as to this, and it is very difficult to prove one thing or the other definitely.

However, all this does not apply to the stamp acquired by us, which is a 5 Centimos, dark green, of the issue of 1900, on the original envelope, bearing

the following surcharge made by means of a violet rubber stamp:—"VALE 50 CS." besides which the stamp bears the autograph of the then Postmaster of Ciudad Bolivar, "Carrasco." It is postmarked with a large control stamp of the State of Guyana and shows the inscription, "Fiscalia de Instruccion Republica-Estado Guyana."

Now if this letter had been addressed to anyone in Venezuela, sceptics might be inclined to consider it as a "philatelic production," but it is interesting to know that it was sent by the firm of Blohm & Co., of Ciudad Bolivar, to the well-known firm of bankers, Messrs. Fredk. Huth & Co., London, and bears the following postmarks:—

1. Correo Ciudad Bolivar, 20 Diciembre 1902.
2. Port of Spain (date illegible).
3. The London arrival postmark, 12. January 1903.

By means of the surcharge, the 5 Centimos stamp had been changed into a 50 Centimos (the right postage for a single foreign letter), and was duly delivered to the addressee in London without any extra charge.

The April *Stamp Collector* contains a capital editorial, wherein we find sound advice advocating the cause of federation in the world of stamp societies. Mr. W. H. Milnes Marsden contributes another instalment of his article entitled "The Stamps of Bosnia (to 1906)." Mr. C. H. T. Hayman also continues to write interestingly about the 1853-1883 Issues of Chili.

An illustrated interview with Dr. Harry Brice, a paper read before the Birmingham Society by Mr. C. A. Stephenson, dealing with the Early Stamps of Victoria, and the usual budget of "Notes," "Reviews," "Correspondence," etc., all make our Birmingham exchange of value to collectors.

From Mr. Stephenson's paper we make a short extract:—

The "Registration" stamp of December, 1854, was also engraved by Mr. Calvert, and is said to have been printed in sheets of 100, in ten horizontal rows of ten, imperforate, also rouletted. The catalogue price of this stamp is an unfair estimate of the true value of absolutely superb copies, which are exceedingly difficult to obtain.

The "Too Late" stamp, also the work of Mr. Calvert, and said to have been printed in sheets of 100, ten by ten, was issued in July, 1855, the plate of the Registered 1/- being used, and the value "Six Pence" and "Too Late" being inserted afterwards. The original value of the plate is seen below the neck in minute letters. Very fine copies are most difficult to obtain.

The 2/- value, engraved by Mr. Calvert, was arranged in sheets of 100 in two panes of 50. The date of issue of this stamp has been much discussed. 1858, as stated by Gibbons, is undoubtedly wrong. From dated copies on original envelopes, and from reliable information obtained direct from Victoria itself, the middle of March, 1855, can be safely accepted as the correct date of issue.

Subsequent printings were rouletted, and perforated 12.

Early in 1864, the stamp was printed on greenish paper, with watermark a single-lined "2", and perforated 12, also 13. Although these two perforations

are not priced separately the "12" is a long way the rarer, and generally double the price of the "13."

The *World of Stamps* for April, contains further instalments of Mr. L. S. Goldsmith's article dealing with the early stamps of British Guiana, and Mr. Ellis Gee's "New Dies for Old." Both papers are good. Mr. C. S. May, writing about the 1841 stamps of Great Britain, says:—

Several curious errors and varieties have occurred with regard to the corner-letters of these stamps. Probably the rarest of these varieties is the one known as the "Void corner error."

The first copy was found and chronicled in 1905, although the existence of the stamp had been known for some 20 or 25 years previously. Other copies have turned up since then, and now there are about five or six known. The error is on the first stamp on the second row of the sheets printed from plate 77, and if correctly lettered would be BA., but in this variety the right corner is entirely void.

The mistake was soon noticed, for the authorities had the missing letter inserted before many sheets had been printed, and the plate was then again registered at Somerset House, this time as plate 77B. A specimen has recently changed hands for a sum of £18. This variety is undoubtedly very scarce, and it is curious that it should have escaped notice for so many years, as the blank corner space is very conspicuous.

Another variety, quite as interesting, if not as rare as that just quoted, is stated to have a small inverted G in the left lower corner and a large I in the other. Most readers will probably be aware that for printing these corner letters on the plates of this and the following line-engraved series, there were four different types of alphabets used. The G and the I on this stamp are from entirely different types of punches, and experts have been puzzling for a long time as to how two sets of punches should have been used in the preparation of one plate. My own theory as to the cause of the error is that as in the previous case the left-hand corner had been missed when the engraver was adding the letters to the unfinished plate. The mistake perhaps remained unnoticed until the plate was being cleaned, when the error would probably be remedied by a different workman, who might easily take a G punch from the wrong set of alphabets. The fact of it being impressed inverted is of little importance, as cases of inverted corner letters are not at all scarce, although the letter S is found most commonly in this state.

Several copies have been chronicled from time to time with doubly printed corner-letters. This variety seems rare, for one of our leading dealers recently sold a mint copy, lettered ES with double E at left, for £5.

Other varieties of these stamps are described in the same interesting fashion.

A paper dealing with Mafeking stamps, a page of notes contributed by Mr. P. C. Bishop, an excellent list of New Issues and other features all help to make our new contemporary very readable.

In the April *West-End Philatelist* we find another chapter of Mr. A. J. Séfi's "Postage Stamps of Malta," an article entitled "The Blueing" of some early Line-Engraved Stamps," and a short list of New Issues.

We extract the following information

referring to the early halfpenny stamps of Malta:—

Dated copies are very hard to find, and copies on the entire more so; this is especially the case with the earlier issues, when the internal correspondence was of a very limited nature, and the large majority of stamps used received the "A 25" portion of the obliteration, leaving the date on the envelope from which the stamp, if it was to be kept, was usually detached. Another reason for the scarcity of these local stamps is the number of small firework makers in the Island; these people required large quantities of paper for their purposes, and so were in the habit of making house-to-house visits to purchase old correspondence, newspapers, etc. The fact, also, that letters were not delivered to the addressees, but had to be called for at the Police Station, did not encourage the use of the Postal Service, except when no better means of conveying a communication was available.

The March *British Philatelist* contains a further instalment of Messrs. Bernstein and Nissen's "British Stamps used Abroad." We also find a capital budget of "Notes" relating to recent varieties and an excellent article entitled "What is a Worn Plate." The following extract will interest our readers:—

In hand-printing from line-engraved plates the procedure is briefly—dabbing the ink over the plate and into the lines of the design, wiping off the surplus ink (first with rags and finally with the hand) and then giving a last touch with a little whitening rubbed on the side of the hand.

Now, a great deal depends on the wiping. Naturally, the more the printer wipes the more ink he removes; and an extra rub here and there to take off the remains of the superfluous ink, may also result in clearing out of the interstices some of the ink which was intended for the stamp—result, shallowness of print, not lightness of impression; and this is put down to the wearing of the plate.

Further, in wiping the plate, a "wipe" along a fine, shallow line will clear out most of the ink; whilst a "wipe" across it will have practically no effect. An instance of this possible difficulty for the printer may be found in the design for the Canadian stamps of the late reign, the background of which was materially altered, because it was feared by the makers of the plate that the printers would be unable to avoid clearing out the ink from the lines of the ground-work; and an alteration was made so that less care, or skill, might be required in preparing the plate for printing the stamps—an alteration which those philatelists who have seen impressions from the die do not consider an improvement.

The effect of this over-wiping, or unskilful handling, may be accentuated by want of depth in the lines of the engraving, as in the old Penny Black, and the earlier printings in red; and this theory is supported by the fact that no one looks for "worn" copies of Die II.

The April 13th *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* contains an illustrated interview with Mr. W. H. Milnes Marsden. We also find a lengthy and interesting instalment of Mr. D. B. Armstrong's "The Postage Stamps of the Nigerias."

The current chapter deals with the stamps of the Oil Rivers and Niger Coast Protectorates. A long list of rarities recently displayed by Mr. Walter Scott,

and the usual budget of New Issues, Editorial Notes, etc., complete a good number of our Chancery Lane exchange.

A fortnight later Baron Erik Leijonhufvud is the "Philatelist of To-day." We also find under the heading "If Stamps Were Abolished," the Baron's resolution which he proposed at the Margate Congress.

Another Congress paper, and a very lengthy one too, is Mr. Wilmot Corfield's "The Provision of a Central Postal and Philatelic Museum in London." From a perusal of this paper, admirable as it is, we think that it would make a fitting first donation to the proposed Museum. Mr. Corfield sub-divides it into four parts, namely:—Part I. *The Museum*. Part II. *Library*. Part III. *The Stamp Collection*. Part IV. *General Remarks*; while his introduction equals all four put together.

We venture to extract the following:—

III. *The Stamp Collection.*

This should be continued on the lines of the Tapling Collection, the principal features of which are too well known to you all to call for re-description here. Its completion should be contemplated in sections:—

("a"). *The filling-in of the blanks in the existing collection, most of which have revealed themselves during the acquirement of new philatelic knowledge since Mr. Tapling's death.*

This section of the Society's field of operations would prove the most expensive and demand the attention of the more experienced philatelists. A supreme effort should be made, keeping well in view with a single eye the single-specimen idea. I mean by this, of course, that such things as *tête-bêche* pairs should not be ignored, and plate numbers considered, but in moderation. I would, for instance, in the case of the British "penny-reds" include the first and last numbers, and the three rarest of the others only, indicating in a note that certain plates apparently were never represented. A great deal of useful modification might be done by wise condensation, leading to economy of space without loss of efficiency. Where gaps occur by reason of the rarity or costliness of originals, permanent photographs of the stamps missing should be inserted. These photographs would not only be of high educational value, but would, there is but little doubt, on attracting the attention of collectors, lead to many gifts of stamps to fill the *lacunæ* thus evidenced more speedily than some of us may suppose.

("b"). *The creation of a new collection dovetailing by rearrangement with that already existing, so as to bring the whole up to the end of the last century and of the Queen's reign.*

Care would be taken to round off each country at the point most appropriate to the maintenance of this principle. No hard and fast rule of date could be followed, but in the end sections ("a") and ("b") would form a complete "single specimen" collection of the Victorian Era, and should be permanently kept at the British Museum.

("c"). *Stamps of the Edwardian period.*

("d"). *Stamps of the Georgian period, and afterwards.*

These would be fresh collections free from the Tapling influence, and might, if necessary, be housed elsewhere than at Bloomsbury.

("e"). *Supplemental Collections in albums, or otherwise, presented by specialists or variously acquired, but kept distinct from the stamps in the draw-out panels.*

These would be open for the reception of Fiscals and all other classes of stamps, and would in course of time grow into a series of no small value. Legacies to all sections could be anticipated with certainty.

A short chapter of Mr. D. B. Armstrong's "Postage Stamps of the Nigerias," Congress News, and other odds and ends, all help to fill an excellent number of our contemporary.

The May 11th edition of the *Fortnightly* is mostly dedicated to Fourth Philatelic Congress palaver; those of our readers who desire a concise history of the business side of the Congress would do well to procure this number of our contemporary. The "lighter" side of philately is represented by a continuation of Mr. D. B. Armstrong's "Postage Stamps of the Nigerias," a short article contributed by Mr. A. E. Hopkins, dealing with Leeward Islands stamps; an illustrated interview with Mr. E. D. Bacon, a column of Mr. Irwin Faris' New Zealand Notes, and the usual list of New Issues, etc. Last, and by no means least, we find a column of Congress Jottings which deal most exclusively with the festive side of the gathering.

Although we maintain our own funny man we venture to make an odd extract or two; if O.O.F.M. reads them it will, we hope, spur him on to better efforts.

It was distinctly kind of the Lords of the Admiralty to station a cruiser in the offing to protect the Port of Margate during our stay. Other wines were equally well looked after.

Presumably the particular turtle told off to pose in the foreground of the Congress photograph was a specially dignified member of the species, so it was rather *infra dig.* of one of the Delegates to address it as "Bill," and seek to engage it in play. Some men have no sense of veneration whatever.

His Worship the Mayor of the Manchester Ship Canal wore no civic regalia, and his visits to the Lord Warden Hotel at Dover, and other institutions, were only of a semi-official character.

Where *did* that turtle go? There is a weird rumour that after listening to the Junior Delegate for Dundee on the subject of Plate 70, the unfortunate reptile gave a gasp of despair, two-stepped unsteadily to the cliff-edge, and was seen no more.

The *Philatelic Circular* for May, delivered at our sanctum on May 7th or 8th, is to be congratulated on being the first stamp paper out with Congress reports. True, these reports are rather brief, but they are readable, and first news of a great national event is always worth having.

Correspondence, Reviews, extracts from the daily press, etc., make good reading.

The *Monthly Report* for May contains Mr. T. W. Hall's paper dealing with the early issues of the Argentine, and the completion of Mr. Franz Reichenheim's "Prepayment of Correspondence in Money in European Countries." Both articles will be much appreciated.

A page of capital Philatelic Crumbs, a brief report of the Congress, Reviews, etc., complete our brief review.

Philately in the Colonies and Elsewhere.

Recent numbers of the *Philatelic Gazette* have all contained a good deal of interesting matter. In the copy dated April 1st we find a continuation of Major F. L. Palmer's monumental article dealing with the postal issues of the Philippines. We also notice a short article entitled "Canal Zone First Issue," another dealing with the postmarks to be found on stamps used in Tripoli, and a good budget of readable odds and ends.

A fortnight later we find Mr. Charles Lathrop Pack's article entitled "More About Brazil 100 Reis, 1894-97." Another chapter of Major Palmer's article; a paper dealing with the perforation varieties of recent low value U.S.A. Stamps, and an article entitled, "Abbreviations on Postage Stamps," contributed by Mr. Clarence V. Webb, all constitute good reading.

Mr. Webb's article contains a number of careless mistakes, to wit, we are told that—

Sarawak with its two issues (*sic*) should not be overlooked. The first issue, which consists only of one stamp has in the corners "J.B.R.S.," which stand for the very impressive interpretation of "James Brooks, Rajah of Sarawak."

We also learn that—

The Figi Islands stamps originally had a monogram consisting of the letters "C.R.," meaning "Cochambau Rex."

Dear old Cochambau of the Figi Islands what a stumbling block you are!

The principal item in the March number of the *Australian Philatelist* is the final instalment of Mr. D. B. Armstrong's "History of the Early Issues of West Australia. We also find several readable short articles, notably one entitled, "Quantities and Prices," wherein

"Verax" draws attention to the many anomalies of pricing which occur in Gibbons' catalogue. Regarding the "Diadem" series of New South Wales he says:—

It is practically certain that the first perforating machine installed in 1860 gauged 11½-12. About March, 1861, it is shown, two new machines were landed from England and both of these, in all probability, gauged 12½. This would mean that all stamps from 1860 to the middle of 1861 were perforated 11½-12; but it does not follow that all after that date were 12½, as the 2d. value was perforated 11½-12 up to March, 1862 (when it became obsolete), and even some of the later De La Rue series are known 11½-12.

It seems very likely that the 12½ machines were used on all values from the middle of 1861, with the exception of the 2d. value. If this is correct we would get the following quantities:—

1d. perf. 12.	1,988,700	..	perf. 12½,	4,264,860
2d. "	6,426,720	..	"	—
3d. "	269,600	..	"	809,400
5d. "	18,500	..	"	125,000
6d. "	686,000	..	"	3,134,900
8d. "	21,600	..	"	225,000
1/- "	160,600	..	"	1,376,500

It is mere supposition to accept all values as perf. 12½ after the middle of 1861, but is born out by the comparative rarity of these stamps. I have not included them in my list of quantities versus prices, but if the reader cares to accept my reasoning he will see as a proof of it in that 21,600 8d. perforated 12, were issued and are catalogued at £6 and £10, whilst only 18,500 of the 5d. perf. 12 which is catalogued at 15/-, and I maintain is a rarer stamp than the 8d.

The March number of the *Australian Stamp Journal* devotes nearly all of its space to two or three pages of "Items of Interest," mostly clipped from English papers; a chatty, but not very exciting account of a short visit to Hobart and its philatelists; and a brief *résumé* of the most interesting stamps in the collections of Messrs. P. Malone and A. Butler, of Hobart.

Societies' Reports, a list of New Issues, etc., complete our brief review.

Recent numbers of the *Philadelphia Stamp News* have contained instalments of Mr. J. B. Leavy's article entitled "The Postage Stamps of Holland." This article commenced in the March 30th number, and reference to it will be found elsewhere in our columns. We congratulate Mr. Leavy on his method of illustrating the various retouches, a better plan, if the services of a clever draughtsman can be obtained, than that of illustrating the whole stamp.



Correspondence.

To the Editor, "P.J. of G.B."

Casilla Corneo 1588,

Buenos Aires.

DEAR SIR,

NEWS FROM PARAGUAY.

Another revolution is in progress in the little Republic of Paraguay, and in reading one of the local papers the other day I came across the account of an interview with a prominent merchant of Asuncion, who is at present staying in this city. It appears that the Treasury is in a very bad way, and that the salaries of the civil servants are many months in arrear, and I translate the following paragraph as illustrating a curious phase of life in Paraguay:—

—Algo más: los únicos empleados que se hallan en mejores condiciones son los del Correo y Telégrafos, que se hacen pagar con estampillas, que luego las cambian por mercaderías entre el comercio ó las colocan, en pequeñas cantidades, entre el público. . . Pero estas también llevan camino de agotarse. como se han agotado ya muchas cosas en el país. . .

"Something more: the only employés who are in a favourable position are those of the Postal and Telegraphic Department, as they are paid in postage stamps, which they exchange with the commercial community for provisions or other necessities of life, or they place them in small quantities amongst collectors. But these also are beginning to give out, like many other things in the country."

Yours faithfully,

A. H. DAVIS.

To the Editor of the "P.J.G.B."

DEAR SIR,

"INFORMATION WANTED."

"A Correspondent" would be much obliged if you could give him answers to the following two questions:—

1. If penny postage came into force in the United Kingdom on January 1st, 1840 (as he believes that it did), how was postage prepaid (or paid) until the issue of postage stamps in the following May?

2. In all the stamps—British and Colonial—bearing a portrait of the late King Edward VII., produced by Messrs. De La Rue, there is a very distinct coloured dot just within the profile of the forehead, a little above the eyebrow. What is the meaning of it? Is it merely due to a whim of the artist or engraver or does it represent a wart or some such blemish in the Royal visage, although no such thing appears in photographs? Cromwell's "Paint me as I am" is brought to one's mind.

"MEDICO."



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

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[PRICE 2D.]

♦ ♦ Editorial. ♦ ♦

AT the Congress and elsewhere there has lately been a lot of talk relating to the forming of a central philatelic club for London; a residential club would be a monumental undertaking, but it will probably come into existence in the fulness of time.

In the meanwhile we would suggest that a Society be formed with the following objects. That members should have the full use, all the year round, of a well appointed Club-room at one of the well known London Hotels, where they could see the principal magazines, philatelic and otherwise, conduct their private correspondence and invite friends. That during the summer season social outings might be arranged, the expenses of such outings to be pooled by the members taking part, and usually limited to the expenditure, wines excepted, of only a few shillings. A Committee to be formed to outline suggestions for such social gatherings. That dealers may become members, with full privileges but that dealing, private or otherwise, be strictly prohibited on the Club premises or during the various outings.

Only gentlemen over 21 years of age to be elected to the privilege of membership and applicants to furnish undeniable

references. Application forms to go before the Committee and new names to be balloted for. As the proposed new Club will not clash, or compete, in any way with the many estimable Stamp Societies already in existence it is to be hoped that this suggestion will meet with favour; in our opinion many of the existing Societies are too zealous of their own importance, while they lack that touch of social Bohemianism which is necessary.

The membership of the proposed Society to be limited to 100. As there will *not* be an exchange packet section the Society will not be burdened with the names of philatelic dead-heads, and amateur dealers who only join stamp clubs with the sole idea of disposing of their *duplicates*.

As the proposed Society would not be established for the benefit of any one member, at the expense of other members, any balance standing to the credit of the Society at the end of the year to be placed, in the nature of some entertainment, at the members' disposal.

In briefly outlining the above suggestions we have not overlooked the fact that stamp collectors, especially during the summer months, are more prone to a

country, or town ramble, or an evening game of whist or bridge than to a close study of the minutiae of philately. *Pour-quoi pas?* We feel quite sure that such a Society will appeal to many of our readers, especially were they able to rely on the fact that dealing will be strictly forbidden and that gentlemen, known for

their fondness of sitting on their neighbours' door steps—with a selection of stamps for sale—will not be elected.

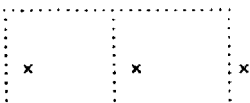
We shall be pleased to hear from any of our readers who are interested in the above scheme with the idea of their forming a Committee and proceeding with the formation of the Club.

The Early Perforations of New Zealand.

BY IRWIN FARIS.

(Continued from page 97.)

I have also seen specimens with the vertical lines of perforation at other than right angles from the horizontal lines, which indicates a single-line machine, as it is improbable of occurrence with comb machines, the vertical "teeth" of which are usually parallel to each other, or very nearly so.



I hold no brief for the single-line theory. This machine *may* in its earliest stage have been comb for a short period (probably *very* short), but in the absence of proof, or some clear indication, I am inclined to think otherwise. Mr. Hausburg, who believes it to have been a comb, appears unable to suggest how long it remained such, for in 1907 he wrote:—

"The first Government machine was a comb one, about 12½, and does not appear to have been very satisfactory. Pins *soon* became broken and bent, and it *was superseded* by a single-line machine of approximately the same gauge, or *more probably the old machine was fitted with a single line of pins.*" (The italics are mine.)

How soon? When was it superseded or refitted? If it was originally a comb for a short time, it may have been refitted during latter half of 1864, and so account for the compounds 13×12½ during that period. As stated, however, I incline to the belief that it was always a single-line and not refitted until 1866.

I can assure Mr. Hausburg, the *A.P.*, and Mr. Ulph (referred to in latter's article) that I do not approach this question in any controversial mood, but in the same spirit that I feel sure they do, viz., actuated by a sincere desire to ascertain the *facts*, and to put forward opinions and theories for the benefit of Philately in general.

Regarding the Compound stamp that I hold, Mr. Hausburg considers it essential that I shall state upon which side the perf. 13 occurs,

holding that it could only be either at top or bottom, not at both nor at either side. This opinion and his further remarks relative thereto, are quite correct as regards a comb machine, but have no bearing whatever as regards a single-line machine, which many collectors hold that this machine was. I may however state that the perf. 13 is at the bottom (foot) of stamp and could therefore have come from either a comb or single-line machine. It is obvious that such compound stamps could have occurred only at Dunedin; but although probable, it by no means follows that used copies would *all* bear the Dunedin or Otago postmark, as Dunedin was a distributing centre and sent supplies of stamps to other districts, also persons purchasing stamps at Dunedin were quite at liberty to carry them when travelling and to use them for postage elsewhere or to send them elsewhere as small remittances in prepayment of postage, or in payment of any small indebtedness. Coming to the question of whether the two machines worked contemporaneously, I believe that they *did* for some months during the latter half of 1864, and that, as stated in *S.C.F.* article (clause "f"), it was then that the compounds of 13 and 12½ occurred.

Mr. Hausburg's mention of the necessity for using an accurate gauge-card calls for little comment from advanced collectors, and is evidently intended for juniors. No advanced collector trusts entirely to printed perforation gauges. Needle pointed spring compasses greatly assist. One of the best methods of distinguishing "Dunedin" perfs. is to compare and measure the perforations (under a strong magnifying glass) with the perforations on a perf. 2d. no watermark, of 1863, which is always 13, or the deep black-brown 6d., Star, which is (I believe) nearly always 13. The comparison should be made with various parts of the stamps, placing holes over holes, projections over projections, points to points, etc., etc. Mr. Hausburg says it is "possible" that the 13 machine ceased work

before the 12½ machine commenced. Most things are "possible," but the reason given in this case, viz., the temporary loss of a bundle of sheets of stamps, hardly amounts to probability, being a matter which would be soon known to the officer responsible for their value, and a further loss could have been easily guarded against.

Even were imperf. stamps found dated 1864 (as Mr. Hausburg suggests there may be) the fact would not prove that an interval existed after the last use of the 13 and before the first use of the 12½ machines; as it does not follow that *all* stamps received imperf. at Dunedin were perforated there. It is not only possible, but probable, that when consignments arrived a portion would be required at once for immediate issue (imperf.), and the remainder be perforated. It is also probable that many imperf. stamps purchased prior to the use of the 13 machine would be held by purchasers and be used after its advent; or even after the advent of the 12½ machine. There is nothing to prevent me from using some *to-day* if I desired to!

Mr. Hausburg says: ". . . . if an unfinished sheet, or sheets, were sent from Auckland and finished in Dunedin" I think it highly probable that *many* unfinished (*i.e.* partly perforated) sheets were so sent to Dunedin, that most of such which arrived during last half of 1864 were finished there, and that such as arrived after 1864 (or after cessation of 13 machine) were *cut* apart through the interspaces not perforated. The latter practice would, in a measure, account for so many specimens being found "clipped" at sides or top or bottom.

I have had many talks on this subject with an advanced and expert collector, who was one of the first printers in business in Dunedin, and who was actively employed at his trade during the years in question. He remembers Fergusson & Mitchell importing and setting up their perforating machine, which addition to their plant was considered "enterprise" in those days. He informs me that the machines of those years were slow affairs, worked by hand, one man turning a handle whilst another man moved forward the sheet after each line of perforation was made. So far this description agrees with Mr. Hausburg's, but my friend adds the following material and instructive information, viz., that in these cases *all the horizontal lines were perforated before starting to perforate the vertical lines (or vice versa)*. Therefore in the printing office at Auckland there would at times be lying a stack of sheets perforated only in one direction and waiting to be perforated in the other direction. If before the latter operation were completed, a supply had to be hurriedly made up for despatch by some unexpected mail, or to catch a mail closing earlier than anticipated, leaving no time in which to finish the per-

forating, the sheets would be forwarded as they were (partly imperf.) in preference to allowing the supply to miss the mail; because in those days mails were very infrequent and irregular, and advantage had to be taken of every opportunity to get them through. Moreover, printing, perforating, etc., was *very* slow, and stocks of stamps did not accumulate as now, therefore supplies had to be sent around in small lots and as frequently as possible. I asked him whether he thought that the Postmaster at Dunedin would trouble to get incompletely perforated sheets finished there, and he replied that he considered it almost certain that he would. The perforating was a new idea, and not only the officials but the public were interested in it, this method of separation being quicker and handier than using scissors or knife. The postal officials gave much attention to this matter, even to the extent of using "brass rule" for the "serrated" and "pin" perms., and rouletting, before the advent of the Dunedin perforating machine. The Post Office was busy only on occasions, the officials had ample time on their hands, and it was only a step to Fergusson & Mitchell's printing room.

Let us now consider the *A.P.* article.

It states that my "history of the first perforations . . . was compiled from *official sources*." I have shown this to be incorrect.

In comparing my statement with Mr. Hausburg's statement regarding the 12½ machine, it says: "These statements vary sufficiently to create confusion in the minds of collectors."

Mr. Hausburg shows that the statements *do not* vary, but that the "confusement" is due to the *A.P.* having omitted a vital portion of his statement.

It says: "The only way to account for Mr. Hausburg's mention of a new machine is, etc., etc. This point Mr. Faris may be able to clear up."

There is nothing to clear up. Mr. Hausburg merely said that there *may* have been a new machine, but that *more probably* the old machine was refitted.

It says: "Where the latter (*i.e.* myself) is rather hazy in his statement is where he says that from June 1862 to 1863, until latter half of 1864, imperf. sheets, and probably partly perforated sheets also, were perforated in Dunedin."

I have shown, both in my *S.C.F.* article and herein, that partly perforated sheets could have been received in Dunedin and finished there during the latter half of 1864. Therefore there is nothing "hazy" in the statement made.

It says: "As the official machine did not come upon the scene until about the latter half of 1864, there could not have been any perforated sheets prior to that date."

I distinctly stated this in my *S.C.F.* article, see clause "b."

It says: "When perforated stamps were a novelty, it is not likely that either the Government officials or the public troubled themselves about a few perforations missed on a sheet."

A long Official experience has shown me that officials give greater attention to the details of a new idea or innovation than to those of long-standing customs. As explained, there were possibly not only a few sheets partly imperf. through oversight reaching Dunedin, but probably many sheets only half perforated. In the latter case the officials would almost certainly have them finished at Dunedin.

It says: "Mr. Ulph notes that some of the perforated stamps in his possession are cut apart with scissors or knife."

This has hardly any bearing on the question. They were probably cut apart by the public. "Custom dies hard," and many persons would, for a time, continue the use of scissors or knife.

It says: "The 3d. deep mauve was in use imperf. in May, 1867."

I presume this means that Mr. Ulph possesses a specimen so dated. This does not prove that it was "in use" (*i.e.*, on issue) on that date. Even if they were on issue on that date, it proves little, because the 3d. was a comparatively slow-selling denomination and stocks obtained before June, 1864 may have lasted in some offices until May, 1867, or what is more probable is that Mr. Ulph's stamp was one held by a purchaser and used long (perhaps years) after purchase. At the present day it is not unusual to see Queen's Head issues on letters passing through the Post Office—stamps which must have been purchased 11 or 12 years ago, and these would bear the date 1911!

It says: "The Dunedin machine must have become very decrepit as the later dates show uneven perforations."

It is not clear whether this means "uneven" (*i.e.*, not straight) lines of perforation, or that the perfs. were rough and not cleanly cut, with perhaps a pin here and there missing or bent.

Assuming the latter, the machine would naturally get worse towards the end of its career, but the principal cause of rough perfs. was the practice of perforating 2 or 3 sheets at the one time. All the copies of 13 Star that I possess are fairly straight in line and with clean-cut perfs. Some of the "no water-marks" and Pelures are slightly rougher, due perhaps to texture of paper. The *A.P.* in this respect contradicts itself, for further on it says: "In all the copies perf. 13, the holes are all in line, clean-cut and of the same gauge." I cannot reconcile their two statements.

It says: "Mixed perforations were at that time certainly rare (probably very rare), but afterwards those with one vertical perf. about 13 became common and are still fairly so."

There were *no* "mixed" perfs. of full-faces at any time. There were "compounds" in 1864, as I have shown (*viz.*, $13 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$), and others in (about) 1871, *viz.*, $10 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, but no others during the interim. The *A.P.* probably refers to stamps of unequal gauge from the same single-line machine, which are not philatelically recognized as compounds, the "perf. 13" referred to being the $12\frac{1}{2}$. I do not understand the words "and are still fairly so." As I pointed out (and Mr. Hausburg previously) the Government machine was $12\frac{1}{2}$ to $12\frac{3}{4}$ or 13 (bare) whilst the Dunedin machine was never *under* 13 to $13\frac{1}{2}$.

It says: "Mr. Ulph has a pair of 2d., dated March, 1865, showing a clean-cut perforation $12\frac{1}{2}$ all round. The machine which punched the holes could not have been in use more than six months."

The machine of June, 1864, as I showed, gave *clean* holes of $12\frac{1}{2}$ perf., and this specimen of March, 1865, was doubtless from this machine.

He would indeed be a wise man who could definitely state by looking at a stamp how long the machine that perforated it had been in use. The stamp so referred to was perforated at most eight or nine months after the $12\frac{1}{2}$ machine started, yet the *A.P.* states definitely that from the appearance of the stamp the period could not have been more than six months. Why?

In any case, the stamp may have been perforated even in June, 1864 (or when the $12\frac{1}{2}$ machine started), and have been held unused until March, 1865.

It says: "Thus, any stamps between $12\frac{1}{2}$ and 13 must belong to the Government machine."

This is exactly what I said, and Mr. Hausburg before me. It then proceeds to deal with the condition (wear) of the plates. This is not an altogether reliable factor in deciding dates, as the condition, or wear, varies considerably, even in different parts of the same plate (as shown in the same sheet of stamps) due to uneven printing causing greater wear in certain places. I should prefer to see specimens before forming any opinion.

It says that "some of these specimens gauge 13 and some $13\frac{1}{2}$." I have never heard of any gauge exceeding $13\frac{1}{2}$ (Dunedin machine), and all others are, I think, slightly *under* 13 (*i.e.* $12\frac{3}{4}$ full). It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to decide between the gauges "13 bare" and "13 full" by merely measuring; and in distinguishing between Government and Dunedin perfs. we must, in addition to measuring, study other characteristics, remembering that the former perf. is always slightly *less*, and the latter slightly *over* the actual 13.

It says: "If a collector can show a full face measuring 13 to $13\frac{1}{2}$ horizontally top and bottom, and $12\frac{1}{2}$, more or less, at the sides, we will acknowledge, etc."

I presume the gauges meant are 13 to 13½ and 12½ to 12¾.

How could it be Dunedin perf. top and bottom if the 12½ machine was a comb? If it was a single-line why should the Dunedin perf. be confined to top and bottom, and the 12½ to the sides?

I fear that I have made this article rather long, but thought it advisable to deal with each of the points raised, which I have done to the best of my ability; and in the hope that the correspondence will lead to a wider study of the question and induce other collectors to chronicle the results of their investigations.

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.

Great Britain. Under the heading, "A 'Georgian' Find", the *British Philatelist* for May chronicles the Halfpenny King George, die I., with the 14 perforation:—

"In forwarding the stamp, for a sight of which we are greatly indebted to Dr. Frederick, our publishers considerably broke the news gently.

"It was, however, not only a surprise but a shock, to find that any of the Georgian stamps had been perforated with a machine of the old gauge, for it was officially announced that the new stamps would all be perforated with the new machines, which give 15 by 14.

"Dr. Frederick's discovery is the Halfpenny (type I), with head of King George,

PERFORATED 14 ALL ROUND.

or, to be strictly accurate, 14 horizontally by 14½ vertically; the copy is used, the postmark being 'Gorleston-21 AU. 11.'"

Adhesive. King George. Die I. Perf. 14.
½d. green.

Morocco Agencies. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., have shewn us the current 1d. stamp overprinted "Morocco Agencies" in two lines at the top and "10 Centimos" at the foot.

Adhesive.
"10 Centimos" on 1d. carmine.

Cayman Islands.—Mr. A. Léon Adutt very kindly tells us that he has received the following:—

"POST OFFICE NOTICE."

"Postage and Revenue stamps (bearing the effigy of His Majesty King George V.) of the following denominations will be on sale at the Georgetown Post Office at 10 a.m. on April 24th next, viz.:— ½d., 2d., 2s., 3s.

By order,

A. BODDEN,

"April 22nd, 1912."

Postmaster.

And that he has also received the stamps:—

½d. green.
2d. pale grey.
2s. lilac and blue on pale blue.
3s. green and violet on white.

Johore. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the current 8 cent stamp surcharged "3 Cents."

8c. lilac and blue, surcharged as above.

New Zealand. *Aitutaki.* Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have kindly sent us the ½d. King's Head stamp of New Zealand overprinted in red, for use as above. The *Australian Philatelist* also chronicles the current 2½d. stamp.

Adhesives.
½d. green, overprinted in red. Perf. 14 x 15.
2½d. blue. " " " 14.

Nine. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. also tell us that they have the 6d. and 1/- values overprinted in blue.

Adhesives. King's Heads. Perf. 14 x 14½.
6d. carmine.
1/- vermilion.

Queensland. The following item of news is extracted from the April *Australian Stamp Journal*:—

"We have found amongst our stock a used pair of the 3d. value perf. 12½ x 11."

Adhesive. Wmk. Cr. and A. Perf. 12½ x 11.
3d. pale brown, Queen's Head.

The *Australian Philatelist* also lists the current 9d. with the 11 perforation.

South Australia. Mr. W. H. M. Marsden has shewn us the 4d. violet (aniline) of 1890, perforated 10 and 11½ mixed. It is perf. 10 at the sides and 11½ at the bottom, but at the top there is a row of the 10 gauge through the name "South Australia," and two rows of the 11½ gauge above that. There can be little doubt that the original 10 perforation in the vertical rows being so much out of place, the 11½ machine was used to correct this defect.

There is, however, no sign of patching at the back as in the case of recent mixed perforations of New Zealand.

Tasmania. The *Australian Philatelist* says: The 4d., value from the cleaned or new plate, has now made its appearance perforated 12½. The color is quite different to those perforated 11. We have also received the 6d., in a new shade of color—

4d. brown-ochre, perf. 12½ small holes.
6d. dull carmine-lake, perf. 12½ small holes.

West Australia. The *Australian Stamp Journal* chronicles the 8d. value on Crown and A paper.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. also tell us they have received the 6d. value on the same paper, while the *Australian Philatelist* adds the 1/- value to the list.

Adhesives. Wmk. Crown and A.
6d. violet. Perf. 12 × 11½.
8d. yellow-green. Perf. 12½.
1s. green. ? Perf.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Bavaria. We have not, it appears, mentioned that the current 5 and 10 pfennig stamps of Bavaria are coming *tête bêche*. These varieties are from sheets specially printed for making the stamp booklets.

Belgium. To the three values chronicled last month we have to add the 5 fcs. marone design similar to the 10c. only bigger.

Adhesive. Head of King Albert.
5 fcs. marone.

China. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have shown us the following values of the postage due set, ½, 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 20 and 30c., all nicely overprinted in red, with pretty little postmarks and full gum. Trust the wilee Chinees for copying Western methods.

Portugal. *Angola, Mozambique, St. Thome.* Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write us as follows:—

"Don Manuel. We have received supplies of these three overprinted 'Republic', all of the same type as the 2½ reis enclosed. The sets of Angola and St. Thome consist of all values from 2½ to 300 reis, and Mozambique the same with the 500 reis value added, the denominations and colours being exactly the same as those in the set of Cape Verde chronicled by you last month."

United States. Various of our American friends have sent us copies of the current stamps, with values expressed in numerals, in an imperforate condition.

1912. **Adhesives.** Imperforate.
1c. green.
2c. carmine.

Current Chatter.

BY ANGUS MCTAVISH.

A contributor to the *Stamp Collector* describing the Margate Congress says:—

"The Closing Address by Major E. B. Evans, which stirred the delegates to an unwonted degree, and will long be retained in fond memory, placing as it did a delightful corner-stone upon the constructive building of the Congress."

The gallant Major, like the good artist he is, knows the value of a nice big corner-stone when it comes to closing addresses.

Years ago, Mr. J. A. Leon, the well-known member of the City of London Philatelic Society, and mighty Nimrod (B dot eleven's and Roumanian perforations), read a paper (afterwards published in the *P. J. G. B.*) on the s'Hertogenbosch perforations of Holland. Now, in the *May Monthly Journal* we find the following:—

"We have been shown an interesting variety of the 4c., 1876, Type 8, the perf. gauging 12 at the bottom, and 13½ at the top and sides. We do not know whether this is a possible combination from any of the machines producing the perfs. already listed."

Won't Mr. Warren chuckle!

Searchers after novelties had a rare field night at Plumridge's 414th sale; judging from the catalogue there were 4d. brown and green Cape of Good Hopes, rare 9d. values of the same colony, unused Malto's and mint blocks of Jhind Servia Kings. As I only collect Roumanian Nowanuggurs I didn't send any bids.

My one weakness, the only scorpion in the blank leaf album of my existence, is that I cannot spell. Shakespear, or Byron, or Queen Anne, or somebody else, I can't remember whom, suffered from the same misfortune. Now friend Nicholle, of Sydney, enters the arena with his latest price list; on page 1, he has a shot at "Harbour" and scores a bull's-eye first go. Not being absolutely sure his next attempt produces "Harbur", which is distinctly weak. Finally, in mild despair, he nearly scores a bull with "Harbor", which altho' better than shot No. 2, isn't up to his first effort. What his fourth guess would have been, had there been need for one, might have been interesting.

The usually very precise *Philatelic Record* chronicles the current 4d. New Zealand stamp "with the head of King Edward in a new shade." If portions of unicoloured stamps are to figure in new issue lists I shall give up stamp collecting and take to pen nibs.

I hear that Mr. Reichenheim has left London and will be away on the Continent until the middle of September. I hope he won't go into training at some of the German and Austrian "Bads" and so take an unfair advantage of other hopeful delegates to Edinboro' Congress.

Referring to some "Harrison" stamps, on the back of which a piece of thin paper has got stuck, a recent number of the *British Philatelist* says:—

"As this small piece of protective paper has actually stuck, the adhesiveness of the mucilage has evidently been improved. For this we are indebted to Mr. I. J. Bernstein."

Good old Bernstein.

An advertiser in *Smith's Monthly Circular* voices his need as follows:—

VANASSUM, ———, Holland, sends description making yourself perfectmost perforation-gauge in return for 2 shillings catalogue value any stamps.

It sounds rather attractive during the summer months, if Mr. Vanassum has any recipe which would turn me into a cucumber, I should like to hear from him.

Another devotee, living in Japan, says:—

LET me collect good Liberia, basis Gibbons or Senf, 1912. In exchange I send best Japanese or others.

Mr. Matsutani has my permission to collect Liberias, likewise Congos if he fancies them. As I have no duplicates of these countries I cannot sample his "second-bests" in Japs.



June, 1912, 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.

Kenneth M. Beaumont, London.
W. Hadlow, Jr., Lee, Kent.

NOTICES.

Appended is the Annual Report and Balance Sheet for 1911. In addition to small balance in hand there are still a few outstanding back subscriptions, which the Hon. Sec. would be glad to receive and acknowledge. Donations to the Forgery Collection from Messrs. W. J. Woolley and J. E. Joselin, are acknowledged with thanks.

THOS. H. HINTON,

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Int. Phil. Union,
26, Cromford Road, East Putney, S.W.
June 11th, 1912.

ANNUAL BALANCE SHEET,

JAN.—DEC., 1911.

1911.	RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.
Jan. 1	To Balance in Hand	0 9 7
Jan.-Dec.	.. Subscriptions & Entrance Fees	29 2 2
	.. W. S. King, Half Subscription	
	Phil. Literary Society	0 10 6
		£30 2 3

1911.	EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.
Jan.-Dec.	Official Organ	10 13 6
	Rent, Essex Hall	2 5 0
	Housekeeper, Essex Hall.. ..	0 5 0
	Printing and Stationery	2 17 0
	Postages, Hon. Sec.	2 1 0
	Clerical Assistance, Hon. Sec. ..	5 5 0
	Philatelic Literary Society, Subs.	1 1 0
	Congress Committee, Subs.	0 10 0
	Smoking Concert, Grant	4 4 0
		29 1 6
	Balance to 1912	1 0 9
		£30 2 3

Examined, compared with vouchers and receipts, and found correct.

GEORGE E. STRONG, } Auditors.
GUY SEMPLE, }

June 10th, 1912.

The 1868 Issue of Mexico.

By R. W. WILKINSON.

THE articles recently published in this *Journal* on the Mexican Stamps of 1868 have greatly interested me, principally because I had in preparation an article based upon many unique pieces lent to me for study by Mr. W. T. Wilson, whose name will ever be associated by philatelists with Mexico. Mr. Pemberton has, however, laid the foundations of a true history of the issue in his very able article, and it is for others to build upon his work, with verified information.

In his introduction (Page 43 of the current volume) the article by Wilson & Wetherell is referred to; this appeared in the *Philatelic Journal of India*, Vol. XIII. Nos. 10 and 12, but was left incomplete, the 6c. and 12c. values alone being dealt with. Mr. Wetherell's health broke down at the time, and there was a divergence of opinion between the authors as to the method by which the stamps were printed. Mr. Wetherell in the *Philatelic Advertiser*, 1908, suggested secondary dies and moveable clichés, but there can be no doubt that lithographic methods were used throughout.

Reading through Mr. Pemberton's article the following notes should be added.

THIN FIGURE SERIES.

The first setting of the 6c. and 12c. was in sheets of 50. (A sheet of each is known). There was undoubtedly another setting of these values in sheets of 100, and the better part (80 out of 100) of a sheet of 12c. is known. It shows somewhat the same curious arrangement as described for the 6c.; stamps Nos. 5 and 6, 15 and 16, 25 to 29, 35 to 39, 45 to 49, (all on the top right side) are duplicated in the lower half. The left side is very irregularly placed, stamp No. 1 appears again as 54, No. 2 as 62, No. 17 as 61, No. 11 as 21 and so on.

As to the three differing kinds of thin numerals it is interesting to note that on the sheet of 12c (first setting) the stamps Nos. 1 to 30 and 35 to 40 show the figures of value doubly lined as if with a "spreading" pen or insufficient ink, whilst Nos. 31 to 34 and 41 to 50 are singly and firmly lined, the difference being quite marked.

The fine prints of the 50 and 100c. queried as being other than lithographs, are found in all the values but are exceedingly scarce; I believe them to be the first careful impressions. The 25c is particularly noticeable as being more delicately printed than any of the other values, and the figures are generally clear and distinct.

THICK FIGURES.

These printings have been my chief study

and I am quite in accord with Mr. Pemberton as to the method used in making the transfers and the stones. The arrangement of the 6 cent sheet is correctly given, but it was the stamps Nos. 20 and 30 at the ends of rows 2 and 3 which were transposed on Wilson and Wetherell's diagram. I have not found any evidence of more than one setting of this value.

As regards the 12 cents I had some time ago completed the setting—partly given by Wilson and Wetherell—from overlapping blocks and strips belonging or lent to Mr. Wilson, and these notes originally contained this reconstruction. Mr. Hausburg's half sheet of course places matters beyond doubt. I have many blocks and pairs belonging to another setting of 12c., and my original theory was that two stones were prepared at the same time from twenty transfers of the 10 types, and that the two settings were complementary; so that Type 9, appearing only seven times on the first setting would occur thirteen times on the second setting.

But Mr. J. H. Barron has evidently found another setting; I know of blocks, etc., which do not appear on his arrangement, so that if his reconstruction is verified, a third setting *must* exist.

The other values will prove more difficult of solution, even pairs being very hard to come by. Mr. Wilson's blocks, strips and pairs including a used block of 16 of the 25c., help my reconstruction well forward, and even now I can say with fair certainty that two settings of the 25c. thick figures exist, as the stamp No. 100 has been noted in two types.

The retouches (other than the transfer varieties) are peculiarly Mr. Pemberton's territory, upon which I shall not encroach; and in concluding these notes would urge the formation of a small temporary Society of those particularly interested in this issue for mutual interchange of knowledge and views, so that much work may be saved, and the final results sooner attained.

Most collectors, were they asked what the biggest stamp in the catalogue is, would not be able to answer correctly; many would doubtless start measuring their U.S.A. newspaper labels. The honour in question falls to a Chinese stamp—No. 251 in the catalogue. Have you ever seen one? Just at present there is quite a demand for this variety. Used pieces of it are selling at 3/- each, but an entire unused copy is a rarity.

The Stamps of Greece.

By P. L. PEMBERTON.

(Continued from page 91.)

ISSUE OF 1879-86 ON CREAM OR ON BUFF PAPER; WITHOUT FIGURES AT BACK.

THOUGH the year 1879 is given by Mr. Beckton as the date of the abolition of the figures at the back of the 5 and 10 lep. values, the precise month—October, being specified, the earliest dated copy which I have so far been able to find is December, 1880, on the 20 lepta! The first record of the change in the philatelic press appears to be a note in the *Timbre-Poste* for May 1881, where it is stated that the 5 lepta stamps are now appearing without the numeral at the back. The *Philatelic Record* of August, 1881, says,—under the heading "Greece",—"These stamps are being carelessly printed just now. We have seen pairs of the 10 lep., one stamp having the usual 10 at the back, and the next one marked 00. The same values without any figures at the back are now common, as are also the 5, 20 and 40 lep. Perhaps this carelessness betokens the coming of a new issue, which is sorely wanted." The italics are mine for the word "carelessness" seems to imply that the stamps without figures at the back were then regarded as varieties of the normal, an impression which would hardly have prevailed if the stamps had been in regular use for nearly two years. Further, the *Philatelic Record* for Feb., 1882, in its list of the new issues of the previous year, includes the four values, 5, 10, 20 and 40 lep. (rose-lilac) without figures. It is possible that the philatelic press of those days overlooked the issue for eighteen months or so, but all the evidence seems to point to the 20 lep. without figures having been first issued in the latter part of 1880 and the other three values early in 1881. The Oct., 1881 issue of the *Philatelic Record* had the following note, which is of considerable interest:—"The *Timbre Poste* says that the 20 lepta adhesive has, owing to its being extensively forged, been withdrawn from circulation. The Post Office authorities at Athens in a circular which points out the differences between the forged stamp and the genuine one, say that the forgery still has the numeral of value on the back, which in the genuine stamp has been suppressed for a year." This stamp, therefore, was in use for a bare twelve months, which accounts for its being so scarce. It is curious that the forgeries referred to are unknown to-day; is it possible that they were not forgeries but some poor impressions of genuine stamps which the authorities were unable to recognize? The list of the stamps of this period includes the last printings of

the 1 and 2 lepta, which can only be distinguished from earlier ones by peculiarities of shade, printing and paper.

V.—1882. 1 lepton, deep red-brown on thin buff paper.

This printing, but for the evidence of dated copies, would appear to belong to the 1871-76 set, as the paper is very thin, coarse-grained and transparent. It is almost identical with that of printing R, to which also it bears a strong resemblance in colour. The impression, however, of this later stamp is heavier and coarser. The lines of shading on the cheek generally run into one another very much, which is not the case in the earlier stamp, while the spandrels are very rough. I have seen many copies dated 1882 and later, the earliest being 30-June-1882. It is identical with Gibbons No. 62.

W.—1883. 1 lepton, reddish-fawn on cream.

Impression poor. Even in the best printed specimens, there is a hardness and coarseness of outline which distinguishes them from any earlier printings. The colour also is distinctive, having a more yellowish tinge than that of printings L and N. The paper is of medium texture.

X.—1883. 1 lepton, pale fawn on cream.

In every respect save the shade this printing is similar to the last. The colour is paler and has a still more yellowish tinge than the last. Some specimens are carefully printed, but it is obvious that by now the plate had been too much used to reproduce clearly all the finer lines of the design. The lines of shading on the cheek are generally thick and rather short.

Y.—1885. 1 lepton, dark red-brown on cream.

Some specimens of this might easily be mistaken for U, but the points which differentiate it are as follows:—The colour, which is not quite so deep is rather more reddish; the shading on the cheek which is generally shorter, and the fact that in many specimens the outer frame-line of the stamp is indistinct—in some cases failing to print altogether. The paper is of moderate thickness.

Z.—1886. 1 lepton, grey-brown on cream.

This, which I believe was the last, is at the same time one of the most distinctive of all the printings of the 1 lepton. This solely by reason of the colour. The only one to which it bears any resemblance is the pale shade of T. The shade varies very much from pale to

very deep grey-brown; it also varies slightly in tone, some specimens being rather more yellowish than the majority.

The printing is distinctly better than in the last three, but in the deepest shades the peculiarity which I noted under Y, namely the weakness of the outer frame-line is again in evidence; this fact, and the shortness of the shading on the cheek, serving to distinguish them from pale shades of T, to which they bear a strong resemblance in colour.

O.—(? 1881). 2 lepta, yellow-bistre on straw.

Execution very good; looks much earlier at first glance on account of the colour which is almost identical with D. Like that printing also the paper is thin, but closer inspection shews that the impression is nothing like as early.

P.—(? date). 2 lepta, yellow-bistre on straw.

Impression produced with the aid of a new *découpage*, giving an appearance generally described as from a "cleaned plate." Though the lines of shading on the cheek are fine, (sometimes dotted) and the spandrels are rather pale, the execution is indistinct. The colour is a full yellow-brown and the paper is rather thin, but not so thin as in O.

Q.—1883. 2 lepta, deep dull bistre-brown on straw.

Impression distinctly coarse. All details cloudy; in some specimens the inscriptions and the ornamentation at the sides are indecipherable. The colour is deep as in F, but is much duller. The paper is of average thickness. This is a common printing, especially unused.

R.—(? date). 2 lepta, dull bistre-brown on straw.

Impression very coarse, but not usually so bad as in Q, probably because the ink was not so thickly applied. In all respects save that the colour is not so deep, this printing corresponds with the last.

S.—(? date). 2 lepta, pale brown on straw.

In all respects save colour this resembles Q and R. The colour is remarkable as it is brown, not yellow. It is more like a very pale 1 lepton than a 2 lepta, and was probably printed in error. The nearest shade to it among the 2 lepta is printing I., but it is an even warmer tint than that and has no tinge of yellow in it. In my experience it is extremely scarce. I have no precise reason for putting it as the last printing of this value, but it is obviously a very late one.

V.—(? April 1881). 5 lepta, dark green on cream.

Impression good. Lines of shading clear and separate. Colour medium to deep green; paper fairly stout and well finished, which no doubt accounts in great measure for the good printing. The paper varies in tone from cream to almost buff, but never so markedly deep in tone as that used in printing X.

W (? date). 5 lepton, deep green on thin cream paper.

Colour deeper than in the last and printing not so good. The paper is the best guide, being very thin with a transparency which is not due to the gum.

X.—1883. 5 lepton, deep yellow-green on buff.

This is another very distinctive printing, by reason of the paper, which is a very pronounced buff. The texture is coarse but the paper is fairly thick, and not transparent except in specimens which have the gum, when it is slightly so. The impression is generally coarse.

Y (? date). 5 lepton, deep yellow-green on cream.

Execution good to very good. Colour more yellow-green than in any of the last three printings and hardly so deep, but still a full colour. Paper of medium thickness (but not so thick as in X) and toned rather a deep cream.

Z. (? date). 5 lepta deep yellow-green on transparent cream paper.

Impression not quite so good as before in most specimens, but much better than in W to which printing it bears some resemblance on account of the paper being thin and transparent. But whereas W is a really thin paper the transparency in this printing is probably due to the gum. The colour is as in Y and is more yellowish than and not so deep as in W.

Za.—1884. 5 lepta, pale green on cream.

Impression fair. Colour pale green, generally with pronounced yellowish tinge. Paper varies from medium to rather thin.

Zb.—1885. 5 lepta, green on cream.

Similar to the last, but not so pale. Colour varies from green to yellowish green.

Zc. (? date). 5 lepta, pale sage-green on cream.

Similar to Za, except for the colour.

Zd.—1886. 5 lepta, pale yellow-green on buff.

Impression very fair. The colour of the paper is very distinctive, but it is not such a deep buff as in printing X. This printing is scarce.

N. May, 1881. 10 lepta, deep orange-vermilion on cream.

The colour is an infallible guide to this printing. It is normally very deep and bright and occasionally remarkably so. In the palest specimens the printing is fair but in the very bright ones the ink has been laid on so heavily that in some cases the inscriptions and other details are quite blotted out. The paper is fairly stout. This is the printing which is so rare unused, and corresponds with Gibbons No. 123.

O.—July, 1881. 10 lepta, deep orange on cream.

This is something like the last but the colour

is not so bright, the orange tint predominating, in fact the colour is identical with some of the medium shades of M, which was the last printing with figures at the back. The impression is better than in N.

P.—August, 1881. 10 lepta, bright orange-yellow on cream.

It is evident that a new *découpage* was used for this printing. The lines of shading are light, and so are the spandrels, while in many specimens the outer frame-line is very indistinct. The colour is very bright and is rather more yellow than orange. The paper is good.

Q.—October, 1881. 10 lepta, orange-yellow on cream.

The colour is not so bright nor the printing so good, but the latter is still very fair; in other respects very much like the last.

R.—January, 1882. 10 lepta, dull orange-yellow on cream.

The colour is again much duller and with less orange in it, yet it is rather a deep shade. The impression is much less clear, probably owing to the fact that the paper is thinner and generally transparent.

S.—March, 1882. 10 lepta, dull orange-yellow on buff.

In colour and impression this is very much like the last, but the paper, which is yellowish or buff is a sure guide. It is a scarce stamp.

T.—June, 1882. 10 lepta, deep yellow-orange on buff.

In every respect like the last except that the colour is much deeper and redder. This also is scarce but nothing like so rare as S.

U.—December, 1882. 10 lepta, dull red-orange on cream.

The colour is nearly as deep as in O but is not quite so red. The impression is poor and indistinct. The paper is generally fairly stout.

V.—1883. 10 lepta, yellow-orange on cream.

The colour is rather like Q but is somewhat deeper and more orange. It need not be confused with Q as the impression is normally much coarser.

W.—1884. 10 lepta, pale orange-yellow on cream.

Impression light but poor, appearing as though lacking in ink and giving a very flat appearance. Colour pale. Paper fairly stout and not transparent.

X.—1885. 10 lepta, pale yellow on cream.

This is the palest and yellowest of all these printings of the 10 lep. and can therefore easily be distinguished. In other respects it is very like the last printing.

Ze.—December, 1880. 20 lepta, deep ultramarine on cream.

This is the only printing of the blue 20 lepta without figures at the back. With the exception of the absence of figures it is precisely similar to Zb. It was withdrawn from use and demonetized in October, 1881, on account of forgeries being supposed to be in circulation.

(To be continued).

New Leaves to Cut.

SCOTT'S STANDARD CATALOGUE, 1912.*

AFTER a long period of expectation we have duly received a review copy of Messrs. Scott's publication. As in previous years, when reviewing this work we can refer to the several excellent features which it possesses and which compilers of European catalogues would do well to imitate. We principally refer to the system of listing sub-varieties in small type and the capital tables of philatelic terms in English, French and German.

Regarding the matter of prices we find that these are as reliable as in former years, making due allowance for the considerable number of erratic quotations which creep into every standard catalogue.

United States stamps show a steady but appreciable increase in value, as also do all old stamps, which must be even harder to procure in America than they are at home.

From a somewhat cursory review we should say that the compilers of this edition of Scott's have paid more attention to the revising of prices than is usual with gentlemen of this autocratic class, and, with the usual exceptions they seem to have succeeded very well.

Although published so late in the year we regret to notice that many recent issues (even Argentine and Chili issues of autumn 1911) have been relegated to the addenda. Those of our readers who do not number a "Scott" catalogue amongst their handbooks should rectify their oversight at an early date.

HAGEN'S PRICE LIST.†

THIS little work—freely illustrated—should be on the bookshelf of every collector of Australasian stamps, as it is not only an excellent guide to stamp values, but is a useful little work of reference as well.

From a peep at the prices we should say that collectors of Australian stamps would do well to write to Sydney; the publishers only list stamps in stock, so no fancy quotations are given. We certainly think, however, that a good price list should not omit medium

* Published by Scott Stamp and Coin Co., 127, Madison Avenue, New York.

† Price list of Australasian stamps. Published by F. Hagen, Ltd., 182, Pitt Street, Sydney. Price 1/6, post free.

rarities of standard stamps, if the publishers cannot quote a price let them, as other cataloguers do, leave blanks in the quotation columns, and not ignore, as Hagen does stamps akin to the early 4d. of South Australia on V and Crown paper. Apart from this one little grumble we have nothing but honeyed words for Hagen's little booklet—especially as the prices of the stamps are reasonable.

PRICED CATALOGUE OF BARTELS' 47TH SALE.*

WE have received from the publishers a priced edition of their 47th sale catalogue and we find it a splendid guide to the *market* value of many U.S.A. stamps. The following few quotations in dollars and cents will show how the philatelic wind blows in New York:—

		\$ c.
U.S.A.	1845, New York, 5c. fine pair on cover	23.50
"	1862 66, 5c. on cover, Honolulu pmk.	2.35
"	1847, 5c. fine pair, red cancellation ..	3.10
"	" 5c. orange-brown, fine vertical pair, red cancellation ..	5.00
"	1851, 1c. light blue, block of 6, poor margins ..	5.25
"	1861, 90c. light blue, block of 4, fine..	18.00
"	1870, 24c. fine block of 4 ..	12.00

In all nearly one thousand lots were offered, and Messrs. Bartels are to be congratulated on having had the opportunity to auction such a fine collection.

Correspondence.

The Editor, "P.J. of G.B."

TIENTSIN,

April 9th, 1912.

CHINESE REPUBLIC STAMPS.

DEAR SIR,

You will perhaps, 'ere now, have received some notification of what is being done here in the way of surcharging Chinese stamps by Revolutionary and Republican authorities. If not herewith all that I know:—

The first lot of Chinese stamps to be surcharged were done in Shanghai, and sent to Foochow (and perhaps other southern treaty ports) surcharged in red horizontally with 4 characters meaning "Provisional neutrality." There were only 3 cents, 1.2, and \$5, as far as I can ascertain, and were only on sale and issued on Feb. 7th, 8th and 9th, being then recalled and sent back to Shanghai. Of these I have a few used 3 cents and one each of the others.

The second lot were surcharged in Nanking, but as the U.S. Consul there, Mr.

T. Gracey, practically cornered the market, getting 1379 out of the total of 1839 issued, and has left with them for the United States, on leave. I have not either seen one or been able to get one. They run from ½ cent to \$5 all values.

Another lot is surcharged with characters in red and in black, vertically, reading "Chinese Republic" and were done by the Statistical Department of the Chinese Maritime Customs, Shanghai, and sent out to all the big offices; but so far they have only reached me from Hankow, as the orders are to use up the present ordinary stock before putting the others in circulation. Here in Tientsin, I have seen the surcharged stock, but can get none at present. There seem to be a few varieties and reversed and double surcharges, of which I have a few from Hankow, and, naturally, shall look out for them when issued here.

Faithfully yours,

C. L. NORRIS-NEWMAN,

Lieut.-Col.

A National Philatelic Association.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE CITY OF LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

By W. H. EASTWOOD.

AT a recent meeting of the Committee the Secretary read a letter which had been received requesting suggestions on subjects to place before the Committee arranging the syllabus for the next Philatelic Congress to take place in May next.

I have, and I am sure most other stamp collectors have also wished, that some central governing body existed in Philately which would at all events go a long way to banish from the ranks of collectors, and even dealers, the sharper and fraudulent exchanger who are only too much in evidence in our midst.

From time to time I have spoken to some of our own members on the subject, and, when some few years ago the International Philatelic Union formed a Committee to consider, and if possible form a central club in London for Philatelists, I was requested to form one of the deputation from this Society to see, amongst other things, whether what I had spoken about could be considered in the deliberations of that special Committee.

Nothing came of those consultations and I have been asked to elaborate more fully the ideas, or suggestions, or whatever you like to call them, for your consideration.

My ideas have run in this groove. Other pastimes, sports and recreations have each

* Published by J. M. Bartels & Co., 99, Nassau Street New York, U.S.A.

their central governing body and right well are those recreations, etc., managed by those governing bodies in question.

In nearly every instance, in fact in every pastime or game of which I have any acquaintance, there has been constituted a Committee who make the rules and decide all questions of dispute pertaining to their particular body which are referred to them.

I shall of course be asked on what lines could such a Committee be formed in Philately.

Personally I see no insurmountable obstacle in the way.

I would practically proceed on the lines of the Rugby Union and Football Associations.

1st. We have individual members of Societies and Clubs.

2nd. There are Societies and Exchange Clubs formed like our own Society.

These can be grouped into

(a) each county,

or (b) group of counties.

3rd. A Committee formed by selected members or clubs in

(a) each county,

or (b) group of counties forming a local controlling body.

4th. The central or governing body nominated by the County Committees.

How is the central or governing body to be arranged?

Subject to correction I think I am right in saying that in Association and Rugby football the controlling powers are formed in this way:—

All the principal clubs of a County and a great many of the subordinate clubs as well, nominate a representative as one of the County Committee. This County Committee takes charge and supervision of all the Clubs in its own County and all members of the Clubs sending representatives to the County Committee are under the supervision and control of that Committee and a member only joins a club under those conditions.

The next step is the formation of the Head Governing Body. This is arranged I believe by each County sending a representative or representatives fixed according to the number of the enrolled members of the County Association, *i.e.*, the Clubs in the County, to form the Controlling Association for the Country.

No question ever arises as to the right of the Football Association to govern and rule the game. It shows no respecter of persons as was shewn a short time ago in connection with a matter which if allowed to have gone unpunished would have been a scandal and disgrace to that Game.

Some of our members may recollect the instance to which I am going to refer, as the matter was reported in all the daily papers at the time.

Two of the most prominent Clubs in the

North of England were due to meet in a certain competition. Before the match the Captain of one Club approached the other Captain and suggested that the result of the game should be arranged. He was authorised to make the suggestion by the Secretary and President of the Club respectively.

The approached Captain refused to entertain the suggestion and at once reported the matter to his Committee who speedily laid the matter before the County and Football Associations. An enquiry was held and as the result the culprits (Captain, Secretary and President—the latter M.P., for the town) were dismissed from ever taking part in football again and although the matter has been brought before the Association on several occasions with the view of a reconsideration of the sentence, the verdict still stands, I believe.

I shall be asked is it possible to govern our hobby or recreation in the same way. Why not? Our Societies and Exchange Clubs would be affiliated with the County or District Committee and through that Committee with the Governing Association and the prospect—uses and rules of each Club would so provide. A stamp collector would then be able to ask another collector with whom he happened to be bargaining or exchanging or purchasing, whether he was an affiliated member of the Philatelic Association. If not, I for one would hesitate to have any dealings with a non-member. If I did trade with a non-member and happened to be rogued or swindled I should rate myself a stupid fool for not taking advantage of the protection I had as a member of the Association.

Would dealers belong to such an Association? Certainly. They could ask purchasers whom they were not acquainted with, for their credentials or card of membership. Such a card would be a pass-port to the member and dealer alike.

I need not point out I am sure what the position of a shady dealer or collector would be. Once a trickster was detected by his Club or even by another member the matter could be reported to the proper authorities. An investigation could be had and if proved guilty of the charge laid against him the incriminated member could say good-bye to future dealings with the stamp trade or Collectors.

When we were having our talk on the matter at our last meeting, Mr. Woodward was good enough to raise the question of liability for libel and slander. I am only a subordinate in the legal profession and do not like to presume to dictate to those in the higher walks of that body. Still Mr. Woodward will forgive me if I say that no action lies against the Committee or member of such an Association as I am suggesting should be formed. Each member is bound by the rules of the Association and so recently as last November

the Scotch Court of Appeal, following other decisions of the English Courts, held that dealing with an alleged libel by means of a "Black List" that the issuing of such a list among a number of traders one to the other stands in no different position from a communication by one individual trader to another. The information was circulated amongst members in legitimate self-defence. They were not persons who traded for profit on the character of other people. Each member of the Society had a legitimate trade interest in knowing the persons with whom, owing to their past history, it might be reasonably inferred that there was more than ordinary risk in dealing with them.

Is the suggested Association worthy of our cause?

Is not our hobby of sufficient importance to warrant such a controlling body?

I know of no recreation which is more instructive, absorbing and invigorating than stamp collecting research and philately generally.

For that very reason it seems to have fallen an easy prey to the sharper of every description.

When a young lad, or even older person, is being first initiated into stamp collecting, it is absolutely necessary now-a-days to warn him against the forged stamps which will assuredly be offered him by unscrupulous dealers or others. Such a warning is enough to frighten a beginner altogether from starting a collection.

What objections can there be to the formation of such an Association? I know of none.

I think I have made my wishes and desires quite plain.

The proposed body would be, I opine, a useful body—it would be in a position to expel any undesirable member from its ranks and it would be able to enforce any expulsion on all affiliated Societies under its control.

I do not aim at, nor would it be the province of the Association to interfere with the internal working of any individual Club or Society. Each Club or Society would be free to carry on its own work in its own way, always provided it did nothing to contravene the rules of the parent Society.

Jubilee International Stamp Exhibition, London.

OCTOBER 14TH TO 19TH, 1912.

This Exhibition will be held in the Horticultural Hall, Westminster, under the auspices of the Junior Philatelic Society, from whom we have received a rough draft of the rules and scheme of competition. We take pleasure, therefore, in giving our readers an outline of the proposed scheme.

Exhibits (except where otherwise indicated) must be mounted on loose sheets or cards; no

special size is stipulated. Exhibitors in these classes will be permitted to display a portion in the cases, and the balance of the collection may be sent in volumes or in loose sheets at a charge of 2/6 per bound volume, or 2/6 for every 50 loose sheets.

Space occupied in the display of exhibitors' collections will be charged for at the following rates, viz.:

Per square foot, 3d. (Minimum 2s. 6d.)

Albums to be shown open at interesting pages, 5s. per book.

Albums in Class J, 2s. 6d. per book.

We cannot afford the space to detail the various rules, classes, etc., but the following is a brief *resümé* :—

Class A Championship. Open to any exhibitor; exhibits which have obtained gold medal awards at previous International Philatelic Exhibitions *must* be shewn in this class.

Class B. Various sections provided for stamps of Great Britain.

Class C. is devoted to British Colonies.

Class D. Europe and Colonies, also Colonies of any European State, except Great Britain.

Class E., like the other Classes, is divided into several sections and is for stamps of America.

Class F. is for Collections of Asiatic and African stamps (non British).

Class G. is an interesting one, being devoted to specialised collections of single issues.

Section 1. Any single issue of line-engraved stamps.

Section 2. Any single issue of stamps printed direct from lithographic stone or by other kindred planographic process.

Section 3. Any single issue of stamps printed by any other process than those provided for in Sections 1 and 2.

AWARDS. A Great Gold Medal will be given for the best exhibit in this Class (presented by Baron Erik Leijonhufvud). In addition one Gold and one Silver in each of Sections 1 and 2; and two silver and two Bronze Medals in Section 3.

General Collections, Local Stamps, Juniors' Collections, Postal Stationery, Rarities, Philatelic Publications, etc., are all duly catered for, while each Class has a goodly proportion of gold, silver, silver-gilt, or bronze medals to act as an incentive to those collectors who are thinking of exhibiting their treasures.

Our publishers have recently had nearly the whole of their hundred approval books re-made up, collectors who are re-arranging their collections during the summer months should not miss this opportunity of adding desirable stamps, at reasonable prices, to their albums. A post-card to our publishers will bring one of their lists of books.



JUNE 20, 1912.

Philately at Home.

The principal features of the May *London Philatelist* are two capital articles, namely, a further continuation of Mr. M. P. Castle's paper dealing with the 1860-1875 issues of British Guiana, and the first instalment of Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg's "The 'Liberty Head' Stamps of Hayti." Mr. Castle's article is well illustrated with photographic enlargements and his studies of these interesting labels will be much appreciated by all lovers of old stamps. Mr. Hausburg, as was only to be expected from so researchful a collector, publishes a good deal which is new relating to the stamps of Hayti. In fact he quite upsets the pet theories of one or two previous writers. We make the following rather lengthy extract and cordially recommend our readers to read the article in question in its entirety:—

Various theories have been put forward as to the method of production of the "Liberty-Head" stamps of Hayti. At first they were thought to have been lithographed, but any specimen, when closely examined, points to another process having been employed. There is none of that smooth appearance which is essential to a lithograph, and in many cases the paper is very deeply dented by the figure of value. In *Le Timbre Poste* of May and July, 1899, M. Moens gives some interesting data with regard to the production of these stamps. A Haytian sculptor (M. Laforesterie) is said to have designed them, and a die was engraved on wood by M. J. Richard, of Paris. The plates were made up of electrotypes. The shield which contains the figure of value in the completed design was at first left blank. It is stated by M. Moens that these shields were filled up by moveable plugs, thus indicating that there was only one plate, and that the plugs were altered for each value. This theory I am afraid I do not agree with. In every one of the fifty stamps on the plate of each value the position of the figure of value varies, and the edges of the plug in the shield are more or less defined by lines of colour. But taking a stamp of any one value in any particular position on the plate, it will be found that in all copies of that stamp the figure in the shield is always in exactly the same position. This shows

that if the plugs were altered for printing each value, and only one plate was used, the whole number printed of each value must have been done in one printing. This is hardly likely, and a study of the stamps will, I think, show that it was not the method employed. Supposing the 1c. were all printed first and the 20c. last, it would mean that the 1c. would be only from the early state of the plate and the 20c. from the last, but this is not the case. It is possible to find both these and all the other values in early and late states. There is another point against the use of one plate only, and that is that in each value it is possible to find flaws and defects in the design itself, apart from the shield, which are peculiar to each value. My idea is that a separate plate was made for each value from the original plate with vacant spaces in the shield for the value plugs. Some of the values exist in such different shades that there must have been more than one printing of these values.

The next point to be considered is the number of panes on the sheet. M. Moens says that there were six panes of fifty arranged in three rows of two panes. Before the stamps were printed the paper received a lithographic impression in colour. It will be seen that on the margins of the panes there are certain more or less circular marks which were on the extreme edge of the coloured impression. These will help us to decide how many panes there were on each sheet of paper. At present it is possible to say that there were at least four, as in the collection you will see two panes *tête-bêche* of the one centime, and there are others with the circular marks on the margins which show that there were at least two more different panes.

As a matter of fact, the probabilities seem more in favour of the sheet containing four panes instead of six, as the numbers given for the printings of each value are divisible by two hundred but not by three hundred. In any case, if the sheet contained six panes of fifty, it would be more likely that there were two rows of three panes instead of three rows of two panes, as all the so-called *tête-bêche* pairs and sheets have the lower parts of the stamps towards each other.

The numbers printed were:—

1c., 300,000	5c., 150,000
2c., 150,000	7c., 250,000
3c., 150,000	20c., 25,000

According to these figures one would expect the 20c. to be by far the scarcest value, and this is borne out by experience. The 5c. is very nearly as rare as the 20c. in unused condition, but very much more common used. One would expect the 7c. to be a good deal commoner than the 2c. and 3c., but this is not the case.

The 1c. and 2c. are known *tête-bêche* owing to the panes of fifty being printed *tête-bêche*. The other values should also be found in the same condition.

A concise report of the Margate Congress, contributed by Baron Percy De

Worms and the usual budget of "Occasional Notes," "New Issues," "Philatelic Societies' Reports," and "Auction Reports," complete a very excellent number of our contemporary.

The May number of the *Philatelic Record* is but sparsely filled with good things, in fact the general collector, who wants to be interested in stamps, is entirely uncatered for. Mr. John N. Luff contributes another instalment of his "Otto's Printings of the Transvaal Stamps," this, although of very little interest to the general collector will be much appreciated by the select few. A report of the 321st meeting of the Manchester Philatelic Society, when Mr. J. H. Abbott displayed some Swedish and other stamps, the usual uninteresting list of new issues, auction report, and several pages devoted to reports of the Margate Congress complete our brief review. "Dåks" Essence of Congress is very clever and amusing. From Mr. Abbott's "Notes" we venture to extract the following relating to the well known error of Sweden.

The next issue, 1872-7, was the well-known one with a large figure of value occupying the central portion of the design and perforated 14. The interesting and authentic error of the stamp with the figures of 20 öre and the word "TRETIO" (30) instead of "TJUGO" (20) appearing round the band surrounding the figures, appear in this issue. The mistake probably arose through one of the plates being damaged, and on the damaged portion being replaced the frame of one of the 30 öre was inserted in error. When comparing the frames of the 20 and the 30 öre it can distinctly be seen that such is the case, as every detail of the 30 öre plate corresponds with the frame of the error. Mr. Abbott gave it on the authority of Mr. Holmberg that 6,000 sheets were printed containing one error in each sheet, of which printing 182 sheets became useless and were destroyed, leaving 5,818 good sheets. The error was discovered in February, 1880, when 1,583 sheets had been issued, and the Postmaster-General immediately ordered all the sheets to be returned, but many were kept, contrary to orders, and sold to collectors. On March 31st, 1880, 4,848 errors were burnt, leaving 970 out in circulation, and there is no record of the number of the errors remaining now in existence. Many were used on postal orders, and when the government found the stamps had become valuable they sold a parcel of these postal orders from which the majority of the errors now in collections doubtless originate. Mr. Abbot showed an unused specimen of this interesting stamp.

The *Monthly Journal* for May is principally devoted to a full account of all that took place at the recently held Margate Congress. We also find a continuation of M. L. Hanciau's "The Stamps of the Spanish West Indies, 1855-1876"; a short article entitled "The Provisional Neutrality Stamps of the Republic of China"; and the usual capital

list of "New Issues and Discoveries," "Topical Notes" and "Correspondence" complete our summary. From Mr. C. J. Phillips' Notes we extract the following:—

Sarawak, January, 1895.—Our publishers recently obtained an entire sheet of the 2 cents, in green (the colour of the 8 cents), overprinted with various values in "pence" in red. On looking into the history of these curiosities, I found that they were fully described by Mr. F. J. Melville in his handbook on "The Postage Stamps of Sarawak."

Mr. Melville says on p. 58:—

"It is evident that at one time there was a proposal to change the currency into pence, as we have some interesting proofs of the 1895 series surcharged in pence."

And after this a long, detailed list is given.

I was not quite satisfied with this theory, that there was at one time a proposal to change the currency to English money, so I made some inquiries, and I have before me an official letter, which is personal, but of which the following extract is word for word as written:—

"There never was any idea that I know of of a pence issue. I remember the production of the sheets overprinted for pence perfectly, and their origin was this. Shortly after printing the Sarawak stamps, we were producing the British South African stamps, which, as you know, have figures in each corner and pence at the bottom. These were to be printed on a sheet about the same size as the Sarawak stamps, and to test the stretch of the paper, with a view to the registration of the two colours, we took some spoilt sheets of the Sarawak stamp we had, and set up in a frame several sets of figures with pence, and overprinted them. I enclose you a sheet showing exactly what was done, so from this merely mechanical experiment in our factory, the magnificent theory of a pence issue has been built up by some one ignorant of the truth."

The May *Stamp Collector* devotes, as do the other monthlies, a good deal of space to Congress reports and news. We also find an illustrated interview with Mr. C. H. T. Hayman, a short instalment of that gentleman's article dealing with the early issues of Chili, and the conclusion of Mr. W. H. M. Marsden's "The Stamps of Bosnia (to 1906)." Birmingham Philatelic Society reports, "Notes," "Correspondence," etc., complete the contents of a very readable exchange.

The May 25th number of the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* is mainly devoted to Congress news; we find Mr. Bishop's "Impressions," and "Dåks'" amusing "Tap-Tappington Hall." A few lines of Mr. D. B. Armstrong's "The Stamps of the Nigerias," an illustrated interview with Mr. A. D. Ferguson and the usual complement of Reviews, New Issues, etc., make up a readable number.

A fortnight later, June 8th to wit, we find a goodly instalment of Mr. D. B. Armstrong's article, an illustrated interview with Mr. J. J. Darlow, a budget of New Issue Notes, and an amusing letter

from Mr. Leicester A. B. Paine, who is apparently a little "ratty" because members of Exchange Clubs were not represented at the Margate Congress. We also find the rules, classes, etc., of the coming London Stamp Exhibition.

The June number of the *Philatelic Circular* will be of great interest to those collectors who make, or are thinking of making, a speciality of King George stamps. We find a capital article, fully illustrated, dealing extensively with these already much discussed stamps. Another excellent feature is Mr. W. B. Edwards' column of "Market Notes." We appreciate this so highly that we should like our readers to have their share, we therefore venture to extract in full:—

Many of my readers will remember the sale as remainders of the obsolete Leeward Is. stamps, although it is almost ancient history in philately. A tremendous rise in value took place in all issues of these Islands, and so carefully was the disposal of the remainders carried out that they rose to many times the price paid for them. During the last ten years or so there has been a steady fall to more reasonable figures, and some of the low values do not now actually fetch much more than face value.

A glance at back catalogues will probably surprise many who have forgotten what these stamps were considered to be worth at one time. For instance, the 6d. orange and 1/- magenta of Dominica were priced at 20/- and £5 respectively in the 1897 catalogue, and now stand at exactly half those figures. The 6d. used was actually 45/- against 10/- now. Nevis 6d. brown, once advertised at 35/-, can be bought for the odd 5/- to-day, and the 1/- violet for less than a quarter of its one-time catalogue value. The St. Christopher 6d. olive-brown at 70/- unused and £8 used in 1897 had dropped to 30/- and 50/- in 1902, and 20/- is now the cat. price unused. The Virgin Is. stamps, however, show what really can be done in the way of depreciation, the 1d. rose of the first type being now 2/- instead of 30/- used, the 4d. chestnut 10/- against 50/-, the 6d. deep violet 15/- against £4! The greatest drop usually occurs with used stamps, for it is a matter of common knowledge that however scarce a stamp may be in used condition, it is difficult to put a much higher price upon it than that asked for the mint stamp. Collectors take the cheaper, unless they take both, and in course of time they approximate in value as far as the market is concerned, though not in actual scarcity. The 1d. rose Virgin Is. was quoted 1/- and 30/- for the two states in 1897, and I cannot imagine anyone but an enthusiast paying 29/- for the postmark. The prices are now 1/- and 2/-.

The foregoing remarks lead me to what I really want to say—that in my opinion these stamps are likely to rise again, all those in fact which were sold as remainders, with the possible exception of some low values. The bulk of the lot sold must have been absorbed by now, and judging from the rather poor condition of several of the high values seen by me in various packets during the past year, I cannot help thinking that mint copies, especially of the 6d. and 1/- values, are worth picking up at current prices. The issues of the Leeward Is. group preceding those referred to have also suffered to some extent in sympathy, Virgin Is. again showing the greatest loss, and many of these stamps are really underpriced, having regard to their actual scarcity. The 2½d. brown stamps are a good example, and are rarely to be seen

now in good condition, without heavy postmarks. They are as good as Anglo-Continental, anyhow!

We note that Mr. A. H. Harris is editing his own publication, we hope he will continue on the lines laid down by the former editor, Mr. W. B. Edwards.

The May number of the *World of Stamps* suffers as do so many of this month's exchanges from an eruption of Fourth Philatelic Congress. We find, however, a further continuation of Mr. L. S. Goldsmith's "Earlier Stamps of British Guiana," another chapter of Mr. Ellis Gee's "New Dies for Old," a capital New Issue list, and the usual dose of Reviews, Correspondence, Notes, etc. We also find an interesting little article dealing with the 1867 issue of Chile, contributed by Mr. C. Ache.

The May *West-End Philatelist* contains a further chapter of Mr. A. J. Séfi's "Postage Stamps of Malta," also the first instalment of the same writer's Notes on the Bordeaux Issue of France. Both articles are excellent. From the former we make the following brief extract:—

The first regular stamp of Malta was issued to the public on the 1st December, 1860. This was the ½d. buff, on bluish paper, perforated 14. It will be remembered that the consignment of this stamp was received in the Colony as early as August, 1859, but, for some unaccountable reason, had been put aside, though stamps were urgently needed. There has been much discussion at different times as to whether this stamp was really the first to be issued in Malta, or whether the ½d. on white paper was the first to appear. Now we know that the first consignment of stamps was received in Malta in August, 1859, and that no further consignment was made until August 31st, 1861. One of these consignments must have been the stamp on bluish paper, and, though it is generally admitted that this was the first stamp issued, it is quite as well to show undisputable evidence that this was the case.

As I mentioned in the chapter dealing with British stamps used in Malta, the "M" postmark was discontinued about the end of 1860. The only Maltese stamp found with this postmark is the ½d. on bluish paper. As we know that there was only one consignment of stamps sent to Malta between August, 1859 and 1861, and that the "M" postmark ceased to be used after 1860, it stands to reason that any stamp found with this postmark must belong to the first consignment, furthermore, I have before me, as I write, two copies of the ½d., on bluish paper, clearly postmarked January 21st and 22nd, 1861, respectively, thus absolutely proving that this stamp came out of the first consignment, and, therefore, was the first stamp to be issued in Malta.

A chronicle of New Issues, a short Editorial, etc., completes our brief summary.

The May *Stamp Lover* is almost entirely devoted to South American Stamps; the only exception being one of Mr. Barron's excellent articles dealing with Mexicans. He heads his paper "A Mexican By-

path," and describes the stamps of 1864, the reason they were issued, and relates how a small find of these stamps, extremely rare in a used condition, has recently been discovered. The following lengthy extract will interest those of our numerous readers who are interested in Mexican issues:—

It is not often that one has the good fortune to come across a *cache* of stamps so scarce and so obscure in their history that, as has been said, their issue has been wholly denied, and to find them as part of a correspondence the general authenticity of which almost guarantees the bonafides of any particular items it contains. Mr. Schmeckpeper, a collector of sufficiently long standing to remember Mexicans before the "fake" era, was lucky enough some five or six years ago to pick up in San Luis Potosi an accumulation of letters from the offices of Farias & Co., of Saltillo. Among these a considerable number proceeded from the firm of Viuda de Tarnava and Co., of Monterey, and many bear their oval stamp on the face of the cover. We have thus two firms in regular communication, both situated within the area more or less controlled by Juarez; quite naturally the "find" included nine covers franked by thirteen stamps belonging to this issue. Mr. Schmeckpeper has published in the *Berliner Briefmarken Zeitung* a descriptive account of these stamps, which with additional matter and illustrations he has been good enough to place at my disposal.

The items were as follows:—Four single copies of the 2 reals, three covers franked with a 1r. and a 2 rs., one cover franked with a 1r. and a 4 rs., and one bearing a 4 rs. only. It will be noticed that the highest value, 1 peso, was not found. Seven stamps are still in the possession of the finder, and are illustrated. There are certain indices one habitually looks for in a manufactured Mexican stamp—in this case the bare stamps themselves are not suspect—and the surest are not capable of photographic reproduction. But it is possible to deal with the main features of Mr. Schmeckpeper's stamps and to draw attention to details in which they resemble indisputable copies of other issues, and to others in which they chiefly resemble themselves.

To take the district overprint first; in measurement this differs entirely from that quoted in Collin and Calman's list, which gives a length of 16mm. without stops before and after the name, spelt with one R only. These catalogued details seem quite unsupportable. The preceding issues show an overprint measuring 20mm. in length with stops and two R's. Further, though the Eagle issue presents a wholly new overprint, the spelling is retained and continues the same until 1868. It is highly probable that the cachet found in the post-office of Monterey by Juarez was that which had done duty for the 1856 and 1861 issues, and with this type the overprints on Mr. Schmeckpeper's stamps substantially agree. It is true that the letters are blotted and appear irregular, but this is caused by the character of the paper, which is quite different from the absorbent variety used for the preceding series, and it may be remarked that when the fabricator set out to overprint the 1 real Saltillo with the surcharge $\frac{1}{2}$, to be referred to later, he was careful to obtain a much more finished result.

The remaining articles are Mr. L. Wiener's "Notes on Some Stamps of Brazil, 1894-1911," and continuations of Mr. L. W. Crouchs' "The Postage Stamps of Honduras," and Mr. W. Haworth's "Postcards of Chili." A

capital list of New Issues, and some J.P.S. news complete our brief review.

Griebert's Philatelic Notes and Offers for June contains the first instalment of another of Mr. Griebert's famous studies of American stamps. He writes about the 12 centavos value of the 1872 issue of Mexico, and the following extracts will make those of our many subscribers, who take an interest in Mexican stamps, keen to read the article in full.

In this article I am going to describe the next value, the 12 Centavos blue, with special reference to its varieties.

We already know of ten varieties of the 6 Centavos which were repeated arbitrarily over the entire sheet. I have established at least four distinct printings of this stamp, in which the arrangement of the varieties was different in each case.

For the production of the stone of the 12 Centavos eleven separate transfers were used, and I will now point out the special marks by which these eleven may be recognised, at the same time drawing attention to the enlarged illustrations which accompany this number of *G.P.N.O.*

Mr. Griebert describes the various flaws, etc., and then says:—

I have not met with any re-touched stamps of 12 Centavos, such as are to be found in the 6 Centavos and another value, which latter I purpose describing on a future occasion; but I do not wish to assert that these do not exist in the 12 Centavos.

All stamps produced by lithography often show little spots or other defects of printing, such as damaged letters or mistakes on the stone, by which, however, one must not be misled when building up an entire sheet.

I was fortunate in obtaining, through the kindness of Mr. Chas. J. Phillips, some good material for study consisting of four different partly re-constructed sheets, which prove that for these stamps also at least four stones were used, each showing a different arrangement of the varieties.

Our contemporary also contains another long instalment of Mr. A. B. Creeke's article entitled "The 'Native' Issues of British Guiana."

Philately in the Colonies and Elsewhere.

The April number of the *Australian Stamp Journal*, a very readable number, contains several extracted articles. We also find some capital "Items of Interest," an up-to-date list of New Issues and an interesting paper entitled "Some 'Stamps' Worth knowing a Little About," wherein the author, Mr. W. J. McNeill writes about various postmarks and the important part they play in the hobby of stamp collecting.

From the "Items of Interest" we cull the following letter:—

EARLY NEW ZEALAND PERFORATIONS.—As the result of correspondence with Mr. A. T. Bate, that gentleman has unearthed from amongst his papers a letter, of which he had forgotten the existence. Mr. Bate has sent us the letter for inspection, which proves beyond doubt that as far back as the latter part of 1891 he had been making some enquiries from Ferguson & Mitchell relative to stamps perforated by them in 1863-64.

"The following is a copy of the letter:—
"Ferguson & Mitchell, manufacturing stationers, etc., Princess Street, Dunedin, N.Z., 22nd Dec., 1891. Arthur T. Bate, Esq., Private Secretary to Native Minister, Wellington. Dear Sir,—We are in receipt of yours of 17th inst. from Auckland relative to inquiry for information regarding N.Z. stamps, stated by Mr. Biss to have been perforated by us in 1863-64. We have no recollection of the matter, and unfortunately our printing records prior to 1865 have all been destroyed through a fire that occurred in that year. We are very sorry we are unable to render you any assistance in this matter. We are, yours faithfully, Ferguson & Mitchell (George Calder)."

The May number of the *Philatelic Journal of India* contains several short readable articles and extracts, the former mostly dealing with Indian postal matters. Mr. J. Godinho, the contributor in chief, is responsible for a short history of the forged 1r. grey stamps of India. This was published in 1890, very many present-day collectors will, however, welcome it as entirely fresh news:—

I subjoin a portion of the report in the words of Mir Abdul Ali Sahib himself.

"The prisoner explained in greater detail how the work was done. His first step was to polish an oblong piece of stone bearing the stamp set in a block of wood, with an admixture of cocum, similar in quality and colour to ordinary tamarind. His next process was to lightly touch the cut stamp, delicately finished with a tint of light grey. He then adjusted a piece of paper upon it, which he carefully rubbed with the concave side of a shell, so as to insure the application of full pressure on its surface. The paper was then removed with a clear and distinct impression upon it, and was placed on a square piece of copper, drilled with holes and perforated. The watermark was next impressed and the production was a piece of work which almost approached the finish of the genuine article. The only difference noticeable in the process of lithography was, that some of the lines across the stamp were somewhat coarser than the impression on the original."

The April number of the *Australian Philatelist* devotes a good deal of its space to the subject of stamp collecting as a hobby for schoolboys, in other words "Junior Philately." We learn with pleasure that a J.P.S. has been formed and that over sixty members have already joined. Our "down under" exchange also contains a lengthy "London Letter," a good list of New Issues and a budget of Notes and Extracts.

Recent numbers of the *Philatelic Gazette* have all contained a good deal of original and interesting matter; in the copy dated May 1st, we find some more information relating to the stamps of the Spanish

Mariannas; Mr. J. M. Bartels is able to quote the following decree:—

"Saipan, September 18th, 1899. In view of the fact that large quantities of stamps of the 1898-99 series have been taken from the administration of the public treasury which the Spanish Government had retained at the Philippine Archipelago, and in order to avoid in every way possible any abuse that might be made by persons hostile to the administration of the public treasury of these islands under my command and at the same time securing the interests of the national treasury, I hereby authorize the overprinting of the postage stamps held by the administration of the public treasury of these islands: these stamps shall bear the inscription "Marianas Españolas" in two lines surrounded by a rectangle of suitable dimension for the purpose intended. EUGENIO BLANCO."

In accordance with the information obtained from the administration of the public treasury at Saipan, the denominations and quantities of stamps surcharged were approximately as follows:

Philippines issue 1898-99 surcharged in violet-blue, "Marianas Españolas" in frame vertically reading down.

500	2c. dark blue-green.
500	3c. dark brown.
500	5c. carmine-rose.
50	6c. dark blue.
700	8c. grey-brown.
150	15c. slate-green.

This shows that the total number of stamps issued was only 2,400 in all, a very small number. (The 5c. is also known "reading up.") As there was no special handstamp for cancelling mail at Saipan, the seal or cancelling stamp of the political military government was used for this purpose. In the absence of special cancelling ink, ordinary writing ink was the only kind employed. It must be taken into consideration that everything there was of a provisional nature and therefore deficient in many respects.

The same number of the *Gazette* contains a lengthy instalment of Major F. L. Palmer's "The Postal Issues of the Philippines," Mr. C. L. Pack's notes relating to the inverted centre Argentine stamps, a New Issue list and other matter.

A fortnight later we find a further chapter of Dr. Chase's paper dealing with the 3c. U.S.A. Stamp of 1851, another instalment of Major Palmer's article, and other contributions.

One of our smallest exchanges, the *New England Stamp Monthly*, an American house organ, sometimes contains more interesting reading matter than do many of its much bigger American cousins. In the copy dated May 20th, we find the following item:—

Through the kindness of a New York collector we have been shown a cover bearing a 3 pence, Canada, of the perforated issue bearing a dated postmark of October 20, 1858. The subject of the perforated pence issues was carefully gone over by Mr. Howes in his work on "Canada," and the conclusion arrived at that they could not have appeared before January, 1859, or November, 1858, as no satisfactory copy on cover had been seen dated previous to 1859, and the relative scarcity of the perforated stamps precluded any very large supply having been used. The cover in question establishes a new date to work from, and is therefore exceptionally interesting.

Philately on the Continent.

A VERY interesting article entitled "Forged Stamps made to Deceive the Post" is being published serially in *Le Postillon*, which is an amplification of Mr. Griebert's well-known list. In the number for April 25th, France is reached and we reproduce the list of the forged stamps known to have been used postally in that country:—

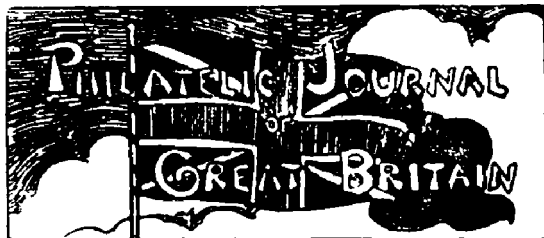
1. 20c., blue, Empire, 1853, imperf. This must have been made in Spain. Used from Bayonne.
2. 40c., red, Empire, 1853, imperf. Very rare; only one specimen known, in a specialized collection.
3. 20c., Ceres, 1870, perforated. Equally rare. The head is too round and a of a model which gives it the aspect of the full moon; the chin is too short and retreats.
4. 20c., Bordeaux, 1871. Type III. The so-called Marseilles forgery which is well known and is not a rarity except on the entire envelope.
5. 20c., Bordeaux, type II. This was discovered by M. Bernichon about a year before his death; excessively rare.
6. 15c. blue, called the Chalons forgery; no longer rare.
7. 15c. blue, Allegorical figures, known as the Lyons forgery; not rare. Very thick and bad impressions. It is difficult to explain how their use could have lasted so long.
8. 15c. blue, with imitation of the quadrillé pattern; made at Montpellier, 1899-1900. This very rare forgery had only an ephemeral existence, the forger having been arrested at the outset.
9. 10c. Semeuse, 1906. This is the only forgery mentioned in Mr. Griebert's list for France, and is the one about which so much has been written during the past few years.

The two best-known forgeries which have deceived the German post-office are the 50 pf. greenish-grey of 1883 and the 10 pf. red, of 1889.

L'Echo de la Timbrologie dated March 31st, gives an account of the *tête-bêche* varieties of the current issue of Bavaria. It seems that in order to print the stamps in a form suitable for cutting up to make the little booklets, special sheets of the 5 and 10pf. have been issued in which the 4th vertical row of stamps is left out in order to give room for binding when cut into leaflets, while the three last vertical rows are inverted. The sheets are split into fifteen sizes for fitting into the booklets, the margin required for the binding being on the left; it is for this reason that the

last three vertical rows are inverted, as otherwise there would be no margin at the left. The Bavarian post office, having a benevolent eye for philatelists, very obligingly sell these sheets (which should only be used for cutting up for booklets) to anyone who enquires for them, thus following the example set two or three years ago by Switzerland.

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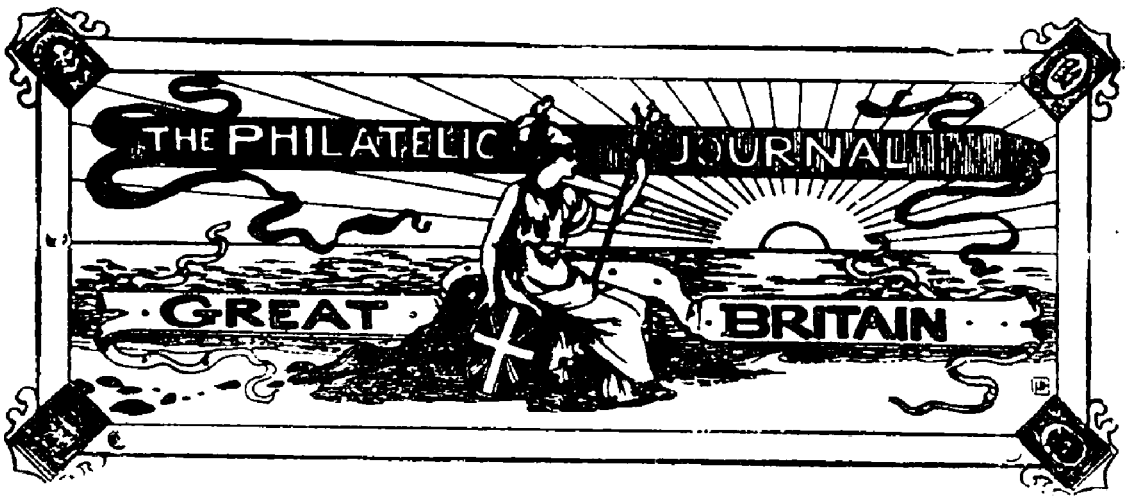
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♦ ♦ Editorial. ♦ ♦

THE most remarkable find of recent years is undoubtedly the superb block of thirteen unused 3d. Sydney Views, which has recently been offered to London dealers. Accompanying this unique piece were a strip of four, and a pair, all being from the same sheet, making a total of nineteen stamps, all in very fine condition. Although we have not yet had the pleasure of viewing this veritable Koh-i-nor of philatelic treasure, we have heard for some months vague rumours of a big block of 3d. Views having been shown to more than one London dealer.

The vendor, in almost total ignorance we believe of the value of his find, was careful to obtain the opinion of more than one London dealer regarding his unique possession, unfortunately we do not even know who was the lucky buyer; but the history of the find, and its owner's experience, would undoubtedly make interesting reading.

According to the current number of the *London Philatelist* these stamps consist of one block of 13 in two vertical rows of five and one of three, being the right-hand portion of the sheet, with full side margin, a vertical pair completing the forenamed row of three, and a vertical strip of four

from the left-hand of the sheet. The plate of 25 varieties is thus complete except Nos. 1, 2, 7, 12, 17, and 22. These stamps, judging by their fine condition, with full gum, must have been carefully preserved, possibly between the leaves of a book. We are also informed that Mr. H. J. Duveen is now the fortunate owner. Although we heartily congratulate Mr. Duveen on being the happy possessor of such a treasure, we cannot but help feeling a pang of regret that such a wonderful find should not have gone to grace the albums of some collector, who, through being a specialist in Australian stamps, would be even more capable than Mr. Duveen of treasuring them for their intrinsic worth as well as their unique philatelic value.

In the world of smaller discoveries another pretty little addition to the storehouse of philatelic treasures has recently been unearthed in a Yorkshire town, it consists of a fine used pair of the 1/- green, rouletted New Zealand, on thick unwatermarked paper. Compared with the titanic importance of the find of Sydney Views this modest pair of New Zealanders, valued at a modest £70 or so, fades into insignificance, and only serves as a humble pointer to the well-known proverb that there are as good fish in the sea as ever came out of it.

May our readers, at least those who are good philatelists, some day experience the joy of discovering some hoard of long forgotten correspondence or some hidden

find of unused stamps, which, sixty years or so ago, possibly took the form of a small remittance to some long since vanished creditor.

The Local Posts of the United Kingdom, Government and Private;

WITH A SPECIAL DESCRIPTION OF THE CIRCULAR DELIVERY COMPANY'S ISSUES OF 1865-69, THE COURT BUREAU STAMPS OF 1890, AND THE ISSUES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITIES.

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BY T. H. HINTON.

IN attempting the History of the Local Stamps of the United Kingdom, I have found the subject so interwoven with the general Postal History of this country, that in order to make a connected narrative, it is necessary to refer briefly to many points of interest in the story of the rise and progress of our general Postal System.

In the earliest records of the Posts of the United Kingdom, we find the Post Office monopoly was vested in the Sovereign and was used for State purposes. The oldest regulations extant as to the carriage of postal letters date back to the time of Queen Elizabeth. The Posts were maintained at a loss which in 1609 stood at £3400 for the year, and every additional post increased the loss, but it was kept up by the State to secure control over its subjects, and to detect and defeat conspiracies. From 1609-32 posts were under the control of Lord Stanhope at a salary of £66 13s. 4d. per annum, with the addition of a fee of 8d. on letters to the Continent, a foreigner named De Quester being employed under him to manage the foreign posts, of which he was granted separate control in 1619.

In 1632, De Quester associated with himself Messrs. Frizell and Witherings, the latter after three years being appointed to put the Inland Posts on a better footing. He found them in a very bad condition, it taking two weeks to get a reply to a letter from London to Scotland or Ireland. He so improved matters that this was reduced to six days. It was a part of the plan that the posts should be self supporting. Two years before, in 1633, a local post was established between Barnstaple and Exeter, which took about a day, at a charge of 6d. for a single, and 8d. for a double letter, and similar posts were established by other towns in Devonshire, their success prompting the introduction of State Postage by Witherings at the following rates:

	Single letter.	Double letter.	If bigger.
Under 80 miles	2d.	4d.	6d. oz.
80, and not exceeding 140 ..	4d.	8d.	9d.
Above 140	6d.	12d.	12d.
To or from Scotland	8d.	—	—
.. .. Ireland	9d.	over 2 ozs.,	6d. an oz.

This was the introduction of postage, starting in October, 1635, and in 1637 Lord Stanhope surrendered his patent and Witherings became Postmaster for Inland and Foreign Letters, a letter office being opened in London, at Cloak Lane, Dowgate Hill; removed in the first half of the 17th Century to The Black Swan, at Bishopsgate Street, destroyed by the Great Fire in 1666, when a temporary office was opened in Covent Garden. About 1680 the General Post Office was opened in Abchurch Lane, Lombard Street, and remained the Head Office until the opening of the General Post Office in St. Martin's-le-Grand in 1829. In 1640 he was deprived of his office on various charges, and was succeeded by Philip Burlamachi, a City merchant, who had advanced large sums to the King. Witherings struggled to maintain his position without success, and in 1642 assigned his patent to the Earl of Warwick, and a struggle for the mastery ensued between Lords and Commons.

In 1644, Edmund Prideaux was appointed by the Commons, and gave Public Notice of a Weekly Conveyance of Letters to all parts of the Kingdom, which, however, he failed to fully carry out, and in 1649 the Common Council of the City of London established a post of their own, appointing postmasters and settling their own postage. This was resented by Prideaux, who brought the matter before Parliament, who promptly suppressed the City Posts and more than thirty years elapsed before another private venture was made. Having included in his report, that notwithstanding the expenses of management had risen to £7000 per annum, the posts were now self-supporting, the House ordered an investigation, the result being that in addition

to defraying the charges, he was ordered to pay the State a rental of £5000 per annum, which was the introduction of the system of Farming the Posts, which lasted beyond the middle of the 18th Century. Prideaux ceased to be Master of the Post in 1653, being succeeded by Capt. Manley, at a rental of £10,000 per annum. His contract expiring in 1655, Cromwell, on the advice of his Council, placed the posts in the hands of Mr. Secretary Thurloe, and in 1657 an Act was passed settling the postage of England, Scotland, and Ireland. A General Office was to be established under a Postmaster-General and Comptroller, who was to have the exclusive right of conveying letters and forwarding post horses. The term postage as applied to charges on letters was not used until 1764. In the Act of 1660 it signified the hire of a horse for travelling. At the Restoration, this Act was re-enacted, omitting that part of it which declared that the posts were the best means of discovering and preventing conspiracies against the State.

By this Act the rates were fixed as follows:

	Single letter.	Double letter.	Per ounce.
80 miles and under	2d.	4d.	8d.
Above 80 miles	3d.	6d.	12d.
To or from Berwick	3d.	6d.	18d.
From Berwick within Scotland—			
40 miles and under	2d.	4d.	8d.
Above 40 miles	4d.	8d.	12d.
From Dublin within Ireland..	2d.	4d.	8d.
Above 40 miles	4d.	8d.	12d.

There are no means of comparing these rates with those preceding them. but the postage on a single letter under Prideaux's management was 6d., this being reduced in 1655-57 to 3d., for which Clement Oxenbridge, who was deputy under Prideaux and Manley, claimed the credit, and complained that having improved the Posts, and made them profitable, he was turned adrift by Cromwell. In May, 1660, he petitioned the Council of State to reimburse him, his claim being investigated by the House of Commons. In the reign of William and Mary he was awarded an appointment in the Post Office value £100 per annum, which he drew until his death in 1696. At the Restoration the Post Office was leased to Henry Bishop, of Henfield, Sussex, for seven years, at £21,500 per annum, but before three years had elapsed he surrendered the remainder of his term to Daniel O'Neile, who had been a loyal supporter of Charles in exile. He was placed under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of State. His lease expired in 1667, and Lord Arlington was appointed Postmaster-General. After a while the Office was again farmed out, this time at £43,000 per annum rental. The posts were comparatively few and uncertain, and between London and the country went at unequal intervals. There was a post daily to Kent and the Downs, to other parts of England and to Scotland every other day, and to Wales and Ireland twice a week, but from one part of London to another no post was provided.

William Dockwra, a City merchant, who had formerly been a sub-sealer in the Custom House, undertook to supply this deficiency. The idea is said to have originated with Robert Murray, who was associated with Dockwra, at first, but the latter carried it out in the face of many difficulties, which would have overcome a less resolute man.

It involved a heavy expense and incurred the opposition of the Duke of York, on whom, in 1663, the profits of the Post Office had been settled, and he resented this new project as an infringement of his rights. Then there were rumours, set about by Titus Oates, of the post being the means of fostering Papist plots, and the determined opposition of the porters employed in delivering letters about London who saw their livelihood being taken away. However, undeterred by these difficulties, on the 1st of April, 1680, Dockwra gave London its first Local Post.

He divided London and suburbs, from Hackney in the North, to Lambeth in the South, and from Blackwall in the East to Westminster in the West, into seven districts, with a sorting office in each, together with a large number of receiving offices, the head office being in Lime Street. Letters were collected hourly, and if for the country, taken to the General Post Office, for town to the sorting offices, from them being delivered to all parts of the town at a charge of 1d. for a letter or parcel not exceeding one pound in weight and £10 in value, except in the case of Hackney, Islington, Newington Butts and Lambeth, which were separate towns, and the 1d. rates only carried to the receiving offices an additional 1d. being charged for delivery to houses. Providing the letter or parcel was securely sealed and the contents declared outside it, compensation for loss was given up to £10 value.

He also introduced postmarks showing the office and time of posting, but according to "Daniels' British Postmarks," did not originate the system of postmarking, such having been in use at the Lombard Street General Post Office fifteen years earlier. His offices were open daily from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., except on Saturdays, when they closed at 7 p.m. in summer and 6 p.m. in winter and they were also closed on Sundays and General Holidays. The General Post Office, at this time in Lombard Street, employed 77 persons, a further 239 including postmasters and others being employed in connection with it in the provinces, Scotland and Ireland, making a staff of 316 all told, and until Dockwra's offices were opened, Lombard Street was the only receptacle for letters in all London. As long as the undertaking was in difficulties and making an uphill fight, Dockwra was not interfered with, but as soon as it became prosperous the Duke of York set the law in motion and was awarded damages, and in less than five years from its introduction this Local Post was absorbed by the General Post Office. Whilst James II. reigned Dockwra received no

recompense, but in 1690 upon an address from the House of Commons, he was granted by William and Mary a pension of £500 per annum for seven years, which in 1697 was further extended for three years, and he was then appointed Comptroller of the Penny Post at a salary of £200 per annum. He retained this appointment until 1700, when on charges brought against him by his own subordinates he was dismissed. He died at an advanced age in 1716, and whilst he lived predicted that the benefits which he had secured for his country would endure to all posterity. His post, as taken over by the Government, was continued at the same rates for some years, and the 1d. post was legalized by Act of Parliament in 1711 and the 2d. post in 1730, although both had been in existence since 1680.

In 1698 a penny post was in existence between England and America, bags for letters being hung up in the principal coffee houses in London by masters of ships who undertook to convey the same for 1d. for a single and 2d. for a double letter. By this we see that our Ocean Penny Postage was anticipated by our ancestors more than 200 years ago. A proposal made in 1703 to set up a penny post in Dublin under private auspices, one tenth of the profits to go to the Crown, was declined on the ground that it could not be made to pay. In 1709 Charles Povey set up a halfpenny post in London in opposition to the General Post Office, operating in the busy parts of the Metropolis, Westminster and Southwark. Letters were collected by men who rang bells to give notice of their approach, a custom which was continued by the Post Office for many years afterwards. He defied the Postmaster-General who proceeded against him in the Law Courts, when he lost the day, and was fined £100, but owing to the Laws delays, his post was in full swing from October 1709 to May 1710.

By the Act of 1711, the limits of the 1d. post, which up to this date had extended to places distant nearly twenty miles from London, was fixed at ten miles from the General Post Office in Lombard Street, the postage of a single letter to places within eighty miles of London being fixed at 3d. In 1765 a further Act to improve the Post was passed, making the rates 1d. for one stage and 2d. for two stages, power being given to the Postmaster-General to extend the 1d. post to Country Towns. The weight to be carried was reduced to 4 ozs., and compensation for loss had long ceased to exist. In 1773 a Penny Post Office was opened in Dublin, but other towns were not so provided, and a house-to-house delivery was only undertaken by the Post Office in London, Edinburgh and Dublin, the postmasters elsewhere being left to make their own arrangements and charges. At this time these extra charges were resisted in many places, the matter being fought out in the Law Courts, the decision

being against the Post Office, who had henceforth to abandon their extra charges for delivery. A Commission of Inquiry in 1787 exposed many abuses which had grown up in the Penny and General Posts. Amongst other things it was found that the cost of registering a letter outwards was 21/-, and inwards 5/-, although eighty years before this service had been performed without charge. The sums extorted from the public under this head was in 1783 £121, and in 1784 £240. The year 1793 saw further developments of the 1d. post, which was extended to Edinburgh, Manchester, Bristol and Birmingham.

In Scotland, Local Posts had been in existence as far back as 1590—when the Magistrates of Aberdeen established a Post for conveying despatches to and from Edinburgh and other places, where the Court might be in residence. This was called the Council Post, and its messengers wore a uniform, bearing the Crest of the Town. In Edinburgh, about the year 1777, the keeper of a coffee house, in the Hall of Parliament House, named Williamson, had established an Office, from which letters were delivered throughout the City, at 1d. each, which was still in operation when the Government appeared on the scene in 1793, and for the closing of which he was compensated by a pension of £25 per annum. Notwithstanding, the establishment of these Local Posts showed a clear profit to the Revenue in 1794-5, the Post Office declined to extend them to Leeds, Liverpool, and other Towns, on the ground that they would not pay expenses, the 1d. post not being established in Liverpool until five years afterwards, and in Glasgow in 1800. About this time (1793-4) the 1d. post in London was further developed and improved by Edward Johnson, who, starting as a letter carrier, won, by his conspicuous abilities, the position of Deputy Comptroller of the Penny Post Office. The improvements which he introduced into the methods of the collection, sorting and delivery of letters, increased the Revenue from £11,000 in the last year of the old system, to £28,560 under his system during the first year, and £29,623 in the second year. Amongst the many improvements in detail was the regulation that all receptacles for letters should be kept locked, and the key held by the receiver, who alone was to have access to it. The Act of 1794 enabling him to carry out these reforms, also abolished the limit of a ten mile circuit for the 1d. post, and the Postmasters-General were empowered to extend it in London or country towns at their discretion. It also imposed a 2d. post in both directions outside the limit, instead of one way only. Prepayment, which had hitherto been compulsory by the 1d. post, was made optional. In 1796, the London Delivery extended from Mayfair to Blackwall, and from Finsbury Square to Rotherhithe, and separate staffs dealt with the delivery of Foreign, Inland and Local Penny Post Letters.

In 1801, to satisfy the demands of the Exchequer, the retrograde step was taken of raising all the rates of postage then in force, and by an Act passed in this year, the penny post which had been in operation for 120 years, was swept out of existence, and the rate raised to 2d. The Act also empowered the Postmasters-General to grant postal facilities to towns and villages where no post offices existed, provided the inhabitants were prepared to pay such sums as might be agreed upon. These were known as Village or Fifth Clause Posts, from the clause in the Act under which they were established. They answered well at first, but a decision in 1807 that franked letters and newspapers conveyed by them were exempt from charges, upset the arrangements, and they could not pay expenses, and were discontinued, being replaced in the case of villages and hamlets by penny posts, whilst small towns were merged in the general posts of the Kingdom. In 1805 the Post Office was, for the third time, again called upon for further contributions to the Exchequer, and rates of postage were again raised all round, the effect of this being that in London the penny post, which four years before had been converted into a 2d. post, was now raised to 3d. as regards letters for places beyond the limits of the general delivery.

In 1812 a further contribution was called for, and to meet this the rates were again raised, the postage of a single letter varying from 4d. for a distance not exceeding fifteen miles, to 1/5 for 700 miles and upwards. These were the highest rates ever reached in this country, and in London and throughout the Kingdom the complications and varying rates were such that no one could be certain what the charge would be on a letter addressed from one town to another. Public discontent continued to be expressed from time to time by Inquiries and Commissions from 1815 onwards, and some minor reforms and economies were introduced, but in 1829, when the new General Post Office in St. Martin's-le-Grand was opened, the rates of 1812 were still in force. In 1831 the limits of free delivery of the general post were extended to three miles from the General Post Office, and the 3d. post to a radius of twelve miles, but this was shorter by some miles than the radius of the Penny Post in Queen Anne's time. More than sixty years had elapsed since the Law Courts decided that the inhabitants of Post Towns were entitled to free delivery, but an enquiry showed that a charge on delivery was still being made in 89 Towns. In 1834, another Royal Commission inquired why previous recommendations had not been carried out, and suggested further reforms, which were still resisted by the Post Office Authorities and the rates of postage remained unaltered until 1839.

(To be continued).

Current Chatter.

BY ANGUS MCTAVISH.

ADVERTISING their approval sheets in a recently published stamp book, Stanley Gibbons quote the following extract:—

E. R. O ———, Notts, writes:

"Your stamps have proved exceptionally satisfactory in every way, and I feel very much obliged to Mr. F. C. B. for recommending me to try your stamps."

The following testimonials have not yet been received by the publishers of this paper, who, altho' they run the *P.J.G.B.* for business purposes, also conduct, as a hobby, a fairly extensive business in used and unused postage stamps:—

L. L. R. H ———, Surrey:

"Your Papuans are as big as anybody else's and I strongly recommend all collectors to give them a trial. I find them an excellent preventative against sunburn."

A. J. W ———, Surrey:

"Since trying your Curacao I have not had an attack of hay-fever. I feel much obliged to Mr. W. H. P. for recommending me to you."

M. Z. K. ———, London:

"Your approval books have proved of exceptional value this spring cleaning, as they are just the right size for extempore dinner plates. I am much obliged to Mr. J. W. J. for telling me about you. Before I used your approval selections I used to suffer considerable pain with teething, now, I am glad to state I consider myself quite cured."

G. A. H ———, London:

"Your retouched Hollands have proved exceptionally satisfactory in every way—since studying them I have not suffered from barber's rash or housemaid's knee. Next time I suffer from hairlineitis I will patronize the old firm."

F. J. M ———, Brixton:

"A sight of your approval sheet of Bogotas has spurred me to the edge of distraction. I feel that even in an edition *de luxe* I could not do them justice."

"P.S.—For handbook writers I consider there are no stamps like yours."

A. J. L ———, London:

"Until Lloyd George entered into competition there were no stamps to beat yours for gummosity. Unless you can improve your gummiferous qualities I shall specialize in National Healths."

"P.S.—At one time I took 'Bovril,' 'Oxo,' and 'Wincarnis,' but now I find your stamp mounts equally satisfying."

Reading D. B. Armstrong's latest stamp book the other day I came across the following:—
"From the burin of a local engraver." Thinking I had caught D.B.A. tripping, I whistled for my tame dictionary, and found that burin means "tool." I might have known it.

The *New England Stamp Monthly*, a nice little trade paper from the States, says *apropos* the firm's approval books of Australians: "In one case we received a cablegram from a cus—." The *N.E.S.M.* proceeds: "The demand for these special books and rare illustrated stamps has tomer nearly 7000

miles away." The second joke isn't half as good as the first one.

A. C. Roessler, of New York, publishes an amusing little paper, which sometimes contains the very latest stamp news. Here is the latest from the Gilbert and Sullivans:—

"The P.M. of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands writes to say the 5 shilling Georgian will be on sale in June. This will be good news for the 60 white people in the group. These hardy folks are constantly writing bulky letters requiring \$1.25 postage and the labor saved in salivating one five-shilling stamp instead of five one-shilling stamps will be employed in writing more letters."

From an American subscriber:

"When the *P.J.G.B.* arrives I just can't make myself behave."

Thanks, A. C. R.

Reading the *Daily Telegraph* the other day I noticed that a learned professor, lecturing on optical matters, said that it was an optical illusion to fancy that stars had rays. I guess our friend hasn't put in much time with the early "stars" of Perkins Bacon.

Mrs. McTavish told me a very tragic tale of woe the other day, it was to the effect that she had bought a nice spring chicken, which she was sending to a friend as a peace offering. Unfortunately the family cat got shut up in the larder with the lately deceased chicken, with the result that dear pussy had indigestion. As Mrs. McTavish had the letter—saying she was enclosing a nice bird in the hamper—written, I thought it would be a pity to disappoint the intended recipient, so I interviewed pussy, did certain dark deeds, and added "also a nice hare" to the letter. A day or two later I was surprised to hear that the hamper arrived safely "containing a hare, which was delicious, but the chicken had evidently not been packed." I am certain it was.

Young McHaggis has evidently laid in a big supply of stamped stationery; the following three postcards came safely to hand during the course of *one* morning. How many Samuel refused to deliver, I know not.

No. 1:—

DEAR ANGUS,—Looking at a club packet, I saw one member's sheets of mint Papuas, which he boomed as "mint *with gum*." He emphasized the "gum." This suggests a sort of conundrum—what words best describe a mint Papua with gum? And the answer can only be "Gum Pap—u—a."

Now, don't weep over this joke, or chestnut, or you know the result—you'll get a red nose! Q.E.D.

Yours,
MCHAGGIS.

No. 2:—

A word for you.

Laugh and the world laughs with you.
Weep and your nose gets red.

No. 3:—

Has it ever occurred to you that a philatelic pessimist is a paradox? He is always expecting to be disappointed with his bargains, and when he is he isn't.

Help!

New Leaves to Cut.

ST. HELENA.*

By F. J. MELVILLE.

WE are glad again to welcome another of Mr. Melville's little handbooks, and to find that it deals with such interesting stamps as are the labels of St. Helena.

The style and general appearance of the Melville stamp books are so well known, that there is no need for us to refer to them, we will content ourselves with a brief review of the literary contents. Commencing with the imperforate 6d. stamp of 1856, Mr. Melville unfolds the philatelic history of the island and how the one plate did duty until the surface printed labels came into use in 1890.

The misplaced impressions from the roller-die which occur on all values are fully described and illustrated and will prove interesting varieties which collectors, hitherto unaware of their existence, will be able to search for. As there are only three of these "double impressions," of which only one is really very marked on each sheet of 240 stamps, it will be seen that they are far from common. Various minor varieties of surcharge—mostly in the well known collection of Mr. H. H. Harland—are described, but we find no mention, except in the check list, of the 1d. with overprint in *deep blue* similar to the two O.H.M.S. overprints of India.

We also find a description and quantities of the cancelled remainders which were placed on the market a few years ago, unfortunately Mr. Melville neglects to warn his readers against so-called unused stamps, which in reality are some of this "remainder" from which the violet cancellations have been cleaned.

As an appendix Mr. H. H. Harland contributes an excellent chapter describing various proofs and essays.

Those of our readers who are in search of a new country, and those who merely want an interesting handbook, should not delay in securing a copy of Mr. Melville's latest work.

THE EDWARDIAN STAMPS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE, PART I.†

By D. B. ARMSTRONG.

THIS little work forms Vol. II. of Messrs. Bright's Philatelic Library, and makes an admirable companion to No. 1, which deals with the stamps of the Sudan.

Unfortunately, Edwardian stamps have but little interest for philatelists, while the modern

*Published by the Melville Stamp Books, 47, Strand, W.C. 6d. nett.

†Published by Bright & Son, 164, Strand, W.C. Price 6d.

stamp collector of to-day will regret that the stamps of Gt. Britain are not to be included in Mr. Armstrong's list. This neglect appears due to the "vastness of the subject"!

Collectors of King's Heads, and there certainly are many to be numbered amongst latter day accumulators, will welcome Mr. Armstrong's little book, as he deals exhaustively with the stamps of Antigua, down through the alphabet to Dominica, while we also find chapters dealing interestingly with the general manufacture of King's Head stamps and the usual accompanying shibboleth of "duty" and "key" plates, etc.

Correspondence.

Launceston,
July 8th, 1912.

The Editor, "P.J. of G.B."

PROPOSED PHILATELIC CLUB.

DEAR SIR,

As a country reader of your paper, I was very much interested in last month's Editorial. I think, however, that unless you had an exchange branch section you would have little support from country members who live more than 100 miles from London, as the benefits they would derive would be almost nil, unless of course business or pleasure necessitated frequent visits to town.

I think the idea of occasional excursions an admirable one, especially during the summer months; recent Philatelic Congresses have proved that stamp collectors are essentially gregarious and I am sure that an afternoon, or even whole day, spent as a "field" day would appeal to many.

Yours truly,
A. C. FOSTER-HOBBS.

134, Coleraine Road,
Blackheath, London, S.E.
June 29th.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

I was much interested in your June Editorial. A Society such as you propose would not interfere in any way with any existing Society, and might in due time represent *all* the Societies, if its membership consisted only of those known to be active philatelists worthy of the name. The club-room would be very convenient for provincial collectors desiring to meet London friends, and for those who wish to have a quiet chat over all sorts of matters, even non-philatelic, away from the clatter of tea cups!

I think a membership of 100 too small, on

account of the financial side of the question, moreover this limit would necessarily exclude many desirable members. I am also not sure that dealing should be prohibited; a country member, with little time at his disposal, might like to see stamps, without the trouble and loss of time involved in going the round of the dealers. Dealing should either be entirely prohibited, as you say, or free to all, dealers and collectors alike.

Yours truly,

W. BUCKLAND EDWARDS.

To the Editor, "P.J. of G.B."

East Putney, S.W.,
July 9th.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

You have my sincere sympathy with your heroic endeavour in last month's leader, to provide mental pabulum for the philatelic silly season, but to use a homely phrase, I rather think you are thrashing a dead donkey, and will find it very difficult to get up any enthusiasm or support for a social club for stamp collectors. There is no blinking the fact, that the average collector is not a clubbable soul, and as a rule has already more social engagements than he cares to spare time for, and when he does get a few hours to himself he often prefers a quiet pipe in his den, with his stamps, and perhaps a crony of like tastes, to any other gathering. Another thing that tells against all meetings in town is the enormous suburban growth and means of transit, taking people further out of London than ever, and it needs a very strong inducement to get people to stay in town after their day's business is done, unless it is to attend auction sales, which being held about five nights a week during the season, are apt to upset all other functions.

The whole matter was exhaustively discussed by a representative committee of metropolitan societies not very long ago, and had to be dropped for lack of interest and support.

There are already too many clubs and societies fighting each other for existence and philatelic support, and some scheme of amalgamation would not be a bad thing if it could be brought about, as the same people belong to many of the societies and cannot do justice to them all, and poorly attended meetings are the result.

Yours faithfully,
A VETERAN PHILATELIST.

To the Assistant Editor, "P.J.G.B."

ANGUS MCTAVISH MY MANNIE,

That daft callant, your Editor, has been blatherin in a wee bit article about a New Philatelic Club. Hoots mon, he kens fine too mony sic bonnie places a'ready, Clachans, Scots Trytsand sic, in whilk ye meet to crack

jokes, an quench a drouthy thirst, in gude Scots liquor and aft to hear the chimes at midnight when yu sud ae be ben the hoose at hame wi the bonnie gude wife. Tak advice fra an auld freend, dinna hark to sic havers.

JANET MACPHERSON.

Jubilee International Stamp Exhibition.

LATEST NOTES AND NEWS.

THE PATRON.

The Right Hon. Herbert Samuel, M.P., His Majesty's Postmaster-General, has kindly consented to become the Patron of the Exhibition.

VICE-PATRONS.

The Right Hon. Sydney Buxton, President of the Board of Trade, Sir Joseph Ward, Bart., Sir J. Henniker Heaton, Bart., and the Hon. Harry Lawson, M.P. (of the *Daily Telegraph*), are Vice-Patrons.

MANY VISITORS COMING FROM ABROAD.

Owing to the large number of notifications received from collectors abroad of their intention to *personally* visit the Exhibition, it has been deemed advisable to enlarge the scheme of entertainment. In addition to the usual attractions of the Exhibition, an interesting programme of festivities is being arranged for the entertainment of visitors.

MODIFICATIONS IN THE COMPETITIONS.

Several modifications of the original draft of the Scheme of Competition have been adopted on the numerous suggestions received from friends of the Society.

In the first place the Championship Class will be open to anybody, but in cases where exhibits have already gained *gold medal awards* at any International Philatelic Exhibition in *Great Britain* they can only be entered in the Championship Class.

The three sections for Class C for "Single Issues Specialised," have been levelled up as regards the awards. A gold and a silver medal is now offered for a typographed issue (instead of a silver and two bronze medals as in the draft). This advance may be regarded as the outcome of very recent highly specialised studies of certain stamps of this class.

In Class I. two additional sections have been added covering General Collections of British Colonial Stamps, unused (Section 4); and used, or unused and used together (Section 5). One Gold, one Silver and one Bronze Medal is offered in each of these two added Sections.



July, 1912, Report.

List of Officers and Committee, 1912-13.

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Hon. Vice-Presidents:

W. DORNING BRCKTON. H. L. HAYMAN.
MAJOR J. DE C. LAFFAN. DR. E. F. MARX, M.A.

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All Officers of the Union are *ex-officio* Members of the Committee.

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 on Thursday, September 12th, at 7 p.m., to make arrangements for the ensuing season. Meanwhile the Hon. Sec. will be glad to hear from any members willing to contribute papers or displays. Any donations to the forgery collection, subscriptions, or proposals for membership, will receive prompt attention.

THOS. H. HINTON,

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Int. Phil. Union,
26, Cromford Road, East Putney, S.W.
July 10th, 1912.

The World's Most Interesting Stamps.

BY THE EDITOR.

THE question of knowing what to collect having taken me a dozen years or more to solve, it has occurred to me that possibly my experience may be of some slight interest to other collectors. In drawing up the following list of collectible countries I have carefully studied the *pros* and *cons*, and if I evince a rather strong partiality for the older stamps, it is because my business knowledge of the stamp trade has given me cognizance of many cases where recent, and comparatively recent issues, have been speculated in by collectors and dealers, who are, at any time, liable to upset the stability of the market.

The stamps of a country usually become only of real interest when they comprise single stamps, or issues, which contain varieties which are worth hunting for, and when they open up a field for study. To collect the stamps of the Cayman Islands, for instance, is not philately, any more than could anybody claim to be a landscape painter because he filled in with colours the outlined sketch in some artist's guide-book!

This being so, and it being equally true that it is no longer necessary to cater for the wants of the extinct "general" collector, I think the following list of countries, and a few points concerning their stamps, may prove of interest to those numerous collectors who are always wondering what country next to specialise.

To make my article comprehensive I will carefully consider the claims of every stamp issuing "country" in the British Empire, with the exception of those numerous places which, from Alwar to Wadhwan, are listed under the heading of Indian Native States. In their case I must confess to a colossal ignorance, only palliated by the knowledge that most of the "labels" listed have as much to do with stamp collecting as have sewing cotton and patent medicine labels.

AITUTAKI.

The stamps of this Pacific atoll have, in my opinion, no interest whatever, they are merely overprinted labels of New Zealand and the overprint is of less interest than a legible postmark. These labels, in common with those overprinted for the NIUE and PENRHYN Island groups are on a par with those overprinted King Edward VII. Land, in fact, they are not so collectible because, *unlike* the last mentioned, they can, I believe, be purchased at the head post offices in New Zealand.

During the few years that these labels have been in use, I have only seen one or two that had genuine postal cancellations; as I see large quantities of used stamps, from all quarters of the world, this fact is, to me, sufficient to damn them as belonging to the Great Unnecessary.

ANTIGUA.

The stamps of this West Indian Island are eminently suitable for collectors who want a "small" country; unfortunately, the scope they offer is but small and the stamps offer no hidden varieties such as are dear to the heart of the true collector. From a financial point of view I cannot, in a sense, recommend Antigua stamps as an investment, because I have found, from experience, that they fetch, at auction, a much smaller percentage of catalogue value than do the stamps of many other countries. This is due to the fact, already stated, that they offer no scope for the searcher after hidden treasures, every stamp clearly demonstrating under which flag (watermark and perforation) it sails.

Two values exist in an imperforate condition, any collector who hankers after one, or both of them, should be quite sure that he is getting imperforate varieties and not cut down labels. The only Antiguan variety likely to come along as a snap is the scarlet shade of the C.A., perf. 12, one penny, this was, I believe, chronicled on the authority of Mr. Yardley and is, in an unused condition, a scarce stamp.



To collect the stamps of Antigua it is not at all necessary to go beyond the line engraved series, but if the small surface labels are considered desirable they offer, beyond their appearance, no undesirable features; it is true there was a "remainder" when in 1890 the stamps were superseded by the general issue for the Leeward Islands, but this remainder has been absorbed by the philatelic market and the present low quotations will stiffen during the next few years.

A postmark variety of the line engraved one penny stamp is well worth looking for, namely the "A 12" obliteration which was provisionally used in the island of St. Christopher.

The large labels of 1903, still in use, are, in my opinion, not worth the attention of any serious collector—certainly not the variety of the rd. which Gibbons lists on bluish paper.

Taking the countries alphabetically, I next come to the

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH,

and these labels will be summarily dismissed with the remark that I have never heard of anybody collecting them, and trust I never shall.

BAHAMAS.

Like so many of the West Indian group, the stamps of this small dependency are of great interest, while they bristle with difficulties for collectors who are not thoroughly conversant with their intricacies. Although I am a lover of the designs of the Perkins, Bacon stamps, Bahamas stamps have never appealed to me, and possibly my reasons are shared by other collectors. I find them hard to get in fine condition; I find the watermarks of the C.C. and C.A. stamps, in many instances, hard to distinguish, due to their being printed on thickish paper, while there are too many cleaned stamps of the penny denomination, and faked postmarks about, to make the stamps attractive to me. In superb condition any of the early Bahamas stamps realise good prices, but this remark applies to *any* early stamps, it is only when one comes to stamps which are a little "off" when one is able to realize that the same amount of "offness," in stamps of equal catalogue value, and even scarcity, sometimes makes their market value very different when they come from a popular, or an unpopular, country.

The later issues of Bahamas are certainly more free from the taint of speculation, official or otherwise, than are most recent issues, but I am sure most practical collectors will not bother with any later labels than those of 1908.

BANGKOK.

These labels are of little general interest; it is true they were only in use for a short period, but they offer too much inducement for fakers to play with. The stamps of the Straits Settlements without the overprint are in practically every case still easily procurable, while, with a simple little "B" added they become, in some instances, almost unobtainable rarities! On undoubtedly genuine entires, these labels certainly have a romantic and historical interest but, like practically all overprinted stamps, the *philatelic* interest rests with the parent colony.

BARBADOS.

In this case we have a country which is eminently suitable for the collector who wishes

to specialize; we have a wealth of variety, colour, and the ever looked for chance of obtaining varieties of scarce stamps at nominal prices. In these brief notes it is not my intention, even were I capable, of explaining at length the numerous varieties of Barbadian stamps; more learned writers have done this, and it only rests with me, as a collector and dealer of some few years, to suggest in a friendly, and quite disinterested fashion, why, in my opinion, certain countries are far in advance from a "collectible" point of view than are others.

From a cursory peep at Gibbons list of early Barbados stamps, it would appear rather confusing to the general collector, but I can assure my readers that, with the possible exception of some difficulty with the "clean-cut" and the "rough perforation," the various varieties are quite easy of classification. In only a very few instances is it difficult to decide the watermark, while the perforations, although apparently bewildering, come easily into line with but little persuasion. From the point of view of the collector who aims at completion, in a mint condition, Barbados is not to be thought of, but the more modest collector of used copies will find his task a labour of love, lightened by the knowledge that many of his treasures will bear dated postmarks. The scarce provisional of 1878 might well be ignored, not that it is unobtainable, but that the moderate specialist, who collects several countries, and who is not blessed with unlimited wealth, has to draw the line somewhere and one scarce variety lacking will not trouble the heart of the true lover of stamps.



The surface printed labels of 1882-1886 are of little interest, they can be classed with the issues of the same period of numerous other colonies and, beyond the fact that they are collectively a neat set, they add little to the interest or value of any collection.

The "Britannia" issue, in my opinion, should not be included—not but that the stamps are "above board"—but that they are the thin edge of the wedge; if the single watermark varieties are collected, why not the multiple ditto, and the *blued* Jubilees, and the Kingston Reliefs, and so on to the crack of doom?

BECHUANALAND.

Although the stamps of Bechuanaland have never appealed to me, I can recommend

them to collectors who like *variety*, especially as this feature is the charm of collecting in the eyes of many philatelists. The principal drawback and the one which has always deterred me from yielding to their undoubted fascinations, is the fact that the commoner overprints as well as the rarer ones, have been forged, though it is true that these forgeries cannot deceive a specialist, while there are several undesirable items in the nature of stamps of an absurd face value and of petty varieties of overprint. The collector, however, who collects because his labels come from out of the way corners of the earth, will find his Bechuanalands make a brave show, and likely to act as recruiting agents when he explains their peculiarities to non-collectors.

BERMUDA.

With the exception of the Postmaster's, Bermudian stamps are easy to obtain and form a fairly interesting little group. Unfortunately they are all De la Rue labels, but there are some scarce shades of the C.C. and C.A. stamps which will repay the trouble of hunting for them if the search prove successful. I cannot recall to mind ever having seen a copy of S.G. No. 9 (the 1d. imperforate) while the surcharges of 1874 are varieties which it is a *sine qua non* should be from an undoubtedly genuine source. Even the more modest overprints of 1875 have to be carefully scrutinized. Owing to the Bermudas forming a popular little group with speculators, I should not recommend collectors to invest heavily, as many of the values especially the C.A. varieties of 1884-1893 are unused almost a drug on the market.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.



The stamps of B.C.A. form an interesting group—especially for those collectors who like to pay attention to comparatively modern issues. Unfortunately unnecessarily high values ranging from £1 to £25 occur, and in themselves are sufficient to damn the whole country from a philatelic point of view. Ignoring all values above 10/- and paying attention to the fact that great carefulness has to be paid to the authenticity of the rarer "errors", I think that B.C.A. stamps certainly have a future.



The "Nigger" issues are straightforward and, in good *postally* used condition, are generally speaking not dear at the usual discount off catalogue prices. There are dangerous forgeries of the errors of surcharge, but sensible collectors will eliminate all possibility of danger if they simply treat such abortions with contempt and take the ordinary varieties as representative specimens.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND VANCOUVER ISLAND.

These stamps form such a small group that they are hardly worth considering from the point of view of this article. There is only one really "scarce to get" variety, but even the commoner stamps in *superb* condition are becoming exceedingly difficult to secure. On original covers all British Columbia and Vancouver stamps are desirable acquisitions.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

I should not recommend these stamps to the notice of any collector. There are far too many unnecessary varieties of overprint, while even the Bradbury Wilkinson labels of 1890-91 have been extensively forged. As is the case with most countries, the adhesives of British East Africa afford one issue which is of far greater interest than the others, namely, the uniform set of May, 1896. The high values of this type are well worth having, especially *postally* used.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Unfortunately this colony is cursed, from the point of view of the collector who is only blessed with a limited income, by being the home of many hopelessly unprocurable rarities. Certainly the designs of the two first issues are uninviting, although they could certainly be designated as quaint, it usually falls to the lot of the humble collector however that he is not on speaking acquaintance with any British Guiana stamps issued prior to 1860. The two values of 1853, are certainly procurable, but they are in such constant request by specialists that the more humble devotee seldom, even at full catalogue quotations, has a chance to add one of these labels to his collection. The issues of 1860, onwards, until the surface printed stamps of 1876 made their appearance, are an attractive group,

only spoiled by the inclusion of the un-picturesque type set provisionals of 1862, which have been extensively forged. Unfortunately the regular issue also suffers from the same disadvantage, but on the other hand it affords a wide field for minor varieties.

The surface printed labels of 1876 open up the possibility of finding two scarce varieties of perforation of which certainly the 4c. blue, and possibly the 1c. slate, are much under-catalogued. There is also the chance of other 12½ or compounds being discovered. The later issues of the colony offer little

inducement to would-be specialists, the high values of the 1890 to date issues are frequently found in a cleaned condition, while the earlier provisionals of 1888-1890 are not a particularly fascinating study. Were I to collect British Guiana stamps, I should be satisfied with only the Waterlow prints (1853-1875) and totally ignore all other varieties.

(To be continued).

[Our Publishers wish it to be understood that they do not identify themselves with all the views expressed in this article.]

The Stamps of Greece.

By P. L. PEMBERTON.

(Continued from page 135.)

THE 30 AND 60 LEPTA.

Owing to a reduction in the postal rates for letters going abroad, two new values were required, viz., 30 lepta and 60 lepta. These stamps were ordered from Paris and were delivered in Athens in 1875. The design was the same as for the other values, and there can be no doubt that the same original die was used. There must have been some alteration in the method of constructing the plates, as the stamps differ in two important details from those of the first issue. Thus the numerals of value, 30 or 60, do not vary in position or shape, which proves that an intermediate die on which the required numerals were engraved was used for making the electros for each plate. The other point, due no doubt to an improvement in the process of electrotyping, is the fact that there are no variations in the width of the frame as in the other values.

The sheets consisted as before of 150 stamps in fifteen rows of ten. In the stamps which were afterwards printed in Athens, marginal specimens generally show a narrow frame-line at a distance of 1 millimetre from the stamp, from which it might be inferred that a line was drawn on the plate, enframing the whole block of 150 stamps. I believe this inference is wrong for I have not seen any indication of the line on Paris prints, while some lightly printed Athens prints are also without it. The explanation seems to be that the line was caused by the edge of the plate, which, in this case was unusually close to the stamps. In the carefully printed Paris prints the ink was wiped off the edges before printing, and consequently left the margins of the sheets quite blank.

The stamps were first issued in September, 1875, and were announced in a Royal Decree dated September 15th of that year, in the following terms:—

* "Two more stamps have been added to the existing list, viz. :—

30 lepta, grey or dust colour.
60 „ dark green."

There are two distinct shades or printings of the Paris-printed 30 lepta, as follows:—

Olive-brown on straw, and
Brown on straw.

The latter is very scarce, barely five per cent. of used specimens being in this shade, although Gibbons prices both the same. Mr. Beckton mentions that this stamp exists double-printed, but does not say whether he has seen a used specimen. I have seen unused copies which I should say belong undoubtedly to the proof or *mise en train* impressions. A large number of the unused copies of this value which one sees are in the same category and are either without gum or have been re-gunned. These are also found in shades paler than the issued stamps.

The Paris 60 lepta is printed in dark green on thin transparent paper, deeply tinted green. There was a large remainder of this stamp which accounts for its being so plentiful unused. Used specimens are very much scarcer.

THE ATHENS-PRINTED 30 AND 60 LEPTA.

The first printing of the 30 lepta made in Athens was in a shade very similar to the Paris print but the paper is more cream than straw in tint and is generally more transparent. The very earliest prints were well executed and might be mistaken for Paris prints but for the shading on the cheek which is not dotted.

I do not sub-divide this value any more than is done by Mr. Beckton, or by Gibbons' Catalogue, though printing A shows a large range of shades and some varieties of paper.

* From "The Stamps of Greece," by W. Dorning Beckton.

A.—September, 1876. 30 *lepta*, olive-brown on cream.

The earliest date I have seen is 5th Sept., 1876. The impression varies from very good to poor. The paper is generally thin and transparent but of good texture, but varieties may be found on a thicker and coarser paper. The colour also varies from very deep to pale, and generally speaking the deeper the colour the more pronounced is the olive tint.

B.—1876. 30 *lepta*, olive-brown on buff.

Impression coarse, the shading on the cheek and the spandrels being very heavy and blotchy. The colour seems to be hardly so olive as the last, but this I think is an illusion caused by the colour of the paper which is buff and gives the whole stamp a warmer tone. The paper is always very thin and transparent.

C.—1878. 30 *lepta*, deep brown on cream.

The colour is so different from that of either of the preceding printings that there need be no confusion here. It is practically the same as that used for the later stamps of printing T of the 1 lepton, which was in use at the same time. The two stamps are, indeed, so much alike that confusion must have arisen in the post office, and yet the two stamps were in use concurrently for at least two years before the colour of the 1 lepton was changed to red-brown (printing U). The paper of this printing is thick and rather coarse.

A.—1876. 60 *lepta*, deep green on buff.

The impression is coarse; the buff paper is alone sufficient to distinguish this from the Paris. The paper is rather thin and the colour varies from very deep to medium.

ISSUE OF 1882.

This issue comprises the 20, 30 and 40 *lepta* in changed colours. The appearance of the two lower values was announced in a Royal Decree dated Dec. 31st, 1881, in which the 80 *lepta* was, at the same time, cancelled and demonetized. The 40 *lepta* was not issued, apparently, until nearly the end of 1882. It was not referred to in the Royal Decree above mentioned and there is no record of any official notice heralding its appearance.

Owing to the fact that there was a fairly big stock of the old 30 and 40 *lepta* still on hand, these two values in the new colours were not in general use for a long time after their first appearance. The 20 *lepta*, however, was used regularly from April 1882. The earliest date I have seen is April 6th; it was chronicled for the first time in the *Philatelic Record* for May of that year.

All values are without figures at back.

The following is a list of the printings:—

A.—1882. (April). 20 *lepta*, deep carmine on cream.

The execution is poor, especially in the most heavily printed specimens. The colour varies from medium to very deep. In unused

condition the palest shades are the scarcer, owing to the appearance during the last few years of a small remainder, which are all in a very deep shade and printed on paper rendered transparent by the gum. Used stamps in this shade and on transparent paper are very scarce.

B.—Jan. 1883. 20 *lepta*, deep bright aniline rose on cream.

Execution still poor, all the finer details of the design appearing very coarse. The colour is sometimes a very intense glowing shade, and this is particularly noticeable in some of the remainders, of which a small lot recently came on the market. Some of these latter are almost scarlet and execrable impressions.

C.—March, 1883. 20 *lepta*, bright aniline rose on cream.

Impression and execution as last, the shade varies considerably. Paper rather thin but not so transparent as the last.

D.—(? date). 20 *lepta*, very pale aniline rose on cream.

Owing to the lighter colour the impression generally appears better than in the last two printings. There is one extremely pale shade of this which is quite scarce. At first I thought it was faded or washed, but I have had several specimens, both used and unused, and have no doubt that it is as issued.

A.—1882. (? May). 30 *lepta*, deep bright ultramarine on cream.

Execution poor, especially in the deepest shades. All the bright and deep shades belong to this printing, which was the first. The earliest date I have seen is 25th May, 1882, but Mr. Fearnley notes having seen 18th May. The paper is moderately stout and deep cream in tint.

B.—1882. 30 *lepta*, pale ultramarine on cream.

The execution is rather better in this printing. The colour is a rather pale clear ultramarine, and is sometimes described as milky-blue. This appeared towards the end of 1882.

C.—1883. 30 *lepta*, dull greyish-blue on cream.

Execution as in A. The colour is generally rather paler than the last, and has a dull greyish tone. The paper is deep cream.

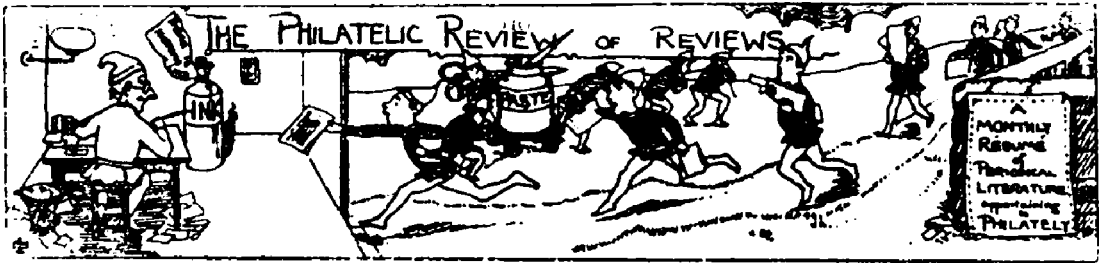
A.—1882. 40 *lepta*, deep mauve on cream.

Execution coarse as a rule, but in some cases fair. Paper fairly stout and very deeply tinted cream, in some cases appearing almost buff. The colour varies somewhat in depth.

B.—1884. 40 *lepta*, pale mauve on buff.

Execution as before. The colour is much paler than in C, and the paper is more deeply toned.

(To be continued).



JULY 20, 1912.

Philately at home.

THE June number of the *London Philatelist* is principally devoted to a lengthy annual report of the Royal Philatelic Society. As in former years Mr. Tilleard makes this report of general interest, in fact it constitutes a capital *résumé* of the past year's doings in the world of philately.

Mr. M. P. Castle contributes another instalment of his paper dealing with the 1860-1875 issues of British Guiana, while we also find the completion of Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg's "The 'Liberty Head' Stamps of Hayti." The following extract, relating to these exceptionally interesting stamps will be appreciated by our subscribers who have not had the pleasure of reading Mr. Hausburg's article:—

While the plates of the imperforate series appear to be made up of fifty different electros, those of the perforated stamps seem to consist of two panes of twenty-five. That is to say, there are a great many points of similarity between the corresponding stamps on the two panes, although the value plugs seem to have been inserted separately for every stamp in the sheet of fifty.

This is an important difference between the plates used for the imperforate and perforated stamps. It has been said that, like the imperforate series, there were six panes of fifty in the sheet, at present there does not seem to be any evidence to support this theory, and up to now no *tête-bêche* pairs of any perforated stamp have been heard of.

It has also been said that certain of the values were printed on white paper, but although in some cases the paper does appear to be only slightly tinted, it is hardly correct to call it white.

You may have noticed in some catalogues there is a 2c. aniline mauve stamp placed by itself under date 1883, all the perforated varieties being classed under 1882 (with the exception of the re-drawn types). This is quite incorrect, as the earliest specimen of this shade known so far is dated 1885. There are several varieties given in the earlier list which did not appear till later than this 2c. aniline mauve.

The following varieties of perforation have been seen:—

- The 1c., Plate I. is known imperforate horizontally.
- The 1c., Plate II. is known in a pair imperforate between both horizontally and vertically.
- The 2c., Plate Ia. is known in a pair imperforate between vertically.

The 2c., Plate III. is known imperforate and in pairs imperforate between both horizontally and vertically.

The 3c., Plate II. is known in a pair imperforate between vertically.

The 5c., Plate III. is known in a pair imperforate between vertically.

The 7c., Plate II. is known in a pair imperforate between vertically.

The 20c., Plate II. is known imperforate and in pairs imperforate between horizontally and vertically.

Reviews, New Issues, Auction reports, etc., complete an excellent number.

The June number of the *Monthly Journal* contains an article which will appeal to all collectors of line-engraved English, namely Messrs. L. A. Burd and H. S. Hodson's paper dealing with Plate I. of the One Penny Black of 1840.

We also find a short article dealing with the local stamps of Tierra del Fuego, contributed by Mr. C. J. Phillips, the completion of Messrs. Ahrens & Thornton's "The Provisional Issues of Nicaragua," a short chapter of M. L. Hanciau's "The Stamps of the Spanish West Indies, 1855-1876," some further notes dealing with the Cape of Good Hope "Wood-blocks" from the pen of Mr. E. H. L. Gorges, together with the usual "Topical Notes," list of New Issues, etc.

Mr. Gorges has been searching through files of South African newspapers in the hope of coming across news relating to the provisional stamps of 1861.

The following letter, from the *Cape Argus* of April 27th, 1861, is amusing:—

Sirs,—It was very creditable to Messrs. Saul Solomon & Co. to extricate our Post Office authorities from their difficulties on the failure of the supply of postage stamps from England; but the expense which was thus incurred ought to have been avoided, if, as it is confidently stated, the stamps from England were all the while in the Custom-house in Cape Town.

These stamps, however, like a cocked hat with its two long acute-angled peaks, necessarily make it troublesome to affix, and especially liable to turn up

at the long corners. There are two other substantial objections to our postage stamps. If more than one stamp is affixed the second can hardly be placed next to the other without either forming a broad, trencher-like patch interfering with the direction, or of being inconveniently separated, with the recumbent damsel turned into positions very improper for damsels. Secondly, the stamps of this shape cannot be torn off when perforated, as the English stamps are, without mutilating the acute-angled tails of the stamps, and giving work besides. Indeed, it is doubtful whether it will not still be necessary to use scissors, though the stamps be perforated for tearing.

It is difficult to conceive why the authorities at the Cape should have rejected the Sovereign's head as the device, and the square shape for these stamps, which seem to have been adopted for every other Colony. It could not have been from loyalty. It must have been from a crotchet. But whatever was the cause, it is certain that a very inconvenient and unsightly stamp was adopted, and that the square form is better in form for affixing, both as to adhesion and arrangement, more easily affixed, more secure, more sightly, more characteristic of loyalty, more convenient for separation by tearing and dispensing with scissors, more suitable in the invincibly upright position of the device on the stamp. There does not, in fact, appear one point in favour of perpetuating this unsightly Cape postage stamp, with its attendant inconvenience to the public.

The June number of the *Philatelic Record* contains practically nothing to interest the general collector, if we except a short instalment, in the form of a reference list, of Mr. John N. Luff's article entitled "Otto's Printings of the Transvaal Stamps." Mr. Wilmot Corfield in a paper entitled "The Tapling Collection" writes interestingly about this national collection and other matters. Until we read Mr. Corfield's panegyrical article we had no idea that stamp dealing is what it evidently is.

The following extract is good:—

Now the paths of Philately are two-wise. There are those who tread the one for reason of gain, and there are those who tread the other for sheer joy in the wayfaring. These paths are for the most part parallel, making for different but definite and desirable ends. Now and then, however, they touch and exude exhibitions or coruscate into congresses. The exhibitions lead to silver-gilt medals, and much getting on and off of omnibuses, the congresses to flash-light photographs and a display of fireworks in the evening. The caravans meet at these green oases and foregather to interchange the rare and refreshing fruits of good fellowship, and of high rivalry beside the pure wells of profound philatelics, and to the brilliant glamour of excusable pyrotechnics. This is as it should be. The Dealer ploughs his for gain and is loved of the gods, the Collector ambles along on placid palfry and is loved of the Dealer. The gods, recline in the wings and sip ambrosia in mint condition—quite as it should be.

With the exception of the above mentioned articles, the *Record* contains nothing but a meagre list of New Issues, some Reviews, Auction Reports, etc.

The June *Stamp Collector* contains an able editorial wherein the claims of the

stamp exchange club member to be represented at future Congresses are upheld. The following brief extract will doubtless interest many of our readers:—

Exchange Sections are undoubtedly the sheet-anchor of the Philatelic Societies. Without them, many Societies would buckle-up as though iceberged, and the salvage from the wreck would be but a gamble. We have no supporting word, however, for the transitory private venture, and the one-man-profit imposture, but we do say that the *bona fide* Exchange Club, founded on mutually advantageous lines, seeking the general good of its members, strong in numbers, and honourable in all its dealings, merits fraternal treatment.

It is pretty certain, too, that Exchange Clubs will always exist, and it is far better to have them with us than against us. Certain conditions, such as a membership of 50 at least, a £500 turnover in sales annually, a ten years' existence, or other qualification—these are simply suggestions which may well form a basis for discussion—should be insisted upon as a *sine qua non* before Congress recognition is conceded. Set a standard for them to reach—fix a mark to which the weaklings may aspire, and something will be achieved for the uplifting and strengthening of Philately, but absolute ostracism is a huge mistake. They are part and parcel of us, and as such they should come inside the four walls of the Congress.

Other items in our Birmingham contemporary are of interest, namely a continuation of Mr. C. H. T. Hayman's article dealing with the 1853 to 1883 Stamps of Chili, in which he writes about the labels of the War period; the first instalment of a paper entitled "The Attraction of Collecting Postage Stamps" contributed by Mr. C. F. Harriss, and a lengthy account of the treasures shewn by Mr. H. L. Hayman at a recent meeting of the Birmingham Society.

Some correspondence, etc., completes a capital number.

The June *Stamp Lover* devotes a good deal of its space to continuations of Mr. L. W. Crouch's "The Postage Stamps of Honduras" and Mr. W. Haworth's "The Postcards of Chili. The former article is entirely devoted to extracts from the Honduras Official Postal Guide. We also find a short paper entitled "Stamp Collectors I have met" contributed by Mr. C. J. Smith, a well illustrated list of New Issues, and the rules and scheme of competition of the forthcoming Jubilee London Stamp Exhibition.

The *West-End Philatelist* for June contains a further instalment of Mr. A. J. Séfi's "The Postage Stamps of Malta," he continues to describe varieties of the first half-penny stamp. A short paper dealing with one of the resolutions passed at the Margate Congress, a brief list of

New Issues and some odds and ends complete a not very interesting number of our wee contemporary.

The July number of *The Philatelic Circular* is of note because it contains a further continuation of the chronicle of Georgian stamps, a feature which will appeal to many modern collectors.

We also find a column of readable Market Notes, contributed by Mr. W. B. Edwards, some "Spasms" and other matter.

The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* for June 22nd, contains a breezy illustrated interview with Mr. Edgar Nelton, of Battle Creek, U.S.A.; an interesting contribution which points out that letter sorters sometimes have a lot to contend with, in the nature of illegible addresses, etc., a list of New Issues, and a good deal of "padding" in the form of correspondence dealing with Exchange Clubs and Congress representation, etc., etc. A fortnight later our contemporary has a good deal more to say regarding Congresses and Clubs, while we also find an instalment of Mr. D. B. Armstrong's, "The Postage Stamps of the Nigerias," a capital list of New Issues, and the regulation quantity of more or less uninteresting matter of a general nature. The following item is, however, well worth reproducing:—

NOTES FROM SOUTH AMERICA.

By A. H. Davis, of Buenos Aires.

A correspondent who resides near the capital of Paraguay has sent me to-day the following which may be of interest to stamp collectors.

"Matters are now quiet here. I think there is little chance of another siege of four months, such as we have lately endured. Every shop in this place was sacked, women and children were maltreated, the Paraguay Central Railway (a British undertaking) was wrecked. Cattle were killed for their hides by the revolutionists and countless other outrages were committed, all with complete impunity. And although British subjects were among the victims nothing was done by their Government to protect them, not even a British gunboat being sent to Asuncion. Here for four months, the post-office was closed, and as trade throughout the country has been at a complete standstill, the business in all other post-offices has been very small, and this will tend to make recent issues of Paraguay very scarce."

From Montevideo I hear that a new issue of Uruguayan stamps, just decreed, will be manufactured by the local School of Arts and Trades.

Philately in the Colonies and Elsewhere.

The *Australian Stamp Journal* for May contains the usual budget of "Items of Interest" and other matter of similar nature, all eminently soothing and suitable for an odd quarter of an hour's philatelic *dolce far niente*.

We also find, under the heading, "British Solomon Islands, First Issue," the following:—

It was the boast of the Solomon Island authorities that the first stamps issued by them were above suspicion. No irregular practices were indulged in. All purchasers were treated alike, and no stamps were sold either above or below face value. No varieties were "manufactured" for collectors, and no commission was charged on orders received through the post.

It was consequently a shock to us to learn a few months ago that certain imperf. stamps in the design and colours of the first type printed on thick paper, in all some three or four hundred sets, were put on sale on the local market and in London. Shortly afterwards the Chief Postmaster of the Solomons paid us a visit, and we interrogated him on the subject. He denied all knowledge of the matter, and said that he was not previously aware of the existence of any proofs. We published words to this effect in our January number, and on the assertion being challenged, the gentleman above referred to reiterated this statement in writing.

Mr. W. E. Smith, the printer of the stamps supplied to the Solomon Island authorities, also denies all knowledge of their previous existence. That gentleman is, under the peculiar circumstances, entitled to the sympathy of the philatelic community. When he undertook the work he is stated to have given a bond to the B.S.I. authorities guaranteeing not to print, sell or dispose of any stamps other than those supplied to them.

At the time these stamps were being printed, the latter end of 1906, Mr. W. E. Smith was the sole proprietor of his concern. A few years ago he floated his business into a limited liability company, still retaining the active control of affairs, but last year reorganisation was effected, and Mr. Smith retired. He left Sydney last month for Europe, where he intends residing in future, and we regret to have to add that he is in delicate health.

The manager of the present limited company knows nothing of the affair, the stamps having been printed five years before the present company came into being. Search has failed to throw any light on the mystery, and he cannot understand why it would be necessary to print as many as half a dozen sheets of each value as "proofs." It may be stated here that these so-called "proofs" are, we are informed, all identical in colour for the various denominations, and the colours are the same as those of most of the stamps which were consigned to the Solomon Islands.

Mr. J. H. Smyth continuing the subject, says that in his opinion these so-called "proofs" were printed concurrently with or subsequent to the bulk lot, but not until after the inks had been intensified (made deeper), and further that they were printed surreptitiously, without the



knowledge or sanction of either Mr. Smith, his overseer, or the British Solomon Island authorities. Mr. Smyth also considers that they are not entitled to rank as proofs," but merely as "unauthorised prints."

The May *Australian Philatelist* contains some very caustic remarks regarding the new design for the Australian Commonwealth stamp; we do not wonder at our Australian exchanges, philatelic and otherwise feeling a bit sore at the gauky design which the P.M.G. wishes to foist on to the people of Australia. Mr. Walter A. Hull concludes his article "Principal Minor Varieties of Australian Stamps." He writes well, and interests his readers with varieties of Victorian stamps, while his article is illustrated by the aid of a well executed plate.

Another valuable contribution is Mr. Fred Hagen's "Queensland—Some Fragmentary Notes." Mr. Hagen has just paid a visit to Brisbane and, while there, visited the Government Printing Office. The following brief extract helps to explain some of the vagaries of recent Queensland perforations:—

Queensland stamps are printed in 10 rows of 12 each, close together, and not in panes of 60, like the majority of the New South Wales sheets. The comb machine perforates one vertical row of stamps on three sides, from the top to the bottom of the sheet, in one operation; the sheets are then moved on and the operation repeated until the entire sheet has been perforated. I have measured the perforations on each of these ten spaces, and, starting from left to right they gauge 13, 13, 13, 13, 13, 12½, 12½, 12, 12, and 11½, both the short lengths which perforate top and bottom of the stamps, gauge 13. Therefore, if the sheet is fed into the machine with the top of the sheet to the right, then the top row of stamps will gauge 13×11½, the second row 13×12, and so on. But should the sheet be turned round with the top facing to the left, then the bottom row will be 13×11½ and gradually increase to 13. Accordingly, five of the rows will gauge 13 all round, two will be 13×12½, and the remaining three will be 13×12½, 13×12, and 13×11½. From this it will be seen that as these compound perforations are still in use, they are not likely to become very rare, the exception being the grotesque 10½.

The last perforation is a mystery, and the only feasible explanation is that it was done, either with the machine used for railway purposes, or the converted letter card machine. I have specimens gauging 10½×10, 10½×11, 11×11½, and 10½×11½, but owing to the fantastic shape of the perforations it is difficult to give the exact measurements. A semi-circular row of perforations would naturally give a different gauge than a straight line of the same sized holes, the curves may possibly be due to the rounded part of the machine used for perforating letter cards not being eliminated. Those stamps showing a design like a turreted castle are no doubt caused by the railway machine which being too short, necessitated moving the sheet along to complete the necessary operation. In some of the stamps the two operations meet, in others they did not.

A list of New Issues, Societies' Reports, etc., complete a very excellent number of our contemporary.

After a lapse of several weeks we find that Mr. J. B. Leavy continues, in the *Philadelphia Stamp News*, his article dealing with the postage stamps of Holland. We are glad to notice that he is now more freely acknowledging the various sources from which he extracts his information. Mr. Leavy writes about the interesting stamps of 1867-71 and illustrates his remarks with the aid of several half-tone enlargements, he also lists a third type of the 5c. and mentions various "retouched" varieties. These retouches seem to consist of the frame lines being recut, or strengthened.

Philately on the Continent.

COLLECTORS of Papua will be interested in the following reply to an enquiry by the Editor of the *Schweizer Briefmarken-Zeitung*:—

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Stamp Printing Branch
(Department of Treasury),
Flinders Street Extension,

SIR,

Melbourne, 20th March, 1912.

I am in receipt of your reply post card dated the 16th February, 1912, and in reply wish to state that what is now known as "Papua," was originally called British New Guinea. The steel plates from which the first issues were printed have the words British New Guinea on them. When the plates were transferred to this office it was found impossible to insert the word "Papua" in them, consequently it was decided to print them by means of lithography. To enable the lithographer to substitute the name "Papua" for "British New Guinea" a copper plate on which the word "Papua" was engraved five times was used, and transfers of the name from this plate were secured, and put in the place of the words British New Guinea on the stone from which they were to be printed.

The engraver in cutting the word Papua five times on the copper plate slightly varied the size of the word Papua. This accounts for the variation in the size of the word Papua in the stamp. There was no record kept of the number of stamps issued with the word Papua in the small letters, consequently I regret that I cannot give you the information asked for on this subject.

It may be interesting to you to know that we have just forwarded the first supply of "O.S." on service stamp to Papua, that have been so treated in this office. The denominations forwarded are ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 6d., 1/-.

Yours respectfully,

J. B. COOKE,
C'wealth Stamp Printer.

F. Reinhard, Esq.,
41, Bantigerstrasse, Berne.

The *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* informs us that in Germany (exclusive of Bavaria and Wurtemberg) during the year 1910 no less

than four million postal packages were, for various reasons, unable to be delivered to their addressees. Of the letters, 75 per cent. were returned to the senders; but in the case of post cards the senders were discovered in only 5 per cent. of cases.

From the same source we regret to learn that the Berlin Postal Museum has not yet received the King Edward series of Cape Colony stamps from the Berne authorities, but that they are expecting them any day now.

Der Philatelist gives an obituary of the late Dr. Moschkau, whose death, on May 27th, is an irreparable loss to philately in general, and to our contemporary in particular. We shall greatly miss his chatty monthly article, "From the Philatelic World," to which we always eagerly looked forward. It invariably brought some new and original ideas. His very last contribution was sent from his death-bed. He had been a keen philatelist for upwards of forty years.

Death of Dr. Legrand.

WE learn with regret that Dr. Legrand, one of the pioneers of philately, died in Paris, aged 92. Dr. Legrand commenced to collect stamps in the early 'sixties, and was one of the very first collectors to pay attention to watermarks, shades, and varieties of paper, while he was the inventor of the present system of measuring perforations.

Dr. Legrand was one of the principal writers in the French philatelic press, and at one time was editor of *Le Timbrophile* and afterwards of the *Gazette des Timbres*. Though his work for these journals was voluminous and of great importance, he found time during the same period (1868-76) to write his *magnum opus* on "Stamped Envelopes," which was published in the pages of *Le Timbre Poste*. In 1874 Dr. Legrand also became the editor of *Le Timbre Fiscal* which was published by M. Moens, but his connection with this ceased in 1878.

In 1865 Dr. Legrand tried to form a Philatelic Society in Paris, with the assistance of several other influential philatelists, but it only lasted a few months and died through lack of support. By 1876, however, matters philatelic had progressed so rapidly that a second attempt was perfectly successful, and the *Société Timbrologique de France* was launched in the same year with Baron Arthur de Rothschild as President and Dr. Legrand as Secretary.

During all this time he naturally formed a very fine collection of the postage stamps of the whole world, to which he added fiscals, telegraphs, and postal stationery. He had no preference for any countries in particular, save perhaps for the Oriental countries, and

as a help to the study of these, he made himself master of their alphabets.

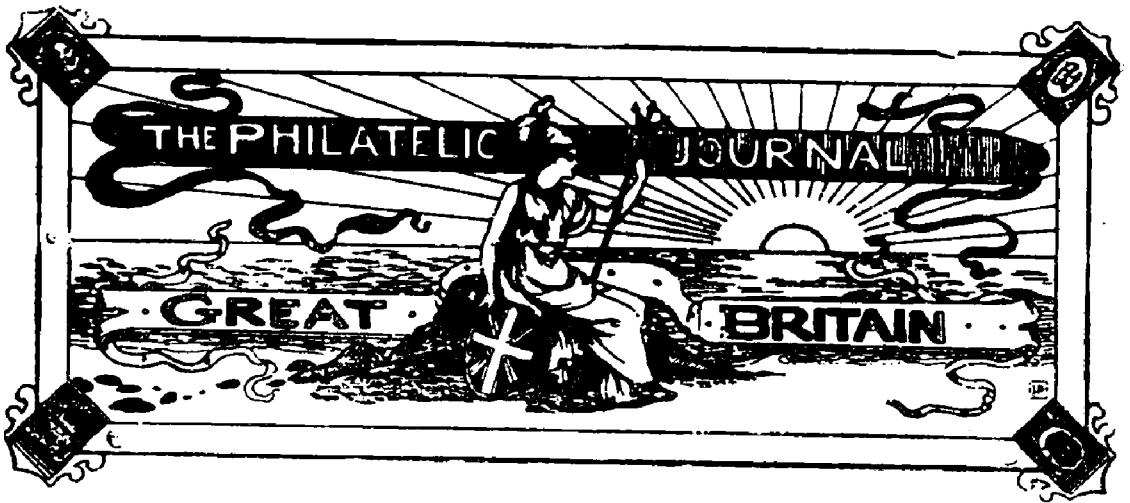
As a collector, Dr. Legrand only took unused stamps, making no exceptions save in the case of rare and old stamps which it was almost impossible to procure unused. "These



he would take used rather than have a blank space in his album. He was one of the first to reconstruct sheets composed of stamps shewing variations in the design, such as the early issues of Mauritius and others. In the work he was only preceded by the late Mr. E. L. Pemberton and M. Moens, the former of whom was actually the first to start this interesting form of specialism by reconstructing a sheet of the 2d. Queen on Throne, Victoria.

Since 1897 Dr. Legrand occupied himself entirely in collecting all that has been published on stamps, profiting by the work of Messieurs Tiffany, De Bossedon, Frankel, Suppantschitsch and others. But he was not contented to collect journals only, like some, or catalogues, like others; he took with these, monographs, memoirs, circulars, price lists, proof impressions, re-impressions, everything concerning Societies and Exhibitions, auction catalogues, documents, odd articles in the general press, books of addresses, everything that concerns forged stamps, almanacks, annuals, poetry, music, photographs, in fact Bibliography.

WE learn, with great regret, that Mrs. Brown, of Salisbury, the wife of William Brown, the well known stamp dealer and founder of the *P.J.G.B.*, passed away on June 30th, at "Villette," Salisbury.



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

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AUGUST 20, 1912.

[PRICE 2D.]

♦ ♦ Editorial. ♦ ♦

OF all the months of the year surely August is the one in which devotees of Philately are prone to listen to the call of the wild, and abandon their tweezers and albums for the more solid, but possibly less profitable, rod, club, racquet, or other accessory, which lends its aid to help unsettle man for his everyday humdrum existence. There **Summer Madness.** are, of course, many collectors who can, by reason of their incomes, live their lives unshackled by the harness of the work-a-day world, but the majority have to consider the ways and means which bring the grist to the mill, before they are able to submit to the seductive charms of philately, even during the longest of the dark days of that procession of sunless months, known as an English winter. Such collectors and dealers, also that being neither fish, flesh, nor good red herring, known as the editor of a stamp paper, find the month of August, unless they are basking in what little warmth these sea and wind swept islands afford, a trying time of peevish protestation against the futility of kicking against the pricks. To add to his other troubles, the last mentioned individual has to rack his brains, or his imagination, for a seemly topic for a "philatelic" editorial. As our readers

have ere now discovered, we have signally failed; hence this innocuous diatribe.

The majority of philatelists have experienced the varied charms of foreign travel, many in actual reality, and the rest by proxy of their stamps; for where lives the collector whose soul is so dead that he, at one time or another, has not lost himself in the fleecy realms of imagination, when he has idly wondered how long it took his early Swiss treasures, postmarked at one of the smaller townships, to travel by diligence to the main town of the Canton, and thence to the four corners of the world? And what collector of early Peruvians has not, in the darkening hour of gloaming, idly wondered what distances his stamps have travelled in the land of the Incas before they eventually found an abiding place between the leaves of his albums.

Some mortals, even aided and abetted by the subtle fascinations of their stamps, never feel, at any time the call of the wild, that indescribable throbbing which all heirs of the God of wander-lust find so hard to combat.

Such collectors, although they may be highly tuned to respond to the financial fluctuations of the philatelic market, will never make true philatelists, inasmuch

as they will never penetrate the inner and most sacred intricacies of the temple devoted to the high priestess of philatelia.

Next month, if the gods permit, we shall have an editorial dealing with the forthcoming London Stamp Exhibition. Those of our readers who cannot follow the vein of this month's discourse may rest assured that we shall say then exactly what we, and other editors, have said of previous exhibitions.

This month, however, we crave indulgence, and hope that old wanderers in all parts of the world, whether they are settled down in gaunt suburbia, chained to the daily routine of the city desk, occupying a well paid billet in some palatial warehouse, or wearing the red

tape harness of the Foreign or other Government office, will, for a few brief minutes, smell the wattle, mimosa, or the maple, and feel again the odorous breath of the sun-baked wind as it whispers through the tall palm trees.

Beatrice Grimshaw, one of our cleverest women authors, has felt as we do the shackles of convention, for she writes:—"Windows blurred with beating mud, grey London roaring by in the rain; haggard faces, and murky summer, and the snake of custom clipping stranglingly about the free man's throat—O Island wanderer, back in the weary North, does your sea-bird's heart fly swift from these to those, and sicken for the lands where you must go no more?"

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.

Bahamas. The *Colonial Office Journal* for July says that the new King George stamps have been despatched to the Colony.

Adhesives. King George. Multiple wmk.

½d. green.
2½d. blue.
4d. yellow.
6d. brown.
1/- —.
5/- —.
2/- —.

The *S.C.F.* gives the colours of the three highest values and adds that the first four are on ordinary paper.

Barbados. Messrs. Bright & Son have kindly sent us copies of the new ½d. and ¼d. stamps. We illustrate the extremely curious design below.



Adhesives. Multiple wmk.

½d. brown.
¼d. green.

Ceylon. The *Colonial Office Journal* for July states that four values of the King George set have been sent out to the Island.

Adhesives. King George. Multiple wmk.

3c. green.
6c. rose.
10c. green and marone.
15c. blue.

Cyprus. Last April we chronicled several of the Georgian stamps. Three values have now come to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., namely, the ¼, 4 and 6 piastres.



East Africa and Uganda. Mr. R. C. Victor de Sousa, of Molo, B.E.A., has very kindly sent us, under date 5th June, a copy of the 6c. with head of King George. We are also informed that the 3c. has also been received but is not yet on sale.

Adhesives. King George. Multiple wmk.

3c. green.
6c. red.

Falkland Islands. The *Colonial Office*

Journal says that the following stamps have been dispatched.



Adhesives. King George. Multiple wmk.
 ½d. green.
 1d. rose.
 2d. lilac.
 2½d. blue.
 6d. yellow.
 1/- brown.
 3/- green.
 5/- rose.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us the 2½d. and 6d. values.

Fiji Islands. The *Colonial Office Journal* says that the following values have been printed.

Adhesives. King George. Multiple wmk.
 5/- green and red on yellow.
 £1 purple and black on red.

Gambia. "Specimen" copies of all values, King George type, have been seen.

Gibraltar. The Gibraltar and Morocco Stamp Co., of Gibraltar have advised us that the complete set of King George's was put on sale on July 17th.



Adhesives. King George. Multiple wmk.
 ½d. green.
 1d. rose.
 2d. grey.
 2½d. blue.
 6d. lilac and red.
 1/- black on green.
 2/- blue.
 4/- black and carmine.
 8/- lilac and green.
 £1 black on red.

Gilbert and Ellice Protectorate. To the three values chronicled by us in April the *London Philatelist* now adds the ½d. ("specimen" copy only).

Adhesives. King George. Multiple ordinary paper.
 ½d. green.

We have since received a supply of this stamp from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Leeward Islands. The *Colonial Office Journal* for July chronicles four King George stamps.

Adhesives. Multiple wmk.

½d. brown.
 ½d. green.
 1d. rose.
 2½d. blue.

Rhodesia. The *Monthly Journal* says: We have been shown the ½d. in a new colour, bright apple-green instead of the pale yellow green previously used; the reason for this change is very probably that the pale ink faded very quickly in a warm climate.

Straits Settlements. *Trengganu.* The two high values, chronicled from specimen copies by us in February have now, according to the *Monthly Journal* been actually issued. Lucky Trengganuers.

Adhesives. Chalky paper.
 35 green and dull purple.
 25 rose and green.

St. Lucia. In various dealers' stock books we have seen copies of the recently issued 6d. stamps. Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have shown us the 1d. value.

Adhesives. King George. Multiple wmk.
 1d. carmine, ordinary paper.
 6d. mauve and purple, chalky paper.

The *London Philatelist* also chronicles "specimen" copies of the ½d., 2½d., 3d., and 1/- and 5/- stamps.

Sierra Leone. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* says they have received a supply of the 3d. King Edward stamps on ordinary, instead of on chalky paper.

Adhesive. King Edward. Multiple wmk. Ordinary paper.
 3d. brown on yellow.

Southern Nigeria. The *Colonial Office Journal* chronicles the 2d. stamp with the head of King George.

Adhesive. Multiple wmk.
 2d. grey.

Straits Settlements. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the current 10c. stamp on chalky paper.

Adhesive. King Edward. Multiple wmk. Chalky paper.
 10c. brown on yellow.

Kedah. The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* chronicles the following set of the ten lower values, all printed direct from line-engraved plates on Multiple Crown "CA" paper, and perforated 14. There are altogether three designs, as follows:—

I.—A large sheaf of paddy, within a coloured oval, inscribed "POSTAGE & REVENUE" on the left, "KEDAH" below, and on the right and at the top with (apparently) the native rendering of the two English inscriptions; and in each corner, and extending over the frame, is an oval medallion bearing the value "1c", etc.

1c. green and black.
 3c. red and black.
 4c. grey and red.
 5c. brown and green.
 8c. blue and black.

II.—A native, ploughing with two oxen— and, of course, the necessary agricultural

implement—within an ornate oblong frame, inscribed as in the first design; but the value is shewn in the lower corners only. These stamps are of large size:

- 10c. brown and blue.
- 20c. green and black.
- 30c. red and black.
- 40c. purple and black.
- 50c. blue and brown.

III.—The third design is, our friends tell us, a view of the Council Chamber at Alor Star, and we presume the stamps are of large size, and printed as are the other values.

- £1 red and black on yellow.
- £2 brown and green.
- £3 blue and black on blue.
- £5 red and black.

We illustrate two of the types, as the complete set has just come to hand from Ipswich.



FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Belgium. Messrs. Gelli & Tani of Bruxelles, inform us that the following new stamps, in addition to those chronicled in the May number of this journal are now on sale at the Bruxelles Post Office.

- Adhesives.* King Albert.
- 40c. pale green.
 - 50c. slate.
 - 1 fr. orange-yellow.
 - 5f. claret.

Bolivia. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have kindly sent us three provisionals, namely, the big fiscal stamps overprinted.

Fiscals overprinted for use as adhesives.
"CORREOS
1912"

- 2c. green (black overprint).
- 5c. orange (red " ").
- 10c. on 1c. blue (" ").

Bosnia. Mr. W. T. Wilson, of Birmingham, has kindly shewn us the following novelties.

- Adhesives.* Pictorial design. Perforated 12½.
- 12 heller, blue.
 - 60 " greenish-slate.
 - 72 " carmine.

Columbia. We are much indebted to a kind correspondent, in the Government Service of Columbia, who sent us copies of the official gazette from which we learn that a huge quantity of obsolete stamps were recently burnt. Hurrah.

Denmark. Mr. W. T. Wilson has very kindly sent us a specimen of the 20 öre blue, uniform in design with the low values of the 1905 set (Gibbons type 15). We are also told that 10 öre stamps, same design, will appear as soon as the present 10 öre stamps are exhausted.

Does this mean that the King's Head type of stamps for Denmark is doomed?

The *Monthly Journal*, quoting a foreign contemporary, says that the 5 öre, in the same design, has also appeared.

- Adhesive.* Wmk. Crown.
- 5 öre, green.
 - 20 öre, blue.

Ecuador. We "lift" the following exciting news from a recent number of the *S.C.F.*:—
"Says a Guayaquil correspondent of *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* :—

"I wrote you on the 20th November last, that no new stamps or new surcharged ones have been obtainable here recently. I send you however two very extraordinary surcharged ones, ½ consular stamp surcharged to 2c. postal. I have tried to buy some of these here but they are not obtainable, and have asked some friends in Quito to buy me some for you.

"From Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. we have received what is evidently one of the very extraordinary surcharged stamps: it is a large "Consular" stamp, further inscribed "½ UN QUINTO DE CONDOR ½" with the value "DOS SUCRES" below, surcharged in three lines "POSTAL DOS CENTS" in black."

"Consular" stamp overprinted "POSTAL."
2c. on 2 sucres, carmine-rose.

Greece. The *Monthly Journal* chronicles the current 3 dr. stamp in an imperforate condition.

Holland. We have already chronicled the ½c., 2½c. and 5c. postage dues all one colour. We believe that the remainder have also been issued, namely the 1c., 1½c., 4c., 7½d. 10c., 12½c. and 15c., all blue.

Morocco. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., have sent us a set of six values, the design shewing a mosque and palm-tree, with the rest of a town in the background; no name in English; native inscriptions above and below; large figures in lower corners.



- White paper: perf. 11.
- 1 (c.) grey.
 - 2 (c.) rosy-mauve.
 - 5 (c.) green.

10 (c.) red-orange.
25 (c.) blue.
50 (c.) grey-violet.

Norway. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us specimens of three re-engraved stamps, namely, the 15, 20 and 25 öre. The principal difference seems to be in the pair of wings in each spandrel. In the new type the feathers are longer and finer. The numerals of value have also been thickened. Unused the two types can be readily separated, but we think collectors of used copies will have some difficulty in sorting out their types.

Adhesives. Re-engraved.

15 öre, brown.
20 „ blue.
25 „ mauve.

Portugal. Other values of the permanent set of Republic stamps have been allowed to dribble through to this country. We are indebted to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. for the following:—

Adhesives.

1½c. pale chocolate.
2c. carmine.
7½c. chocolate.
8c. dull purple.
10c. dull red.
30c. brown on reddish.

Mozambique. Dr. Paton tells us that he has a copy of the 300 reis, 1894 issue, perforated 11½.

Russia. Continental journals chronicle the current 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 15, 20, 25, 35 and 50 kopeck stamps as "errors" on paper without the bars of varnish.

Surinam. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write us as follows:—

"We have received a provisional stamp from this country, of a new design, and printed locally—12c. blue. The design is of a very crude nature, and we understand that 5 and 10c. provisionals, of the same type, are to be made."

Uruguay. Mr. A. H. Davis tells us that he hears from Montevideo that a new set of stamps has been ordered for Uruguay, to be printed at the local School of Arts and Trades.

Venezuela. We are indebted to the June number of the *Monthly Journal* for the following:—

"Mr. S. R. Turner has shown us an error of 50c. of the new current set; this has the head printed in indigo, the colour of the 25c., whilst the frame is the usual violet. This seems a very curious mistake to happen, as the head for the 25c. is that of Urdanita; had the wrong head also been inserted we should have been less surprised. Mr. Turner is informed that only one sheet was so printed, but we are not unlikely to hear of other similar variations throughout the six values."

Current Chatter.

BY ANGUS MCTAVISH.

"DÂK" in a recent number of the *S.C.F.* thinks that Exchange Clubs, as well as Philatelic Societies should hold a Congress. He suggests that

If carried out at Edinburgh it might admit of the two congresses entertaining each other after business hours.

Bravo "Dâk"; we will all swim home. My word!

The July *London Philatelist* announces the fact that Mr. Franz Reichenheim has donated "Two used Bavarian Stamps" to the Royal Philatelic Society's Collection (since June, 1911.)

Nothing like breaking the news gently.

For the reasonable sum of £4 collectors can toddle into Gibbons' shop and invest in a fine used copy of a Cape of Good Hope 4d. woodblock. If they want a damaged copy of the same stamp they have to pay £25. Seems kind of silly doesn't it?

The July 20th number of the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* blossoms out with the following:—

At last! Just as we go to press with this number of the *Fortnightly* we learn that the British Georgian stamps of 1½d. and upwards are on sale at the Post Offices. There is no change to record in values and colours as compared with the Edwardian set, so that a formal chronicle of these belated labels may well be left over for the next *Fortnightly*.

Elsewhere the dear old *Fortnightly* says:—

And the acme of muddle-headedness has been reached in issuing the Georgian postals in the very week of the greatest demand for the Lloyd-Georgian fiscals.

I suppose the staff of the *S.C.F.* is so busily engaged sticking on their insurance labels that they have no time to distinguish between the recent issue of Brunei and the George heads of Bahamas.

In the *Monthly Journal* for July, Mr. D. B. Armstrong says:

Crossing the narrow strip of water which separates the island of Crete from the African mainland.

Heaven preserve us from this and all such "narrow" strips when there is any wind blowing. We would rather go from Plymouth to Brest, and read the following morning that "steamers made smooth passages; sea rough."

The difference between a collector and a dealer is that the former always wants to sell stamps and the latter to buy them.

Stamp collectors, like other mortals, are always on the look-out for a novel method of spending a few days' holiday. To those who are not afraid of being seen walking, I would suggest train to Dorchester, thence to Winterbourne Abbas (5). The next morning *viâ*

Bridport to Lyme Regis (17). From this place steamers occasionally run to Seaton, Teignmouth and Torquay. If Teignmouth is chosen, it makes a nice walk along the shore and cliffs to Dawlish (4), thence by the sea wall and sands to the river Exe, ferry over to Exmouth (5). From here the road winds inland to Budleigh Salterton (6). The cliff route from Salterton to Sidmouth (8) is exquisitely pretty; so also is the road on to Seaton (8) and back into Lyme Regis (6).

The numerals in brackets are roughly the distance in miles, and the "tour" could occupy from four to seven days.

The last time the McTavish was in Brussels he learnt what the meaning of *combien* was—now he speaks it like a native, especially as the shades of dusk are falling fast.

The ever irrepressible McHaggis sends me the following letter:—

DEAR MCTAVISH,

Have you noted the terrible tragedy recorded in the *Philatelic Circular*? Has Peckitt been arrested yet? We have all heard of King Charles I.'s head, but what an awful conspiracy of silence to keep this out of the daily press!

"Gilbert and Ellice Islands. 5d., 6d. and 1/- values issued. We have received these three values from Mr. W. H. Peckitt, with head of King George."

What is Harris going to do with it?

What a terrible chap the McHaggis is—one of these days he will be reading the *P.J.G.B.*'s list of new issues, if he does he will find it freely sprinkled with owner-less heads.

A kind correspondent in Sunderland has

sent me the following extract which he has cut out of a recent number of one of the big daily papers.

NICARAGUA.

The Republic of Nicaragua, which the other day enjoyed one of its periodic little revolutions, has a population of more than half a million. Only about 1,200 of these are of pure European blood. The ordinary inhabitants are a mixture of the original Indian population, of the Spanish settlers, and of negroes brought from Africa. There is also a certain admixture of English, Dutch, and French blood. The language spoken in the Republic is Spanish, though as the early conquerors came from Galicia, in Northern Spain, a Galician rather than Castilian is the common dialect. On the east coast also a sort of English is current. Most of the Indian dialects have perished, but the so-called civilised Indians, who are said to number about 30,000 still retain their own tongues.

I suppose it is only the pseudo uncivilised Indians who still insist on selling their tongues to the Chicago Meat Works. This column is open to any Nicaraguan* who would like to write what he thinks about England.

A correspondent to the *S.C.F.* writes to say that, in his opinion, the secretary of a private exchange club is a dealer. Fie, surely everybody knows that dealers are gentlemen, who have shop fronts, or else offices with show cases. Our *S.C.F.* friend might even accuse some of the harmless, public benefactors, who advertise their duplicates from private addresses of being dealers. For the credit of the "trade" I am glad to say that some of them actually are not.

*The McHaggis excepted.

The Local Posts of the United Kingdom, Government and Private;

WITH A SPECIAL DESCRIPTION OF THE CIRCULAR DELIVERY COMPANY'S ISSUES OF 1865-69, THE COURT BUREAU STAMPS OF 1890, AND THE ISSUES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITIES.

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By T. H. HINTON.

(Continued from page 129.)

ROWLAND HILL'S agitation, begun in 1835, was before a select committee of the House of Commons in 1837, and was supported by many eminent men of the time, amongst others, Robert Wallace Member for Greenock, C. P. Villiers of Wolverhampton, Charles Knight, Richard Cobden, Jones Lloyd, W. H. Ashurst, H. Cole and Lord Ashburton, were pioneers of Postal Reform.

Uniform rates of Postage throughout the United Kingdom, Prepayment, and the abolition of the Franking Privilege, were the essence of Rowland Hill's Scheme. Penny Postage was already in operation as letters

not exceeding 4oz. in weight could be sent at this rate over wide areas, and a list of penny posts in operation in 1839 gives 1146 in England and Wales, 165 in Scotland and 211 in Ireland making a total of 1522 in the United Kingdom. The revenue from these posts in 1838 amounted to £56,000 and the number of letters carried to eight millions.

After an exhaustive Inquiry, Rowland Hill's Scheme was adopted and the Chancellor of the Exchequer signed the Treasury Warrant in 1839, which authorised the establishment of uniform penny postage in the United Kingdom in January 1840. Designs and suggestions for

the new stamps being called for, some 27,000 proposals were submitted and from these were selected the well known Mulready envelopes and covers and the adhesive 1d. black and 2d. blue, which came into use May 6th, 1840.

The suppression of stage coaches (which had been in use since the Seventeenth Century for carrying the mails and had reached a high state of perfection) by the railways, was an enormous factor in the new scheme, and practically assured its success, otherwise the constant increase in the amount of mail could not have been coped with. It is interesting to note that the longest mail coach route out of London was to Thurso, N.B. It covered 783 miles, employed nearly 800 horses and performed the journey in three days twenty-two hours. In 1854, fourteen years after his great scheme had come into operation, Rowland Hill became Secretary of the Post Office, and from its introduction, postal history is one long record of reforms, improvements and concessions to the public convenience, the influence he exercised bearing fruit to this day. An example of Post Office progress may be quoted in the fact that whilst in 1840 the number of Post Offices in the United Kingdom was 4028, in 1893 they totaled 19,625 with in addition 25,072 pillar letter boxes which were introduced in 1855, the first being erected at the corner of Fleet Street and Farringdon Street. The public appetite throve on what it was fed, and in some directions still remained unsatisfied.

Whilst the letter rates had been reduced and amended since 1840, those for book post and circulars had not been lowered in the same ratio, and in February, 1866, were as follows:—

Not exceeding	4 ozs.	..	1d.
„	4 to 8 ozs.	..	2d.
„	8 to 16 ozs.	..	4d.
„	1 to 1½ lbs.	..	6d.
2d. being charged for every additional ¼ lb. or less weight.			

On March 1st, 1866, these rates were altered to—

Not exceeding	4 ozs.	..	1d.
„	4 to 8 ozs.	..	2d.
„	8 to 12 ozs.	..	3d.
„	12 to 16 ozs.	..	4d.
and 1d. for every additional 4 ozs.			

A thrifty Scot, one Robert Brydone, of Edinburgh, thought he saw a chance of supplementing the public service, and at the same time doing himself a turn, being under the erroneous impression that the delivery of printed matter only by messenger, would not infringe the monopoly of the Postmaster-General, and he is said to have been strengthened in this belief by an opinion to this effect by the Lord Advocate, but this was not argued in his defence when proceedings were taken against him. Accordingly in 1865

he started in Edinburgh "The Edinburgh and Leith Circular Delivery Company," located at St. Andrews Street, undertaking to deliver Circulars at ½d. each against 1d. charged by the Post Office, and parcels at cheap rates, and issuing stamps indicating prepayment, the cancellation stamp employed being R. B. & Co. in a monogram. He was not long without a rival, as in 1866 a similar business was started by Messrs. Clark & Co., who issued a stamp without expressed value which appears to have been more in the nature of an advertisement label. The Edinburgh venture either did not come under the notice of the Post Office, or was not considered big enough to warrant their interference, but when Mr. Brydone proceeded to extend his operations to Glasgow, London, and other cities in England and Scotland, it became a different matter. Towards the end of 1866 he extended his system to London under the title of "The London Circular and Pamphlet Delivery Company, at 317, High Holborn."

The first stamps issued here were inscribed London Circular Delivery Company and bore the City Arms on a shield—values: ½d. blue, ½d. lilac-grey. In 1867 similar stamps appeared, inscribed Metropolitan Circular Delivery Company, and London and Districts, also Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen and Liverpool, bearing the arms of these Cities. In June a set of four stamps ½d. green, ½d. blue, ½d. orange-yellow and 1d. rose inscribed National Circular Delivery Company, was issued to prepay circulars left at the London Office for delivery in the Provinces. The rates chargeable were:—circulars, ½d.; newspapers, ½d.; pamphlets and packages according to size and weight. A cancelling stamp of oblong oval shape bearing the name and address of the Company was in use, and appears to have been used to frank matter delivered by the Company without the use of stamps, which were probably dropped when the Post Office began to take steps. At the time of the first Government prosecution in August, 1867, these so called Companies were a private venture, being at that time in the hands of Mr. Manuel Eyre with Robert Brydone, as Secretary.

A messenger, one Edward Smith was summoned before Sir Thomas Henry at Bow Street on August 29th, 1867, convicted of contravening the Post Office Act, and fined £5. Mr. Manuel Eyre who attended the proceedings was informed that if the business was continued, he was liable to a penalty of £100 a week.

Nothing daunted however, on February 22nd, 1868, a Company was registered with a capital of £5000 in £1 shares, and offices at 317, High Holborn, the Directors being:—John Baxter Langley; J. H. Hodges; W. F. Robinson; H. C. Templeman; Manuel Eyre, Manager; Thomas Horton, Secretary. Mr. Brydone having apparently dropped out.

Further issues of stamps appeared in Nov. 1867, a set inscribed National Delivery Company 15, Basinghall St., green, blue, lilac and red, without expressed value, and in 1868 nine sets of four values, $\frac{1}{4}$ d. green, $\frac{1}{4}$ d. blue, $\frac{3}{4}$ d. mauve and 1d. vermilion, inscribed with the name of the City and Delivery Company. These sets were for London, Metropolitan, Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Edinburgh and Leith, Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Dundee. A circular had been issued drawing attention of the public to the advantages offered by the Company and bearing specimens of the stamps in use. After the first proceedings were taken, the promoters appear to have thought that they could keep within the law by forming a public company and confining their services to the shareholders, but this did not avail them as they were again prosecuted by the Post Office in May, 1868, and convicted by Sir Thomas Henry. On appeal against this conviction, it was confirmed by the Court of Queen's Bench in June, 1869, which definitely put an end to their proceedings and apparently broke up the Company, as no returns of their business were forthcoming as required by Law, and after several further fruitless applications extending over several years, had been made without any reply, the Register was marked "dissolved under the Companies Act, 31st August, 1883," many years after the Company had ceased to exist. Pending the decision of the appeal they ceased operations, but appear to have had a large quantity of reprints of the stamps made for sale to collectors, and these together with subsequent bogus issues (one lot having been produced as late as 1892) have had the effect of bringing the earlier genuine issues into disrepute. Used copies of the genuine stamps are rarely met with, and on the originals are extremely scarce, as of course they were naturally destroyed at the time they were in circulation. The efforts of Mr. Brydone and his successors to provide facilities which were not afforded by the State for the cheap distribution of printed matter, and their suppression by the Government, was the means of drawing public attention to the high rates of postage charged, and the matter being taken up in Parliament and in the public press, resulted in the Act of 1870, introducing the Halfpenny postage, and the name of Robert Brydone stands to-day amongst the Pioneers of cheap Postage.

Since that time no further reduction in the minimum rates of postage 1d. for letters and $\frac{1}{4}$ d. for printed matter has been made within the United Kingdom. Considering the great reductions made in postage to our over-sea dominions within recent years, it seems incongruous that it should cost as much to send a letter or circular within Cities and Towns in these Islands as it does to send to New Zealand (about 11,500 miles away); also that farthing rates for circulars exist in many

of our Colonies and not here. The Treasury however, have always regarded the Post Office as the Milch Cow of taxation, and it would appear that no reduction may be looked for until some strong demand or agitation is made for it.

I now turn to the stamps issued by the Colleges of Oxford and Cambridge. These interesting issues have been exhaustively studied and collected in recent years by several well known philatelists, including Professor A. S. Napier, Mr. Rossiter, Mr. J. R. F. Turner, Mr. L. Savournin and Rev. Hayman Cummings who has published an elaborate book on the subject which can still be obtained by those interested. It is therefore only necessary for me to refer very briefly to this subject.

It is stated that from time immemorial the Universities possessed certain postal privileges, which were confirmed by Acts of Parliament from time to time, and continued through several centuries. Letters are delivered by the various College Messengers, each College making its own arrangements as to remuneration. It was not until 1870 that stamps were introduced for this purpose, the first of the Oxford Colleges to do so being Keble, who afterwards continued the use of a special envelope bearing the College Arms on the flap, but the use of this has now ceased.

Merton followed in 1876, Lincoln in 1877, Hertford in 1879, Exeter in 1882, All Soul's and St. John's in 1884, and a stamp was prepared for Balliol in 1885, but not put to use as by that time the attention of the Postmaster General having been drawn to these issues, they were by his request discontinued by the College authorities.

The Cambridge stamps include Selwyn issued in 1882, Queen's and St. John's in 1883. These were also discontinued in 1885. In concluding this brief summary of the College issues mention may be made of the overprint of the Oxford Union Society (O.U.S.) on the issues of 1d. stamps used by that body during the years 1857-1882, until 1870 on the face and afterwards on the back of the stamps.

It now only remains to deal with the stamps issued by The Court Bureau. This was a limited Company registered in December 1889, having on its directorate some well known noblemen and gentlemen with offices and branches in the West End of London. The company undertook all kinds of agency business, letting houses, supplying servants, waiters for social functions, the addressing and sending out invitations from subscribers visiting lists, also the collection of letters from certain clubs and hotels and the residences of subscribers on Sundays, and posting them at the nearest point outside the London radius to secure delivery by the first post on Monday morning. The *Court Bureau Journal* containing information and advertisements was supplied to subscribers weekly.

A set of eight stamps ranging in value from

1d. to 6/- was issued in 1890, and supplies were purchased by subscribers to be used by them in settling accounts with the company instead of purchasing post office orders. The lower values 1d., 1½d. and 3d. were also used to pay the company's fees for Sunday posting which were of course in addition to the usual Post Office rates. The company was not a financial success and was wound up on petition in 1891, so that these stamps had a very short currency and are seldom met with.

A complete detailed list of the stamps described in this paper is in course of compilation by The Fiscal Philatelic Society, and it is hoped will be completed in the autumn when it will be published. Meanwhile I have to thank several correspondents for courteous replies to my questions on this subject, and any further information will be gladly received either by Mr. A. B. Kay, the Hon. Sec. of The Fiscal Society or myself.



August, 1912, Report.

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The following is now proposed in accordance with the above:—Umberto Zaffrani, Cairo, Egypt; proposed by P. L. Pemberton, seconded by F. F. Lamb.

LIBRARY.

The Hon. Librarian acknowledges with thanks:—Edwardian Stamps, Part I., from Messrs. Bright & Son; *Le Journal des Philatelistes*, from T. Lemaire, Paris. Any donations to the library gladly received and duly acknowledged.

NOTICES.

The Committee will meet at Essex Hall on Thursday, September 12th, at 7 p.m., to make arrangements for the ensuing season. Offers of papers or displays, donations to forgery collection, subscriptions, or proposals for membership, will be promptly acknowledged by

THOS. H. HINTON,

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Int. Phil. Union,
26, Cromford Road, East Putney, S.W.
August 12th, 1912.

New Leaves to Cut.

*STANLEY GIBBONS CATALOGUE, 1912-13. PART I.

THE end of July is a strange time to publish a new catalogue, but it appears that Messrs. Gibbons had sold out of Part I's. so they decided to hurry up the publication of next season's price list.

The new volume shows signs of but little alteration, no countries have been rewritten and the most that seems to have been done is the inclusion of new issues, and the usual haphazard chopping and changing of prices.

Old stamps, together with many recent issues, show an appreciation while we find some ludicrous examples of over pricing, especially where recent English stamps are concerned. We notice the Harrison printed stamps separated from those printed at Somerset House while some of the prices are appalling. One remarkable quotation is 5/- for the 3d. mint printed by Harrison & Son. The current 7d. stamp is priced at 1/-! The

*Published by Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, W.C.
Price 2/6 net.

early shade of the Somerset House 6d. is priced at 6/-, not a bad quotation for a stamp which was on sale at every London Post Office nine months ago.

Three shades of the 1d. George Die I. are listed and priced at 4d. and 6d. each for unused copies.

Our old friend the 6d. Dominica, on chalky paper, is still priced at a 1/- used, although the unused quotation has advanced from 1/6 to 12/6!

A few of the early types of New South Wales seem to have dropped a little, but favourites, like Sydney Views, hold their own.

Zanzibar stamps have received a good deal of attention, especially where the pricing of some of the scarce varieties is concerned, while we note that the 1 anna with blue overprint has advanced from £6 to £10.

Generally speaking, many of the 1880 to 1900 issues shew a decided appreciation.

Jubilee International Stamp Exhibition.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL HALL,

OCTOBER 14-19, 1912.

THE Hon. Exhibition Secretary is busily engaged dealing with correspondence relating to the above. It will probably save his Committee a good deal of labour if our readers will note that the following printed matter is now available and can be obtained free of charge on application to Mr. H. F. Johnson, 44, Fleet Street, E.C.

The General Prospectus.

Tickets.

Books of tickets (for colleges, societies, etc.)

Entry forms for Exhibitors.

The Prospectus in German.

The Prospectus in Swedish.

Conditions of the Art Contest.

The J.P.S. Past, Present and Future.

Circular to the Trade. (re stalls).

Lithographed Plan. (for dealers).

Model Stamp Factory Posters.

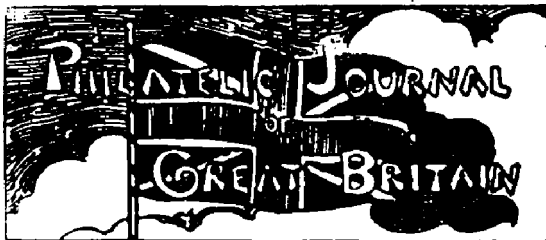
General Posters.

There will be issued in September a new edition of the General Prospectus, and notice of Advertisement Rates in the Exhibition Catalogue.

THE MODEL STAMP FACTORY.

Important announcements concerning the establishment of the Model Stamp Factory at the Exhibition will be made during August.

The promoters of the Exhibition confidently anticipate that this section of the display will be of a most practical and instructive nature and will be the means of attracting many thousands of visitors to see the latest stamp-printing processes in full operation. Visitors will have the opportunity of seeing the processes used for rapid modern stamp printing on a gigantic scale, especially as used for the stamps of Great Britain. Such an exhibit has never been presented to the philatelic public before.



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OWING to the serious indisposition of Mr. P. L. Pemberton, the continuation of his article on the "Stamps of Greece" is unavoidably held over.

The World's Most Interesting Stamps.

BY THE EDITOR.

(Continued from page 136.)

BRITISH HONDURAS.

THIS little American colony is a very popular one with many collectors, while there is no gainsaying the fact that the design for the early stamps is a particularly handsome one. Unfortunately British Honduras, in common with so many other countries, had an outbreak of surcharges during the period 1888-1891, with the usual concomitant of errors.

The regular issues of 1866 to 1887 are very attractive, and, in fine condition, worth nearly full catalogue, the 3 cents on 3d. brown, CC, 12½, exists with the overprint very well forged, while of the later there are still many complete sheets on the market.

The Queen's Head set of 1891-1900 belongs to the mediocre early De la Rue "Key" plate type, and offers little temptation to collectors.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

I am afraid that I am prejudiced against these, and similar labels, they belong to the category of the Great Unnecessary.

BRITISH SOMALILAND.

Here again we have a very unattractive lot of stamps. The overprinted on Indian set is a drug in the market, while the later King's Heads are almost as deservedly unpopular. The official stamps are far too uncanny for my liking.

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA.

With hardly an exception, my remarks referring to British Central African stamps apply here, with the exception that B.S.A. labels are not, in my opinion, such a sound investment. The overprinted set of Cape of Good Hope and other provisionals have been passably well



forged, but these are not often seen nowadays, otherwise the country is free from this curse. The provisionals of 1896, namely the 1d. on 4/- and 3d. on 5/-, are listed with sub-varieties (S.G. 43a to 43d). I have never seen

these weird abortions and hope always to be spared that penalty. The later issues which come under the heading of RHODESIA are not of sufficient interest to warrant their inclusion in any "general specialists'" album. The overprinted stamps, obtainable in London, and the badly executed labels of 1910, although most certainly available for postal duty, are more in the nature of a speculation than of anything else. If it were not so absurd one would incline to the theory that the stamps were overprinted "Rhodesia" simply to enable Messrs. Gibbons to include the letter "R" in their index of British Colonial stamps!

BRUNEI.

A most unsavoury collection of labels, which made a bad beginning by appearing on cast-off Labuan stamps and which have kept up their reputation with absurdly unnecessary high values, together with the taint of speculation hanging over practically every value.

Under the heading of the third letter of the alphabet we come to three most popular countries with stamp collectors of all nationalities. The first of these is

CANADA.

and I have no hesitation in saying that I consider Canada the most popular of all countries with British collectors. This is hard to realize at first, for the Dominion offers but little scope for researchists, but there is no doubt that the general pleasing appearance of the early stamps, and the lack of perforation and watermark varieties are all factors which appeal to the general collector and medium specialist, and which place the stamps of Canada in the high position they occupy. The *rara avis* of Canada is the 12d. black, but most collectors will consider this variety outside their dreams of avarice, so no pang of regret need be felt when it is not represented in their albums.



The dates of several of the early issues need revising in the catalogue, it was only the other day that I saw a copy of the 6d. imperforate,

on wove paper, dated Montreal, Nov. 3rd, 1851, and Ottawa, Nov. 5th, 1851.

The ribbed paper varieties of the early stamps are the only stamps that need more than a cursory glance to decide their genuineness, although of course there are specimens of the stamps on laid paper which show the laid lines very faintly and which at first glance would appear to be on wove.

The variety, 41a, listed with "extra line in outer oval on left" is a really scarce stamp, although I am very doubtful whether it should



be dignified with a place in the catalogue. I have only seen two copies of this stamp, outside of private collections, during the past eight years. One of these, unfortunately a little damaged, I purchased from an exchange sheet, after it had been through the hands of thirty collectors and dealers, for the small sum of one penny, while the other copy was an unused specimen, magnificent colour, but with a large corner missing which was priced in an old collection as the ordinary variety, at 2/-.

The imperforate three-pennies also shew traces of re-entries, but not to such a marked degree as the 5 cents. I illustrate one below, the most marked "double print" appearing on the word "Canada," and the left-hand lower numeral.



The "big heads" of 1868, offer, beyond a wonderful range of shades, the chance of a bargain, namely either the 1c. or the 3c. on laid. All values of this set are mentioned in the catalogue as existing on watermarked paper; it is some years since I sold the later issues of my Canadian collection (only retaining the 1851 to 1859 types), so I am quoting from memory, but I cannot recollect ever having a specimen of the 15c. on watermarked paper. The 1876 issues afford some grand shades, collectors should look out for copies of the 1c. in the *real* orange colour. The 5c. of this issue (S.G. 76) is I consider, wrongly placed, it should be grouped with the 1868 issue, which already includes the 15c.

stamp, not issued until 1880 and which was on sale at the Montreal Post Office in 1902, if not even later! Consistency, however, is not the strong virtue of Gibbons catalogue. The Jubilee issue of 1897 enabled speculators to obtain a "pull" on several of the values, principally the 4c. and the 6c., but the quantities printed made this almost unavoidable. The high values of this set are always, in fine postally used condition, a desirable acquisition. The later issues of Canada (including the Jubilees), have practically no interest for advanced collectors, but they appeal to the numerous general collectors who like to complete their sets at a moderate cost. The variety of the maple leaf set (S.G. 115a.) should be accepted with caution as a number of bleached copies are in existence.

The provisionals of January, 1899, namely S.G. 131 and 132, are not worth the consideration of any collector, in my opinion they have no business to be listed in the catalogue. The later issues, Quebecs, etc., afford little interest, while the *extras* in the nature of registration stamps, postage dues, and the special delivery stamp, are all varieties which one could comfortably do without, although I must admit that the registration labels for several years exercised a considerable fascination for me. The next of the "C's," namely the

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

is almost as popular a country as Canada—in fact with the specialist, who takes only one or two issues, it is even more so, but it lacks that solidity of following which is attracted by the more varied charms of Canada. The triangular issues have been so extensively written about that there is no need for me to sing their charms. Personally I have never aspired to be the owner of the woodblocks, and the few copies which have come my way have been promptly auctioned, or exchanged for (to me) more desirable stamps. Were the woodblocks confined to just straightforward examples of the two values, it would be possible for even the modest "general" specialist to obtain specimens. Unfortunately, however, the purse of the average collector will not bear the strain of "errors of colour," even were they obtainable, so I think the stamps of the Cape of Good Hope can well be taken, without leaving space for the interesting, but usually hopelessly out of reach, emissions of Messrs. Saul, Solomon & Co.



The small rectangular stamps are I consider amongst some of the most collectible of Messrs. De La Rue's labels, while I consider that many of the C.C. and C.A. varieties are, in fine condition, rather under-priced than otherwise. This is not a failing which applies to the triangular.

Rather many surcharges eventuated during the late 'seventies and early 'eighties, but the majority of them are quite above board, although I have seen clever forgeries of some of the scarcer varieties. The later issues of the Cape, with the exception of a hideous one penny of 1900, are all, in fine condition, an interesting lot, while even the King's Heads of 1902, evince a modesty, which, in contrast with other recent issues (say Transvaal or Straits Settlements), is very pleasing. At the end of the list of Cape stamps we find those one-time rushed after, but now undesired, labels, known as

MAKING SIEGE STAMPS.

I have, as they say in America, "no use for" these labels, nor can I feel sympathy for those collectors who paid fabulous sums for these varieties when they were first issued. After leaving the fascinating early issues of the Cape of Good Hope and before we reach the grand old stamps of Ceylon we have to negotiate those, to me, objectionable labels which are found under the heading of the

CAYMAN ISLANDS.

This group of sandbanks, was, until the year 1900 under the postal administration of Jamaica and I think it a very great pity that separate labels were ever printed. The stamps themselves are ugly while practically every denomination is heavily tainted with the odour of private and official jobbery. The surcharges were uncalled for and constitute in the annals of stamp collecting a very unsavoury interlude.

CEYLON.

For specialist and general collector it would be hard to find a more interesting colony than this emerald pendent of India. The early issues are of a most artistic design and afford wide scope for scarce varieties of shade and perforation. The early imperforates are frequently to be found cut to shape and carefully mounted, but this class of fraud does not, fortunately, afford any real danger to careful collectors. The later issues of the line-engraved stamps afford plenty of variety, owing to the experiments tried by Messrs. De la Rue & Co. when they took over the printing contract from Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co. We find various rare perforations which not unfrequently are to be picked up at ordinary prices from exchange club sheets and dealers' approval books. The C.C. surface-

printed stamps are interesting and attractive, and, in my opinion not too highly priced in the current catalogue. Unfortunately Ceylon offers a flagrant example of how not to issue surcharged stamps, while there was a good deal of official speculation in many of these overprinted labels. I have also seen a good many cleaned specimens of the scarcer surcharges. The later issues, including the King's Heads, are on a par with the majority of other recent Colonial stamps.

COOK ISLANDS.

This little group, very much neglected by collectors, has not much to recommend it to the specialist. The later issues are nearly all a drug in the market at face value, should, however, a boom ever come, it would be found that the stamps of the Cook Islands Federation are considerably more interesting than many contemporary issues from other parts of the British Empire. The last of the C's is

CYPRUS.

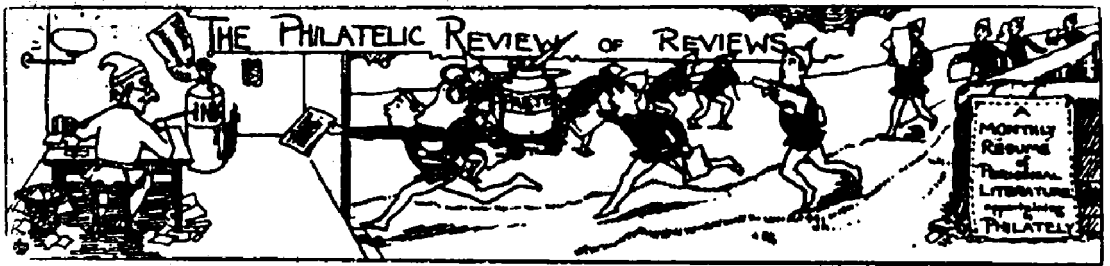
And we find here a country full of interest and full of scope for any collector who has advantageous opportunities of making research. The first stamps were English labels overprinted, and collectors who aspire to take all the various plate numbers will be sadly disappointed, of plates 193 and 196. Only one complete sheet of each is known to exist! Unfortunately it is extremely difficult, in some cases impossible, to get well centred specimens of the line-engraved overprinted stamps so that early Cyprus stamps do not make an attractive show.



The De la Rue labels are rather an attractive lot especially the C.C. stamps and the various surcharges. The *rara avis* of the surface printed stamps is the half piastre emerald green with the C.A. watermark. Personally I am inclined to think that this is not a variety of shade but an error without surcharge, possibly a sheet, or sheets, got included with the overprinted stamps. The King's heads of Cyprus, especially the single watermark series, have been very extensively speculated in.

(To be continued).

[Our Publishers wish it to be understood that they do not identify themselves with all the views expressed in this article.]



AUGUST 20, 1912.

Philately at Home.

THE July number of the *London Philatelist* contains the conclusion of Mr. Castle's excellent paper dealing with the 1860-1875 issues of British Guiana. This writer modestly states that the middle issues of the colony may still reward the researches of the patient and enquiring philatelist. We agree with Mr. Castle, adding however the reservation that the future researchist will have to be exceptionally fortunate as regards material for study, and, at the same time be a philatelist who is capable of holding his own with Mr. Castle in the philatelic tourney. We do not think this a likely combination. We extract the following relating to the perf. 15 varieties of 1875.

A new and less unsightly perforation was introduced in this year gauging 15, probably about mid 1875. I have seen no specimens dated except for this year and that following when the De La Rue series was issued. It is evident that there could have been but small quantities of these stamps issued. The 1 and 2—probably imported in this country by the dealers—are not at all scarce (except that the 2 in mint condition is a difficult stamp), but all the other values are scarce used and are quite rare unused, notably the 6 and 24. The colours are very bright and the impressions clear and distinct. There was no 48c. in this perforation, as there doubtless remained a good stock in hand of this value, perf. 10. As to the 6 and 24c., I can only confirm my previous remarks, as to the former that I have not yet found the *cedilla* variety, nor that with the stop, but I have quite lately discovered a somewhat curious variety. This consists in a marked difference in the arabesque ornament in the lower right angle. It will be seen that the ornament immediately under the "IM" of "VICISSIM" is divided, while the two other scrolls to its right have, in the upper case, a similar division, and in the lower one, an absence of the final curl of the scroll. These varieties are constant as denoted in the vertical pair, and, in my opinion, as with the following 24c., cannot have been accidental, and probably denote an intention of the printers to ear-mark the respective transfers.

Our worthy contemporary also contains the first instalment of Mr. C. F. Dendy Marshall's "British Stamps of the Reign

of King Edward VII." This article, which mostly appears to have reference to marginal varieties, controls, etc. will be appreciated by those of our readers who collect the numerous recent omissions of our own country.

A budget of Occasional Notes, list of New Issues, etc., complete a good number of our exchange.

The following brief extract may possibly raise hopes in the breasts of some of our readers.

DISTINCTIONS FOR AUSTRIAN PHILATELISTS.

The numerous visitors from this country to the highly successful Vienna Philatelic Exhibition of last summer—as indeed all classes of collectors—will be glad to hear that official recognition of merit has been awarded to two of the most prominent philatelists of Vienna. The Emperor of Austria has been graciously pleased to confer the Gold Cross of Merit of the Crown (*Goldene Verdienstkreuz mit der Krone*) upon Herr Hermann de la Renotière, Ritter von Kriegsfeld, and Herr Adolf Passer respectively, the President and Hon. Secretary of the Vienna Philatelic Exhibition of 1911. Herr de la Renotière is a well-known Vienna Philatelist, and a cousin of the great collector of the same name at Paris. To the indefatigable labours of Herr Adolf Passer the success of the Vienna Exhibition was very largely due. Herr Passer paid visits to all the principal countries in Europe, spending a considerable period in this country, and it is to the enthusiasm that he imparted to others on his travels that the success of the Exhibition was practically assured before its inauguration. We heartily congratulate both gentlemen upon the honour conferred by His Imperial Majesty upon them, and through them upon Austrian Philately.

The July number of the *Monthly Journal* contains some capital contributions. M. L. Hanciau continues to write about the stamps of the Spanish West Indies, he deals with the emissions of 1864-72.

Dr. Marco del Pont is responsible for a lengthy and interesting instalment of his paper dealing with the Rivadavia stamps of the Argentine Republic, this will be greatly esteemed by all collectors of these fascinating stamps. Messrs Gelli and

Tani, the well known experts of Bruxelles, contribute the first chapter of a valuable paper dealing with the "Congo Belge Overprints." A short dose of Mr. Armstrong's "A Philatelic Itinerary of the World," the usual reliable list of New Issues, Topical Notes, etc., complete with one exception, a splendid number of our contemporary.

The exception above mentioned is Mr. C. L. Pack's short article relating to the inverted centres of Argentine.

We venture to extract this in *extenso*.

In the January number of the *Monthly Journal* an article was published under my signature in regard to "The Argentine Stamp Errors." Since that time I have received some more information from specialists in these stamps, and more particularly from members of the Argentine Philatelic Society of Buenos Ayres. I am greatly indebted to M. Roberto de Soto, of Buenos Ayres, who has gone to great pains to translate my article into the Spanish language. His translation was recently published in the *Revista de la Sociedad Filatelica Argentina*, together with some notes explaining, among other things, the information which has only recently come to the knowledge of collectors on the spot.

I am now convinced that there were three sheets, of 25 stamps each, of the 1 peso with the centre inverted, the larger portion of which were never recovered after being used to prepay postage, and the latest information is that this stamp appeared in 1902, and it was not, as has been supposed, the first of these inverted centre errors to be discovered. That distinction belongs to the 20 pesos, which it is now known was issued with inverted centre in 1901, and used in the payment of newspaper postage, the copies having been punctured with the word "Inutilizado," as has been stated.

In regard to the 5 pesos with inverted centre, which appeared in 1905, it has been pretty well determined that there were two sheets in all, instead of one sheet, as has been supposed. The existence of the two sheets has been proved by the fact that the block of four of these stamps in the collection of Dr. José Marcó del Pont and the pair in the collection of M. Gregorio Rodriguez do not correspond with the same sheet. M. Jorge Rodriguez also has a block of four, and by a careful comparison of these stamps it has become evident that there were two sheets printed.

There was but one sheet discovered of the 10 pesos with inverted centre, and it was found by an official of the Post Office in Buenos Ayres some years ago, and, notwithstanding rumours from time to time to the contrary, I have just received word that the sheet is still intact, and that no sales of pairs or single copies had been made up to February, 1912.

The July-August number of the *Stamp Lover* is a grand double number, and reflects great credit on the J.P.S. We find, naturally enough, a good deal of matter relating to the Society and their forthcoming Exhibition, we also find several articles of general interest and merit.

Mr. Harold Row completes his capital article dealing with the stamps of Siam—his paper mostly takes the form of notes

in the nature of general addenda and corrigenda. Mr. L. W. Crouch contributes a very lengthy instalment of his paper dealing with the stamps of Honduras, we regret we cannot enthuse over the later issues of this country, but specialists, if there be any besides Mr. Crouch, will find that he has tackled his subject in a very thorough manner. Another interesting article is the first instalment of Mr. R. E. R. Dalwigk's paper dealing with the stamps of Bergedorf. We make a rather lengthy extract.

The stamps of Bergedorf number—in all—only five distinctive values, and taking into consideration their comparative cheapness in unused condition, their differing sizes and their rarity in genuine used condition, it is not to be wondered at that they form a popular and interesting page in our albums. To specialize these stamps comes to nothing more than "single issue specialism" and moreover they can be specialized by the poor as well as the rich—according, of course, to whether they are collected in unused or used condition. The design is not, perhaps, grand or in any way artistic—but it is curious—curious in the fact that it is an amalgamated mixture of the Arms of Hamburg and Lübeck. The design has one great asset in its favour, and that is the simpleness of the idea, and although the printing was not of the best, the original proofs show the design to be well-drawn.

The stamps themselves did not appear till late in the year 1861, but the subject of the stamps was discussed and re-discussed for several years prior to the date of issue. The discussions and correspondence, however, after taking definite shapes and schemes, always fell through, to be brought up again at a later date with a like result!

As early as 1856 Bergedorf had the right and permission to issue its own adhesives by Clause 18 of a postal declaration of the German-Austrian Union. Three years passed by, and as far as is known, no steps whatever were taken during this period for the preparation of the proposed issue. At last in 1859 the public made themselves heard upon the subject to no mean extent, with the result that on June 25th, postmaster Paalzow put himself into communication with post-director Dr. Kauffmann over the subject of the intended stamps.

From reports of this correspondence it appears that certain steps had already previously been taken—namely, the furnishing of estimates of costs of production and printing from the Hamburg firm of Ch. Fuchs. The idea of the uniformity in the sizes of the actual stamps, and the inclusion of some part of the Lübeck Coat of Arms appears to have been part of the stipulations given to Ch. Fuchs for the preparation of essays. Two days after the correspondence between Herr Paalzow and Dr. Kauffmann had begun, it was again brought to an abrupt termination—and another two years were allowed to pass without anything further being done in this direction. Ch. Fuchs in the meantime had prepared a few essays, which, however, did not arouse the enthusiasm of the officials who saw them.

At last on May 31st, 1861, the postage stamp question was taken in hand seriously—a Dr. Winkler requesting postmaster Paalzow to give him full particulars and his own ideas, etc., upon the long awaited and contemplated series. Herr Paalzow (who throughout the years of delay had always showed himself interested and energetic in the correspondence and discussions) acted with promptitude in the matter,

and on June 19th he transmitted the desired report to Dr. Winkler, together with two essays for the latter gentleman's inspection. The essays submitted were:

½ Schilling, black on lilac.

¾ Schilling, black on "wine red."

Dr. Winkler went into the subject with whole-hearted interest, and arranged the values of prepayment of the five stamps, and also strongly advocated the absolute necessity of *prepayment* of all postal correspondence.

Our Fleet Street exchange also contains an up to date list of new issues, a short paper contributed by Mr. B. Morley, and a futher instalment of Mr. Haworth's "The Postcards of Chili."

The *Philatelic Record* for July is devoted, with the exception of the usual meagre list of new issues, and bibliography, to an excellent first instalment of Mr. L. W. Fulcher's paper dealing with the stamps of the Roman States, and continuations of Mr. Luff's "Otto's Printings of the Transvaal Stamps" and the Sveriges Filatelist-Förening's "Postage Stamps of Sweden 1855-1905." These two articles are respectively check and reference lists and of practically little interest to the general collector. Mr. Fulcher's article however, will appeal to all philatelists and we congratulate him on tackling such a difficult subject in such a thorough manner.

We venture to make a short extract relating to the ½ Bajocco stamps of 1852.

The paper on which the stamps of this value are printed varies considerably, but the variations appear to accompany the numerous changes in shade and are best studied in connection therewith. The "blue-grey" paper is often strongly ribbed vertically, while the "grey" stamp occurs on the paper which Dr. Diena, following Dr. Legrand, has termed "*sablé*." This is a very thin paper, showing a kind of cross-grained structure producing a punctate transparent effect, and often showing a ribbed appearance when examined in reflected light. As I know of no satisfactory English equivalent for this term, and hesitate to invent one, I propose to use it in its French form. We meet with this paper again in other values of the first issue.

The shades of the ½ bajocco are numerous, and some allowance must be made for modifications produced by atmospheric agencies in the course of time. A writer in the *Berliner Briefmarken-Zeitung* has pointed out that the order in which the main varieties appeared and the extent of their use was as follows:—

Blue-grey. From 21st March, 1852, to 18th September, 1855.

Grey. From 27th August, 1854, to 30th December, 1858.

Dull violet. From 7th October, 1856, to 3rd November, 1861.

Deep violet. From 5th March, 1857, to 2nd December, 1865.

For a collection I fear it is necessary to further subdivide the shades. For example, there is a very distinctive shade, allied to the blue-grey, which I should term a distinct pale blue, of which I have found no previous record. This seems to be rare. The violets and purples must also, I think, be further

differentiated. I would suggest the following classification:—

1. Blue-grey.
2. Pale blue.
3. Grey.
4. Pale red-violet.
5. Pale dull purple.
6. Lilac.
7. Deep purple.
8. Deep violet.

Shades which do not come under one of these categories are often bleached copies.

Mr. W. H. Milnes-Marsden has shown me a copy of this stamp in the deep violet shade very distinctly double-printed, the two impressions being separated by several millimetres.

Forgeries of this value are not dangerous. The one in olive-green, with a single-lined frame, exposed by Dr. Diena many years ago, is a close imitation as regards design, but the colour is distinctive.

Mr. Fulcher pays generous tribute to Signor Fabri and others who have already written about the stamps of the Roman States.

The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* for July 20th contains an illustrated interview with Mr. T. H. Hinton, a very old and esteemed friend of hundreds of our readers. We also find a budget of correspondence under the heading "The Status of Stamp Exchange Clubs—should they be represented at the Philatelic Congress." We extract the rather lengthy letter sent by one who signs himself "1911 Delegate."

IS A CLUB SECRETARY A DEALER?

As a member of three Philatelic Societies and five Exchange Clubs it seems to me that there is only one satisfactory and final way of dealing with this matter. Exchange clubs should hold a congress on their own account, under the auspices of a union of clubs.

To put it plainly, Mr. Editor, I regard the secretary of a private exchange club as a dealer, for the simple reason that he runs his club for a profit; and a sure profit at that, because the secretary is not held responsible in case of loss through the defalcations of members or the loss of stamps during transit of packets, etc. Therefore, I do not see that he has any more claim for representation than has a private firm of stamp dealers.

Imagine, for example, a body of one hundred dealers claiming to be represented at the Congress by a similar number of delegates from their respective firms, on the ground that they have a wealthy clientele! It seems to be entirely ignored by some of your correspondents that the Congress is a Congress of *Philatelic Societies*. Is a private Exchange Club, whose secretary receives a commission on sales, a Philatelic Society in the generally accepted sense of the term? If club secretaries could demonstrate that their societies fulfilled the functions of the present-day Philatelic Societies, as we understand that institution, then they would have every right to claim the opportunity of sending delegates to the Congress.

What occurs to me as being rather peculiar is the fact that Exchange Clubs are already fairly well represented at the Congress by delegates who attend as representatives of Philatelic Societies proper, and I am of opinion that the exchange club secretary, who is not a member of some Philatelic Society, and who does not take an honorary as well as a monetary interest in Philately, is not a proper person to attend Congress in any capacity. One of your corres-

pondents has referred to "Slushton-on-the-Mud" Philatelic Society, but leaves severely alone the "Best-Blooming" Exchange Club, whose Secretary has bought his position in the open market against all other cash bidders, and whose only interest in stamps is the extent to which the members of his club by their purchases will swell his commission.

Must it be taken for granted that the secretary would automatically elect himself to the position of delegate for his own club, or would the question be decided by the members themselves? In any case there would surely be a difficulty in securing beforehand an adequate discussion of the various matters to be dealt with at the Congress, for the reason that exchange club members are usually drawn from districts so far apart that no actual discussion could take place to decide what line of action the delegate should follow.

No, sir! the idea of exchange club representation at the Annual Congress of Philatelic Societies does not appeal to me as a desirable innovation.

Some extracted items, list of new issues, etc., together with a further chapter of Mr. D. B. Armstrong's capable "The Postage Stamps of Nigerias" complete a very readable number.

The following extract relating to the stamps of Southern Nigeria will doubtless interest many of our subscribers.

The principal mail routes under the control of the Southern Nigeria postal service in 1904 were:—

Calabar and Bonny *via* Eket and Egwanga (weekly, by launch and canoe).

Calabar and Obukun *via* Itu, Afikpo, Obubra Hill and Okun (weekly by launch, canoe and runners).

Itu and Ikot Ekpene (weekly by canoe and runners). Bonny and Akassa *via* Bakana and Degema (weekly by launch).

Bonny and Owerri *via* Bakana and Nsokpo (fortnightly by canoe and runners).

Warri and Benin City *via* Sapele (fortnightly by runners).

Asaba and Ogrugru (fortnightly by canoe).

During 1906 the following additional weekly mail services were inaugurated:—Itu to Aka; Ikot Ekpene to Vyo; Sapele to Kivale; Benin City to Ifon; and Benin City to Agbu. Steam launches replaced the canoes previously employed in the inter-riverine services between Bonny and Akassa, and Bonny and Degema *via* Bakana, greatly expediting the delivery of the mails in those districts.

There are to-day 23 post offices in the Colony of Southern Nigeria, including those formerly controlled by the Lagos post office, the General Post Offices and headquarters of the colonial postal service being established at Lagos, whence they were transferred from Old Calabar in July, 1906.

For the first fifteen months the Southern Nigeria Post Office made use of the contemporary postage stamps of the Niger Coast Protectorate (series 1897-8), which may accordingly be found from January, 1900, onwards, bearing the postmarks of the additional offices established at Akassa, Asaba, Idah, etc., under the new regime.

Meanwhile a special key-plate and series of duty-plates of a distinctive character were being prepared to the order of the Southern Nigerian Government at the stamp-printing establishment of Messrs. Thos. De La Rue & Co., Limited, in Bunhill Row, London, E.C., by whom a consignment of seven denominations of adhesive postage and revenue stamps printed therefrom was despatched to the Protectorate about the end of 1900, reaching Old Calabar early in the following year.

The stamps were of a new, original, and strikingly effective design, bearing within a central medallion Von Angeli's famous Jubilee portrait of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, the surrounding frame being of neat and tasteful conception, rendering the stamps amongst the most attractive that have been issued by a British Colony.

They were surface-printed at two operations from typographical plates giving 120 impressions of the stamp grouped in two horizontal panes of sixty, each composed of ten rows of six stamps, with the plate number "1" in white within a solid circle of colour imprinted four times on the margin, once in each corner of the sheet. A continuous marginal line in the colour of the frame was printed round each pane, and outside it a series of short spaced bars in the colour in which the central portrait medallion was printed. In addition a consignment number in black was impressed on the right-hand top corner of every sheet.

The design was prepared, the die engraved, the plates manufactured, and the printing of the stamps carried out entirely by Messrs. De La Rue & Co.

The stamps were first placed in use at the post offices of the Southern Nigeria Protectorate in March, 1901.

A fortnight later Mr. Armstrong, by contributing a chapter dealing with the King's Head stamps completes his capable article relating to the Postage Stamps of the Nigerias.

The same number of our contemporary also contains an illustrated interview with Mr. F. H. Vallancy, and an up to date list of New Issues.

The July *West End Philatelist* contains an editorial dealing with the subject of newspaper rates in Great Britain. Our wee contemporary has apparently awakened to the fact that it would have to expend one penny per copy in postage did it weigh two, and under four ounces.

Mr. Séfi continues his readable article dealing with the much written about stamps of Malta. We make a short extract relating to the C.C. stamps of 1867-1873.

The three or four printings immediately subsequent to the perf. 12½ series have always proved too elusive for the collector properly to classify, with the result that they are altogether ignored in the catalogue. It is of course impossible, owing to the lack of official evidence, absolutely to be certain of the dates of issue of the various printings that were current during these years, but I think that the following list is as near as we can get, at the present, by the help of dated copies:—

- 1867. Pale buff.
- 1868. Bright orange.
- 1870. Dull orange.
- 1871. Yellow buff.
- 1873. Buff.

Of this series the printings of 1867, 1872 and 1873, are generally found in collections and in dealers' stock books as S.G. No. 4, priced 3/-. This fact accounts for the low price of this stamp, of which under 20,000 copies were originally issued.

I think a few remarks on these shades are necessary, as the difference is often so slight. The 1868 issue, bright orange, needs no further description, as it

stands out, with the golden-yellow, as the most attractive of the early stamps of this country. The colour is very bright and intense, and is best likened to the inside of a buttercup. In heavily postmarked copies it can always be distinguished from the golden-yellow, as the back of the stamp is never stained by the ink, as is invariably the case with the latter.

The 1870 issue, dull orange, is very like the buff-orange of the second issue and appears to be a scarce stamp in unused condition; there is a very fine strip, with full margin, in the Williams' collection.

The 1871 issue is practically identical with that of 1866 with the exception of the perforation. The 1873 issue is best described as a duller shade of the same.

We also find readable papers entitled respectively "France: Notes on the Postage Due Stamps of 1872," and "The 1902 Provisionals of the Leeward Islands."

The July number of *The Stamp Collector* contains a capital editorial dealing with the suggested philatelic museum and rendezvous for collectors. Mr. W. H. M. Marsden contributes a short paper dealing with various flaws, etc., to be found on the first issue of Montenegro. An interview with Mr. H. S. Hodson and the completion of Mr. C. F. Harriss's paper entitled "The Attraction of collecting Postage Stamps" complete the principal contents of our Birmingham contemporary.

The July *British Philatelist* contains a further capital instalment of "The Edwardian Stamps of Great Britain." Collectors who pay attention to the controls, marginal lines, etc., will find this article of great interest. We also find another chapter of Messrs. Bernstein and Nissen's "British Stamps Used Abroad."

The August number of the *Philatelic Circular* contains an illustrated article dealing with stamp affixing machines. We also find Mr. H. S. Hodson reviewing the prices for English stamps in the new Gibbons' Catalogue, a page of Mr. Edwards' always instructive "Market Notes," and a chronicle of Georgian issues. The following short extract is all too true:

There are fashions in stamp-collecting as in everything else, and the most saleable stamps at the present time, judging from Club sheets, appear to be British, current used Colonials, and early Europeans. The most unsaleable are mint Colonials of late date, prior to Edwardians, and middle issues of Australasia.

Just as we go to press, we are in receipt of *Griebert's Philatelic Notes and Offers* for August. As usual, we find a couple of articles which prove our contemporary's claim to publishing original articles of great interest and value to the keen philatelist.

Mr. A. B. Creeke continues to write about the "Native" issues of British Guiana; needless to say, in such capable hands we find the October issue of 1862 well described, together, with the minor flaws, etc., which make these stamps so interesting.

The second article is of a more original nature; we find Mr. H. M. Ahrens writing about the 50 and 100 centavos of the first type of Bolivia. A few years ago collectors fancied that there were no prominent varieties of these stamps, and to-day Mr. Ahrens easily plates the thirty varieties of each denomination simply by aid of the various coloured dots and dashes which appear on the stamps! His article is well illustrated by aid of a plate shewing respectively a complete pane of the 50c. and a reconstructed pane of the higher value.

Philately in the Colonies and Elsewhere.

The June number of the *Philatelic Journal of India* is almost entirely devoted to extracted articles. We note that Mr. Pemberton's paper on the 1868 issue of Mexico, reprinted from a recent number of the *P.J.G.B.*, holds the position of honour; it is only fair that readers of our Indian contemporary, who are not subscribers to the *P.J.G.B.*, should have an opportunity of perusing the result of Mr. Pemberton's studies, as the *P.J. of I.* has already published a good deal of original matter dealing with these fascinating stamps.

The June *Australian Philatelist* is largely made up of reprinted articles, of a general nature, from other papers: we except, however, a readable leaderette, entitled "Has the Cult of Philately Degenerated." The following extract will help fill our own columns:—

The genuine collector need not necessarily be a philatelist, but although he may eschew varieties of perforation, colour and paper, and sometimes water-marks also, he is one to be respected, for his aims have none of the sordid in them, and the gathering together of stamps is a hobby, and it often remains so all his life. Sometimes this hobby may be acquired in boyhood, or when he has advanced into manhood, but it remains with him a pure hobby. As a rule they know little of philately beyond what they learn in a dealer's catalogue. Classing all that we have mentioned together, they are the soldiers of the army of

stamp collectors, philatelists are the officers. The question now suggests itself: "How many of the soldiers rise above the position of petty officers?" We have seen, certainly with regret, the passing away of many of the old heroes of philately, men who were magnificent leaders, and by their investigations taught the officers beneath them in status some fine lessons. Somehow we fail to see that all of them are replaced. In their place have come the historians, their work ever present in two or more of the leading philatelic journals, but theirs is dry history, often spun out to a dreary length. Do these men think that their writings in that direction are as interesting to the general body of collectors as they are to themselves and the small regiment of specialists? It is when we see some of the journals but with little else than history of a country's stamps in them, that we may ask, "Has the cult of philately degenerated?"

We also find the usual good list of New Issues, etc.

Our always entertaining half yearly visitor from Demerara, the *British Guiana Philatelic Journal* is to hand dated June, 1912.

We find a big budget of newsy notes, reviews, etc., together with Mr. Castle's paper dealing with the 1853 issue of British Guiana. We also find a most interesting article entitled "The First Demerara Post Office," contributed by Mr. J. Rodway. We were so interested in this contribution that we feel sure many of our readers will appreciate a long extract. We hope the editor of our contemporary will not grumble at our generosity in helping ourselves.

The pioneer of our newspaper press and postal delivery was a man in advance of his time. He could hardly have been a Dutchman, for the name de la Coste points to a Jewish origin, being well-known in Surinam and Barbados as borne by Portuguese Jews. He was an advocate in partnership with Mr. Andries Beaujon, and probably was one of those people who appear now and then everywhere with their heads full of projects not always workable. Among the projects of J. C. de la Coste was one for a postal service to Essequibo and another to bring the mails from Barbados.

Down to his time, 1793, the only mail delivery was from the Government Secretary's Office, and everyone was bound to send there for their letters however remote they might be from Stabroek. No doubt, in the absence of roads the estates' droguers were often coming to town and the delay of a few weeks was nothing to the slow-going Dutchman. But there were Englishmen also in the colony who probably wanted to drive things a little faster, and perhaps de la Coste hoped his project would be acceptable to them and ultimately pay. No doubt, also, he surprised some of his slow-going townsmen and even the Court of Policy when on the 31st July, 1793, he petitioned for a patent or exclusive right to establish a printing office and newspaper.

The Court was favourable, but could not grant the exclusive right, for which he would have to apply to the Council for the Colonies. Meanwhile, however, they agreed to recommend the matter, and not to give a licence for any other printing office.

So far all was clear, but it is not to be supposed that the paper could be brought out at once. On the 29th of October following he again petitioned the court. On receiving the favourable reply to his former petition, he set to work and made the necessary prepara-

tions. Among other requisites he *purchased negroes*—bought his printer's devils; perhaps he licked them into shape. Then, after publishing his prospectus, he was inundated with advice, as many an editor is even to-day. Probably the addition to his former project, now disclosed, was the suggestion of some wiseacre; at any rate, it was something unheard of even in more civilized colonies than Demerara and Essequibo. He proposed a postal delivery all along the Coast, and would carry Government letters free. The heading was as follows (translated):—

"Conditions and terms of annual subscription to a weekly advertising paper, and for free correspondence in Demerara, to commence on the 1st November next."

After giving an outline of the contents of the proposed paper such as happy and unlucky accidents, births, deaths and departures, names and descriptions of runaway slaves, etc., it goes on to say:—

"The advertising paper will be printed on a large sheet of the same size as the English papers.

"The publications, etc., will be published in both the Dutch and the English languages.

"The advertisements and public notices, etc., will be published in the languages in which they are given.

"The papers will be delivered in Stabroek early on Sunday morning, and four messengers will be sent out at the same time to distribute them through the different districts of Demerara in the manner following."

Mr. Rodway describes the various routes, and then goes on to say:—

"Subscribers to the newspaper will be exempted from any fee for postage, but other persons will have to pay to stivers (20 cents) on receipt of each letter, and to prepay all those intended for other districts, otherwise the letters will not be delivered but remain in the office. Subscribers will sign their names on the back of their letters to prevent mistakes by which they might be charged postage.

"To encourage this youthful undertaking the projector has humbly requested from His Excellency, who has favourably granted his petition, that in cases of vessels arriving from foreign countries, the Captains will be bound to deliver their letters at his office, which letters will be delivered free to subscribers to the paper. Other persons will have to pay, in Stabroek five stivers (one bit) and in the various districts ten stivers. Further, all captains leaving the colony will call at the office before their departure and receive the letters for their respective destinations. To prevent delay at the Fort a small token will be given to the captain at the office, who will deliver it as a proof of his having called for letters. Without this he will not be allowed to depart, and thus the correspondence with the Islands, and the mother country through the Islands will be regulated.

"The subscription for the newspaper and free postage for one year will be 55 guilders (\$22), of which 33 guilders must be paid at once in advance and the remainder on the 1st of May, 1794, for which the subscribers must bind themselves by their signatures.

"An accurate account and correspondence will be kept with the Post Office at Barbados, where the undersigned will deposit sufficient cash to redeem all English and Dutch letters intended for this Colony, immediately on their arrival, so that they may be forwarded without delay.

Stabroek, October 20th, 1793.

J. C. de la Coste."

This arrangement was only kept up until the 9th of March, 1795, when de la Coste transferred paper and correspondence office to one Nicholas Volkerts, who carried it on until the 31st of October, when the subscription to the paper expired.

Our contemporary also contains the Hon. Secretary's report of the British Guiana Philatelic Society, and other matter.

The June number of the *Australian Stamp Journal* does not contain much likely to interest English readers. We find a page or two of scrappy notes, a monotonous description of some of the stamps in the albums of a Sydney collector, together with societies' reports, correspondence, and other matter.

We extract the following Commonwealth news :—

We are in receipt of information to the effect that it has been decided to incorporate the word "Postage" in the design of the new Commonwealth stamps.

It is rumoured that the new stamps will bear an Imperial Crown between "Australia" and the top of the map.

It is announced that Mr. Thomas Harrison, manager of Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, engravers and printers, London, has been appointed Federal Note Printer, at a salary of £800 per annum. He will be located at the King's Warehouse, Melbourne, part of which is occupied by the Stamp Printing Branch. As the Stamp Printing Branch is also under the control of the Treasury, perhaps Mr. Harrison's services will be utilised in the preparation of the plates for the new Commonwealth series.

Mr. Fraser, the Postmaster-General, has had submitted to his notice by an English stamp-vending company a stamp-selling machine. This was invented in New Zealand, and is said to be in successful use in Great Britain. It is intended to test the machine properly, either in the department or by actual use at one of the principal post offices. The terms upon which the machine is submitted to the Postal Department have not yet been stated, but it is probable that alternative offers will be made to sell the machine outright or let them either at a yearly rent or on commission on the stamps sold.—*Sunday Sun*, Sydney.

Most of the recent numbers of the *Philadelphia Stamp News* have contained instalments of Mr. J. B. Leavy's article dealing with the stamps of Holland. This, although containing several glaring inaccuracies, is, nevertheless of considerable interest. We note that Mr. Leavy, quoting other authorities still clings to the idea that *se tenant* pairs of the two types of the 25 and 50c. of the 1867-71 issue are in existence. He also excludes the 25c. of the same issue in the 14, 13½ × 14, and 13, 13½ perforations from his list on the delightfully optimistic grounds that he, Mr. Leavy, has never seen them!

In the copy dated June, 29th, we find an article dealing with some minor plate varieties of the 1910 Centennial Issue of Chili.

Mr. Leavy's instalment of his Dutch

article in the July 6th number consists of a numbered list of cancellations to be found on the stamps of Holland. This will interest many collectors who make a speciality of postmarks. The numbers run from 1 to 163, with the exception of 143 to 150 inclusive, which were, we are told, not used.

The *Philatelic Gazette* for June 15th contains the first instalment of "The History of the Pony Express." This has been told time and again, but never loses interest in the telling. A fortnight later this is continued, and Capt. J. O. Bradford, the compiler, making an extract from an American paper, says :—

It took \$27,000 to build relay stations and lay out and construct trails across the mountains. No one knows what hard work we had to perform to make the passes in the mountains, 7,000 feet above sea level, passable for our riders. We had to haul lumber through snow and ice on the backs of donkeys five or six miles for our relay stations. We were constantly worrying at news our riders brought us of devilry by the Utes and Piutes to our stations and riders. We had horses stolen and shot at night many a time, and twice in Nevada we had the men at the relay stations killed and the places robbed of everything. As I look back on that day, I wonder how we ever managed to induce anyone to take the awful risks our riders did day and night in that country. I believe we lost but five riders altogether by Indian attacks on the western part of the Pony Express Line during the two years of its operation. Two more men lost their lives by exposure in the snow banks and ice in the upper mountains.

The June 15th number, besides other items, contains the following relating to Confederate States stamps :—

The *Gazette* has mentioned before that one of the most promising fields for philatelic research and a subject quite near at hand are the general issues of the Confederate States. There is a good deal that is not known, but could be found out by effort and study.

It is quite evident that during the trying times of the Civil War a number of different firms furnished stamps to the government. The 10c. pale blue of 1861 with portrait of Madison is occasionally seen in used blocks, but we had never seen any marginal imprint. The Gibbons' Catalogue states that these stamps were lithographed by Hoyer and Ludwig, Richmond, Va. A portion of a sheet recently discovered has the following imprint at the bottom of the sheet, some distance below the stamps: *J. T. Paterson & Co., Augusta, Ga.*

This certainly indicates that they were the lithographers of at least one plate for these stamps and we consider the discovery of this information of considerable interest.

Other firms furnishing Confederate Stamps were De La Rue & Co., London, Archer and Daly, Richmond, and Keating and Ball, Columbia, S. C.

This discovery is of very considerable importance, as, up to now it was considered that all the lithographs were printed at Richmond. We await further developments.



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

No. 261. VOL. XXII. SEPTEMBER 20, 1912.

[PRICE 2D.]

♦ ♦ Editorial. ♦ ♦

BEFORE another number of this journal goes to press the great Exhibition of 1912 will be, if the gods permit, a thing of the past and collectors and we hope dealers, will have only pleasant memories of what at the time of writing promises to be

Jubilee Stamp Exhibition. the most instructive, entertaining and altogether enjoyable gathering of collectors, and stamps, which has been held in London.

The Junior Philatelic Society, under whose auspices the Exhibition is being held, may be relied upon to do their level best to make the days, October 14th to 19th, literally a red letter week for visiting collectors, who may rest assured that they will learn many things about the fascinating hobby of philately of which they were previously in ignorance. The principal exhibit will be a Model Stamp Factory and we are told that this display will be grouped under four headings, namely (1) Paper Making by Hand, (2) By Machinery, (3) Stamp Printing, (4) Perforating. Years ago stamp collectors, with few exceptions, took no interest in the various methods of stamp production; to them the stamp (sometimes half) was the one thing essential, but nowadays times have changed and it is only the very

youthful, or the very haphazard collector, who is satisfied with his stamps without knowing something of the many processes by which they are produced. Compared with previous exhibitions, we are told that the present one will have a floor space of 17,920 square feet against the 1,564 feet of the 1905 exhibition and the 9,000 feet of the display in 1908. These figures point to the to-be-hoped-for desire that there will be little or none of the overcrowding which has been unavoidable in previous years.

The exhibits will consist of many highly specialised collections of single countries showing the latest discoveries, many smaller collections, curiosities, and hundreds of items which will interest every type of collector no matter which end of the ladder he may be placed. Those on the top rung will possibly be induced to look to pastures new, while those at the bottom will gain courage from learning that such giddy heights are climable. Well-known collectors and collections will assemble from all quarters of the globe; the States, Switzerland, Sweden, Siam, but to mention four countries under one letter of the alphabet, show that in every sense of the word the 1912 exhibition will be cosmopolitan, and visitors may rest assured that time spent

in the Royal Horticultural Hall, during the third week in October, will be time well invested. We hope, as in previous years, that many will visit the exhibition as scoffers and leave it as converts, that many one-time collectors will return to the fold and last, but not least, that the energetic Juniors will again add many

names to their Roll and, incidentally a few to the other excellent societies which have not the same methods and capabilities of advertisement.

We should finally like to remind our readers that all collectors, whether members of the Junior Philatelic Society or not, will be made welcome.

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.

Gt. Britain. We are able to chronicle the following novelty which we received by the first post on Aug. 22nd. Mr. F. J. Melville very kindly sent us a copy and we are indebted to his article in the *Daily Telegraph* of Aug. 22nd, for the following description of the stamp in question.

"The newest stamp is a twopence value printed in deep orange. Its design is a great improvement, and its details are all new to our English issues. The portrait of his Majesty, instead of originating from a photograph, is an excellently engraved copy of the head as designed by Mr. Bertram Mackennal for our coinage. This is in every respect better suited to a stamp portrait, and the result, in contrast to the halfpenny and penny stamp caricatures, is a pleasing and successful likeness.

"A laurel and oak bordered oval encloses the portrait; above is the crown, and in the upper spandrels are uncoloured ribbons on a ground of solid colour. To the right and to the left of the lower part of the stamp are octagonal tablets bearing uncoloured figures "2" on a ground of coloured lines. The words "Postage" and "Revenue" figure on an uncoloured band below the portrait, and the value is expressed in words in bold uncoloured lettering on solid colour across the bottom of the stamp.

"The whole effect is a great improvement on the original Georgian stamps of the half-penny and one penny values. The only opportunity the designers appear to have missed is the use of more solid colour. The white figures, for effect, should have had a solid, not a lined background. This defect, slight as it may seem in published criticism, is of importance in practical use, as in artificial light the effect of the lined background and the general effect of the orange colour is to lose the definition of the uncoloured figures.

It must be remembered that much of the business of vending stamps and of sorting and handling correspondence is done by artificial light and necessarily at high speed.

"A point of interest is that the new stamp is the first of the postage stamps to be printed on the new postage stamp paper, watermarked with the Royal cipher device."

Our Publishers have shown us the recently issued control B. 12, on the one penny.

Mr. J. W. Hall, writing from Bristol on September 11th, says:—

I found to-day, in one of the ordinary 2/- books of ½d. and 1d. stamps, a page of the 1d. from the original plate, and another page from the re-drawn plate. I do not know whether books containing both varieties have previously been chronicled, or whether it will be considered of any particular interest, but in case you consider it worth noting, I thought I would let you know. I regret that the third page of the 1d. and all the ½d. had been used before I saw it, so cannot say which plate they were."

Morocco. The current King George ½d. stamp (die II.) has been surcharged 5 centimos.

Barbados. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have very kindly sent us the following values. We chronicled the ½d. and ¼d. labels last month.

Adhesives. Multiple wmk. Perf. 14.

- 1d. red.
- 2d. grey.
- 2½d. blue.
- 3d. yellow on buff.
- 4d. black on yellow, value tablet in red.
- 6d. mauve " " in lilac.
- 1/- black on green.
- 2/- purple and blue on blue.
- 3/- green and violet.

Papua. Our Australian contemporaries chronicle the 1/- stamp in one colour.

Adhesive. Wmk. Crown and A. Perf. 12½.

1/- pale lemon-yellow.

Jubilee International Stamp Exhibition

PATRON

HIS MAJESTY'S POSTMASTER-GENERAL

ADMIT ONE TO THE
STAMP EXHIBITION

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL HALL,
VINCENT SQUARE, WESTMINSTER,

OCTOBER 14 TO 19, 1912
(Open 10 a.m. — 10 p.m., except first day.)

With the Compliments of
P. L. PEMBERTON & CO.
STALL No. 19.

[P.T.O.]

The Exhibition is being held under the auspices of
THE JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY

PRESIDENT . . . FRED. J. MELVILLE

Full particulars of Membership, Rules, &c.,
will be forwarded on application to the
Honorary Secretary, RALPH WEDMORE, 54
Park Road, Dulwich, London. S.E.

Sierra Leone. The *Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* chronicles the 1d. stamp with head of King George.

Adhesive. King George. Multiple wmk. 1d. carmine.

Victoria. We find that we have omitted to chronicle the recently surcharged 2d. stamp.



Adhesive.

Overprinted "One Penny" in carmine on current 2d.

Concerning this stamp the *Australian Philatelist* says (Aug. 1912):—

"Several reports are to hand as to the reason of the issue. One that seems principally to have been accepted, is that, owing to the non-arrival of the monthly supply of paper for the 1d. stamp, the denomination of which there was the greatest quantity in stock, viz., the 2d. was surcharged to meet the case; and it is pointed out that since then the 1d. stamp has re-appeared printed on thinner paper. As a matter of fact, the supposed thin paper was first used about the middle of June, and it is hardly likely that the supply of this value printed then could have been exhausted prior to the 1st of July. The more feasible explanation is supplied to one of our contributors by an official of the Department, who states, that the reason of the overprinting is in order to work off surplus stock, in anticipation of the arrival of the uniform Commonwealth issue; and that there is a possibility of other values being similarly treated. This was confirmed by a report to the same effect which appeared in the Melbourne "Argus."

"The latter statement given above is borne out by the fact that the Central office of the Postal Administration wrote to the postal authorities at Sydney and Brisbane, enquiring what stocks they held of stamps. Sydney had none, as only actual requirements are printed of the lower values, and not more than 50 or 100 sheets at a time of the higher values, thus working on a hand-to-mouth basis. Queensland, we are informed, has only a surplus stock of the 2d. value.

"From enquiries made the 10,000 sheets were absorbed by the public by the middle of the month, and none were obtainable either at the head office, nor at the majority of the suburban offices after that date.

"Mr. Krischke has sent us specimens of the current 1d. which at first glance seem to be on a thinner paper than generally used.

"Upon making enquiries we found that the paper itself is of the same thickness as before, but that the difference is due to the thinner and better quality of gum now used.

"For some years the stamps of South Australia and inter alia, the current 6d. and 1/- West Australia, as well as the current Papuans, have been printed on paper imported from England, ready gummed, the material used being pure gum arabic. Evidently this class of paper has, during the last six weeks been adopted for printing the Victorian stamps on. The solution previously applied was wattle gum, a local production, but on account of its weak adhering properties, it was necessary to supply two coatings, which, no doubt, accounts for the supposed thicker texture of the paper."

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Bulgaria. Mr. W. T. Wilson has sent us a set of three new stamps. They are of large size, and, as they bear the dates 1887-1912, in large figures, in an uncoloured tablet, at the foot of the stamps, we suppose they are commemorative labels.

Perforated 12½. Portrait of King Ferdinand.
5 st. sage-green.
19 st. reddish-plum.
25 st. slate-blue.

China. From Mr. W. S. Lincoln we have received the 3c. stamp of a set with, it is stated, a new overprint which were locally struck by the Postal Authorities at Hwang-do, a town about three miles from Hwang-tu.

The overprints were made in two colours, red and black, we are told, the latter of which are said to be extremely rare, as they were only done in very small quantities, not more than five per cent. of the total issue.

The Chinese characters are much larger than the ordinary issue, and the overprint is diagonal.

The following quantities are given by Mr. Lincoln's correspondent of the complete set, which is only ¼c. to 7c., as follows:—

½c.	1579	stamps.
1c.	1750	..
2c.	1520	..
3c.	1725	..
4c.	1510	..
5c.	1200	..
7c.	320	..

We await the Hwang-three overprints.

French Colonies. The *Monthly Journal* prints the following:—

Certain stamps have been surcharged provisionally, apparently with the idea of using up the old stocks. The list, according to Messrs. H. Champion & Co., is as follows:

Surcharged with new value in large sans-serif numerals, in black or in red (R.).

French Guinea stamps of 1892.

05 on 2c., brown on buff.
05 on 4c., purple-brown on grey (R.).
05 on 15c., blue.

05 on 20c., red on green.
 05 on 30c., cinnamon on drab (R.).
 10 on 40c., red on yellow.
 10 on 75c., brown on yellow.

Stamps of 1904.

05 on 2c., purple-brown on straw.
 05 on 4c., carmine on azure.
 05 on 15c., bright lilac on rose.
 05 on 20c., carmine on green.
 05 on 25c., blue (R.).
 05 on 30c., pale brown on toned (R.).
 10 on 40c., red on straw.
 10 on 50c., pale brown on pale green.

Martinique stamps of 1892-1906.

05 on 15c., grey (R.).
 05 on 25c., black on rose (R.).
 10 on 40c., red on yellow.
 10 on 5 fr., mauve on pale lilac.

New Caledonia stamps of 1892-1901.

05 on 15c., grey (R.).
 05 on 20c., red on green.
 05 on 30c., brown (R.).
 10 on 40c., red on yellow.
 10 on 50c., brown on azure.

Reunion stamps of 1892-1900.

05 on 2c., brown on buff.
 05 on 15c., grey (R.).
 05 on 20c., red on green.
 05 on 25c., black on rose (R.).
 05 on 30c., cinnamon on drab (R.).
 10 on 40c., red on yellow.
 10 on 50c., brown on azure (R.).
 10 on 75c. .. orange.

Philippine Islands. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the 2 pesos stamps in their new colour.

Adhesive.
 2 pesos, brown-violet.

Portugal. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us specimens of the following:—

Adhesives.
 15c. lilac.
 20c. brown-violet on green.
 50c. orange on salmon.
 1 escudo, green on blue.

Portuguese India. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us copies of the following provisionals:—

3 reis on half of 2½ reis.
 6 9 ..
 6 9 .. overprinted Republica.
 1 real 1 real

For other details relating to these stamps, see our Review of Reviews columns.

Russia. A kind correspondent in St. Petersburg, Mr. E. Michelson, writing on September 7th, says:—

"It might be of interest to you to learn that the 5 kopecs postage stamp, violet, with varnish lines, which was only recently issued, has been withdrawn from circulation. This information was given me to-day, when I called at the Head Post Office here, to buy some of these stamps."

Suriname. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have shown us an entire cover franked with one of the recently issued provisional stamps, namely, the 12½c.

Several contemporaries also chronicle three other values.

Provisionals.

¾c. violet.
 2½c. green.
 5c. red.
 12½c. blue.

Uruguay. Writing from Buenos Aires, on August 17th, Mr. A. H. Davis sends us a specimen of the locally printed lithographed stamps. The value in question, the 2c., was placed on sale on August 15th, and other values are expected in a few days. Mr. Davis tells us that two varieties have already been discovered, namely, REPUBLICA (No. 7 on sheet), and DEL instead of DEL (No. 41 on sheet).

Adhesive. S.G. Type 102. Lithographed. Perf. 11½.
 2c. orange-brown.

Current Chatter.

By ANGUS MCTAVISH.

JULIAN PARK, writing in a recent number of an American paper, commenting on the proposal mooted at the recent Margate Congress that album and catalogue makers should call every country by one name, preferably by that used in the country itself, says:

"What footless recommendation. How many beginners would recognize Helvetia, Norge, Belgique or Osterreichische Post, to take the first four European countries that come to mind?"

Not knowing, I cannot say, but I will bet a lump of chewing gum to a small bag of pea nuts that the following countries would escape detection: Magyar Kir Posta, Norddeutscher Postbezirk, and Correos Interior.

The *Philatelic Circular* for September 1st says:—

"F. E. Smith, K.C., M.P., of the Unionist front bench, desires it to be made known that he is not associated with the M.C.C. in a Secretarial capacity."

Are Messrs. Keir Hardie or Victor Grayson?

When friend A. B. Creeke is not concocting learned treatises on the "native" stamps of British Guiana and other such like fry, he is, like a sensible man, reading and re-reading his *P.J.G.B.'s*. Now he wants to know the meaning of the following sentence culled from the August journal.

"This article, which mostly appears to have reference to marginal varieties, controls, etc., will be appreciated by those of our readers who collect the numerous recent omissions of our own country."

I give it up, perhaps the man who wrote to the *S.C.F.*, after they had chronicled, in their July 20th number, a full set of King George stamps for this country, could throw a little light on the matter of collecting omissions. If my favourite countries (Nicaragua, Salvador, and Papua), persist in their bountiful output of gumpaps I shall start right in and collect omissions myself.

The following extract from an American exchange shews the noble hearted methods of one dealer on the nasal side of the pond.

"A dealer with a big Saturday afternoon boy trade made it a rule to ask each of his boys on their departure, if they had kept carfare. It need not be explained that the young collector in his enthusiasm sometimes overbuys."

In the Strand, a dealer with a Friday night trade makes it, so I am told, a rule to provide taxifare, while in Holborn, cigarettes and afternoon tea are always on the what-do-you-may-calleem. Buy, buy, buy, a watermark or a silk thread chucked in with every English stamp sold in Red Lion Street.

In the 1909 edition of Kohl's catalogue I notice that they refer to Lord Sir Barth Frese. This is corrected in the 1912 edition, with the exception that Sir Bartle still boasts a peerage. I can find no mention whatever of Viscount Admiral Sir Mr. Lance-Corporal Anguish MacTavis.

The clerk of the weather, if he wasn't away in Iceland during August, must have read last month's editorial in the *P.J.G.B.* Possibly the C. of the W. is a member of the J.P.S., and wishes to keep collectors in London until after the Exhibition.

Writing of the Exhibition reminds me that possibly a few figures will interest my readers.

(1) It is computed that if all the drawing pins used for mounting the exhibits were decapitated and placed end to end, they would be long enough to penetrate four elephants and a dachshund, provided all five animals were standing close together in a row.

(2) If the decapitated heads were placed side by side they would reach from two miles outside Brighton to within four millimeters of Reigate.

(3) If all the ink used in writing letters about the exhibition could be collected and reduced to a liquid state, it would be sufficient to drown 802 cockroaches, or 1002 blackbeetles.

(4) If all the letters used in the words "Junior Philatelic Exhibition," were duplicated, there would be enough to form the same sentence over again.

Mr. Séfi, writing about one of the stamps of Malta, says:

"The date of issue is uncertain, I put it down as the early part of 1875, though some profess to have seen it postmarked as early as October 1875."

Our own copy, dated February 30th, 1877, is not mentioned.

There is a rumour abroad to the effect that Sevenoaks will shortly change its name to Stampoax, while it is also said that there is such a demand from philatelists for desirable villas at Sizzlehurst and adjacent neighbourhoods, that builders are contemplating erecting specially constructed residences.

When I am consulted, as of course I shall be, I shall suggest that each house have good cellarage accommodation, both for storage

and cooling purposes, that each flight of stairs be so graduated that not more than three steps come together without a nice roomy landing to punctuate them, that every door be well padded, that perforation gauges on gold-beaters skin be used instead of wall paper, that the roof be made of glass, the bath room papered with sheets of Papuan stamp, and that each villa shall have a very large greenhouse attached. When this has been done I will run down to Stampoax and suggest further improvements

Frightened at the new Chinese overprints, friend W. E. Lincoln has taken flight to Morocco for a few week-ends. His troubles commenced when he started out to buy a stamp to stick on a picture card for the wee McTavish. Being a patriotic sort of chap, Bill naturally went to the German P.O. first and got one overprinted "Marokko." Then he fell into the French office and purchased a nice little chap overprinted "10" and a curly-whirly. At the Spanish depôt they landed him for another label surcharged "Marruecos," while at the British P.O. they collected his penny for a portrait of King George. All four postcards were posted, and the French and German arrived in London first post Saturday morning, followed by the Spaniard on Monday. King George turned up, very much damaged, on Tuesday. Next year Willie says he is going for his holiday to a place where they only keep one brand of postage stamp in stock—it's cheaper.

Correspondence.

To the Editor, "*P.J. of G.B.*"

23/8/12.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

THE WORLD'S BEST STAMPS.

If the weather where you are is as depressing as the weather is where I am, you may be glad of a note which is intended to cheer you up a bit. I have just been reading the continuation of your most original article in the *P.J.G.B.*, and fearing you may need encouragement, and perhaps consolation, after the onslaughts to be expected from Cayman Alligators, Brunei Crocodiles, Rhodesian Lions and Unicorns, and other such infuriated wild beasts—not to mention the attack of shivering sure to be induced by the application of your Publisher's cold sponge—I pen you these lines to tell you that at least one of your readers finds himself able to express the heartiest concurrence with the great bulk of your conclusions, so far at any rate. I should like to flatter you—and myself—by thinking that it may be another instance of great minds thinking alike, but my natural modesty forbids my mentioning this in a voice above a whisper. So "Be not dismayed" but "Go on and prosper" say I, but understand that I reserve

all my rights to hit back when you come—as you no doubt will in time—to tread upon my own corns.

With kind regards from
A RECENT RECRUIT.

To the Editor of P.J.G.B.

ADDRESSES OF PHILATELIC PAPERS.

Bristol, Sept. 5th, 1912.

DEAR SIR,

May I venture to suggest that it might be a convenience to some of your readers, if you could publish the addresses of the Publishers of the various Philatelic papers reviewed in the Journal. I often see a notice of articles that would be of interest to me, if I knew to whom to write for the paper, or how much to send. Hoping that this may meet with your favourable consideration.

Yours faithfully,

J. W. HALL.

For a long while, we have intended doing as Mr. Hall suggests, but the matter has been postponed month after month. The following list is a step in the right direction.

<i>Monthly Journal</i>	391, Strand, W.C. [W.C.]
<i>London Philatelist</i>	4, Southampton Row,
<i>Philatelic Record</i>	124, Brownhill Road,
	Catford, S.E.
<i>Stamp Lover</i>	44, Fleet Street, E.C.
<i>Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly</i>	64, Chancery Lane, W.C.
<i>Stamp Collector</i>	Margoschis Bros.,
	Constitution Hill, B'ham.
<i>Australian Stamp Journal</i> ..	50, Castlereagh St.,
	Sydney, N.S.W.
<i>Australian Philatelist</i>	182, Pitt St., Sydney.
<i>Philatelic Gazette</i>	99, Nassau St., [N.S.W.]
	New York, U.S.A.
<i>Philatelic Journal of India</i> ..	Higginbotham & Co.,
	Mount Rd., Madras, India
<i>Philadelphia Stamp News</i> ..	1708 N 18th St.,
	Philadelphia, U.S.A.
<i>Griebert's Notes and Offers</i> ..	170, Strand, W.C.
<i>L'Echo de la Timbrologie</i> ..	37 Rue des Jacobins,
	Amiens, France.
<i>Nederlandsch Tijdschrift</i> ..	57 Balistraat, 's Graven-
	hage, Holland.
<i>Schweizer Briefmarken</i>	41 Bantigerstrasse,
<i>Zeitung</i>	Berne, Switzerland.
<i>Illustriertes Briefmarken</i>	Gebrüder Senf,
<i>Journal</i>	Leipzig, Germany.
<i>Nordisk Filatelistisk</i>	Nils Strandell, Stocksund,
<i>Tidskrift</i>	Stockholm, Sweden.

(To be continued).

City of London Philatelic Society.

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Headquarters for Meetings:

14, Broad Street Place, Liverpool Street, E.C.
(Adjoining Finsbury Circus).

PROGRAMME FOR SEASON 1912-13.

1912.

Oct. 9.—President's Opening Address.

Display by Members of Recent Acquisitions and Novelties.

Nov. 13.—Display with Notes, "British Americans."

T. G. Arnold.

Competition, "Ten Minute Papers." Any subject.

(A Silver Medal will be awarded).

Dec. 11.—Display with Notes, "France."

G. A. Higlett.

Display. (To be arranged).

1913.

Jan. 8.—(To be arranged).

Feb. 12.—Display with Notes, "British Africans."

T. G. Arnold.

Display, "Georgian Issues to Date."

J. A. Leon, B.A.

Mar. 12.—Display with Notes, "English, medium to later issues with Officials."

J. E. Heginbottom, B.A.

Display, "Forgeries and Reprints."

A. J. Sefi.

Apr. 9.—Display with Notes, "Siam."

C. M. C. Symes.

Competitive Display, "Any single issue specialised."

(A Silver Medal will be awarded).

May 14.—Annual General Meeting.

Since the last report of the society appeared in this Journal, your committee has been busy with the preparations for the new season which starts on the 1st of next month; and as you will see above, an attractive programme has been arranged for your delectation during 1912-13.

The competitions this year have been purposely selected as providing easy subjects which all members can deal with, and I am looking forward confidently to a formidable list of entries for both. We hope to furnish a very special attraction on 8th January, but the matter has not been definitely settled, and at present I can say no more than that it should prove one of the best items which has so far appeared on our programmes.

The annual report is well in hand, and, all being well, will be found on your breakfast table on the first morning of the new session, together with a very pleasant surprise which the committee have been working hard at for some months in order that it may accompany the report. At present I can give no inkling of what the matter is, but we hope that when it is in your hands, you will give it your full approval, bearing in mind that its object is the advancement of the City of London Philatelic Society.

A. C. CONSTANTINIDES, *Hon. Sec.*

Jubilee International Philatelic Exhibition.

OCTOBER 14th to 19th.

THE MODEL STAMP FACTORY.

THE arrangements for this novel feature of the Exhibition are now completed. As the promoters anticipated, the complete scheme of this interesting side-show will enable visitors to study the processes involved in stamp-manufacture on a scale unprecedented at philatelic exhibitions.

The display naturally divides itself up into four important sections:—

1.—PAPER-MAKING BY HAND.

As the visitor enters the Factory the first exhibit on the right will be practical manufacture of hand-made paper. Visitors will there see the hand-mould dipped by the vatman or "dipper" into vats of semi-liquid pulp and turned and handed to the "coucher" as a sheet of pulpy paper to be dried and pressed between felts. So completely practical will this exhibition be that philatelists will be so instructed as to be capable of doing it themselves. In fact, so far as possible, visitors will be given opportunities of making a sheet of hand-made paper for themselves, suitably watermarked, as souvenirs of their visit to the Jubilee International Stamp Exhibition.

2.—PAPER-MAKING BY MACHINERY.

A full-size paper-making machine is an enormous affair, but the Executive have secured an exhibit of a most elaborate working model, the parts of which are all to scale, and which will actually produce many miles of paper in continuous rolls throughout the week of the Exhibition. The machine is so conveniently compact that visitors can walk all round it, and have a perfect view of the whole process. Starting at the "wet" end they will see the pulp in the vat where it is kept in motion by an "agitator", and lifted into a strainer before it is evenly flowed on to the endless band of wire gauze which is constantly moving towards the dry end of the machine. At the sides of the moving gauze and moving with it part of the distance, are the deckles, or boundary straps which decide the width of the paper roll. Then the gradually forming paper passes under the dandy-roll which impresses the watermark. A special dandy-roll with the watermark of the Junior Philatelic Society will be used on this occasion. Then the paper passes under and over a group of eight gas-heated drying cylinders, and we doubt not, the privilege will

be eagerly sought by visitors of possessing strips of the completed paper as it comes off the machine. The machine is being erected at a convenient low level so that its operations, from first to last, shall be completely open for inspection and careful study. At intervals short explanatory lectures will be given, and skilled operators will be constantly in attendance to explain the working of the paper-making machine to visitors.

This most interesting and important display is being arranged by Messrs. T. J. Marshall & Co., of Campbell Works, Stoke Newington, the firm which has a world-wide reputation for the construction of dandy-rolls, the first dandy-roll having been invented many years ago by the founder of the firm. This firm also supplies most of the dandy-rolls required for the watermarked stamp-paper used by the British and Colonial and many foreign governments.

On the walls around the paper-making display will be exhibits of various moulds, dandy-rolls, etc., for making all varieties of paper, extraordinary watermark designs, and items of rare and curious interest relating to the manufacture of paper.

3.—STAMP-PRINTING.

The philatelic public has had several opportunities of seeing in a small way the process of recess-plate printing for postage stamps. But never have collectors had the privilege of seeing the work of typographical stamp-printing as carried on at the several establishments under contract with the British Government, or at Somerset House itself. So the Executive Committee have concentrated their attention on this important section of stamp-printing for their practical display. Here at one of the stamp-presses, installed and operated by the well-known stamp-printing firm of Waterlow Brothers & Layton, Limited, of Birchin Lane and Broken Wharf, London, visitors will see manufactured before their interested gaze the model stamp, the design of which has been obtained by open competition amongst the artists of the world. Except for the difference (and it is hoped, improvement) of the design, the plate will resemble those used for printing the English postage stamps. It will be of 240 stamps, divided into two panes of 120. The size and the arrangement of the narrow gutters for the perforation will be identical with those of the English stamps. But with the improved design, with a good ink, and with the skilled printing, for which Messrs. Waterlow Brothers

are renowned, the sheets which will be printed in full view of visitors to the Stamp Exhibition will, it is expected, represent the best class of typographical stamp-printing ever produced in this or any other country.

Messrs. Waterlow Brothers are also arranging to show many items of curious and rare interest relating to stamp-manufacture, and as during their firm's long record they have produced stamps by lithography, recess-plate printing, and typography, their display is certain to be of the greatest interest to every stamp-collector.

4.—PERFORATING THE STAMPS.

Now, having seen paper made and the stamps printed, visitors will next see how the stamps have to be perforated: to cope with the output from Messrs. Waterlow's press, two perforating machines are being installed by Messrs. Grover & Co., of the Britannia Engineering Works, Wharf Road, N. The larger of the two machines is exactly the same as is in use at the Somerset House, Hayes, and Broken Wharf stamp-factories, and it will be provided with a "George V." punch-box perforating 15×14 in a "comb" corresponding to the long way of the sheet of 240 stamps.

The public has never seen our stamp-perforating, and the opportunity for seeing this process alone should be of inestimable value to all students of philately, as well as to representatives of other governments concerned in the production of stamps. A few particulars of the machine may be of interest to show the importance of this exhibit.

The machine was designed for the British Government and its Contractors, for the perforation of Postage and Insurance Stamps and Customs Duty Labels, &c., and a number of the machines have been supplied and are giving every satisfaction to the users.

The machine is necessarily of very massive construction, as the work is of such a nature that little or no allowance for error is tolerable, owing to the narrow limits of the British stamp margins. It will perforate gummed and watermarked paper seven sheets at a time and at the rate of about 2,000 sheets per hour, this speed being the limit of the average operator's capacity. The machine as shown at the Exhibition perforates sheets of a maximum width of 24 inches and with a maximum of about 1000 pins in the "comb."

The length of the sheet or roll to be perforated is unlimited. There are no racks to limit the work, and adjustment in the running direction of the paper is under control by means of a micrometer device, which is adjustable at will during the working of the machine.

The pinning arrangement is "universal" within the limits of 24 inches by 24 inches; the pinning carriage is brought automatically against its registering stops at either end of

its stroke under the control of the operator, this mechanical delivery conducing to the accuracy of the work.

As a stamp-perforating machine this large one which is to be used at the Exhibition, has no equal for accuracy of work and speed of output, a moderate average output being half-a-million stamps per hour.

The machine requires a power of 2 B.H.P. and weighs 32 cwts. Its dimensions over all are: length 7ft., width 5ft. 6ins., height 4ft. 10ins.

A smaller machine will also be exhibited in operation.

Every visitor will be the guest of the Junior Philatelic Society, and if disposed to be generous may concentrate his generosity by supporting the members of the stamp-trade, who by taking stall-spaces at the Exhibition have contributed largely to the cost of the elaborate arrangements.

In addition to the Model Stamp Factory there will be exhibits extending over three-quarters of a mile, of interesting and valuable stamp collections sent in by collectors in Great Britain, the United States, and many European and other foreign countries and Colonies.

Admission cards may be had free, on application to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. F. Johnson, 44, Fleet Street, London, E.C., or from our Publishers.

LATEST ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE.

As already stated the contingents of visitors from abroad, and from the provinces is likely to be exceptionally large, and, not to be lacking in appreciation of the world-wide interest that is being taken in the Exhibition, the programme of entertainments has been extended. It is hoped that all members and visitors will support the various functions by their attendance, and to enable the Entertainments Committee to make adequate arrangements *Notice of Attendance* (on the pink form) should be given early.

The special functions already arranged for are:—

1.—THE OPENING CEREMONY.

This will take place about 3.30 p.m., on Monday, October 14th, and admission will be by invitation, such invitations being extended to all foreign visitors, members of the Philatelic Club, exhibitors, donors of 10/6 and upwards, and to all subscribers for the two official functions, viz., the Banquet on Wednesday, Oct. 16th, and the Ball on Friday, Oct. 18th.

Ordinary tickets of admission (*white* or *green*) to the Exhibition will be available after 6 p.m. on the opening day.

All invitations to the opening ceremony are double—i.e., for one lady and one gentleman.

2.—OFFICIAL BANQUET.

This will be held in the International Hall of the Cafe Monico, Regent Street, W., on Wednesday, October 16th, time 7.30 for 8. It is hoped that as many members and friends as possible will have ladies accompanying them. The charge for tickets for the Banquet is 6s. each.

Applications for Banquet tickets should be made early on the "notice of attendance" (*pink*) form. Parties desiring to be placed together at the tables should, so far as possible, apply for their tickets together, or give early intimation of their desires to the Hon. Secretary.

It is expected that by Wednesday, the Jury will have completed their work of judging the competitive exhibits, and that the announcement of their awards will be first made at the Official Banquet.

3.—BALL AND SUPPER IN HONOUR OF THE FOREIGN VISITORS.

It is desired that this function should be attended by all interested in the Exhibition, whether as workers, members of the J.P.S., or visitors, as it is expressly designed to mark the courtesy and hospitality due to visitors who have travelled from foreign countries to visit us. By arrangement with the directors, the Entertainment Committee have secured the use of the magnificent ballroom of the Imperial Hotel, together with the luxurious winter gardens, and adjoining suite. The guests will be received in the Winter Gardens from 9 p.m. to 9.30, and dancing will commence at 9.30. Light refreshments will be served in the buffet and Winter Gardens throughout the evening, and at 11.30 there will be an hour's interval for supper. The arrangements for this function already forecast a great success, but it is hoped that everyone who possibly can will attend. The tickets will be 6s. each, the price of tickets including the ball, table d'hôte supper, and light refreshments.

Philatelia's Jubilee.

(The International Stamp Exhibition at the Royal Horticultural Hall, October 14-19, will mark the Jubilee of Philately).

The Exhibition's coming soon,
 'Twill quite a record score,
 O'er all stamp exhibitions that
 Have come and gone before,
 For in fair Flora's spacious Hall,
 Will Philatelia see
 Her subjects true assembled there
 To keep her Jubilee.

Her army vast will be on show,
 In bold array and fine,
 Both *Penny Black* guards, *Reds* and *Blues*
 And others, too, "in line."
 In rows and blocks, too, well set out,
 With troops of picked O.G.

The stamps will troop their colours at
 The Stamp-Queen's Jubilee.

May that august occasion prove,
 October's brightest day,
 Half London will "look in"—and go,
 While half will go—and stay.
 They say J.P.S. spells success,
 Transpose it— and you'll see
 That S.P.J. spells—Special
 Philatelic Jubilee.

We'll all as busy be as bees,
 And "bargains" e'en taboo,
 There'll be no time to "do a deal"
 While there's a deal to do.
 The "Old 'Un" with the hair-lines gray
 Waits not for you and me,
 Then up—and knock Time out of time.
 This time of Jubilee.

W. E. IMESON.

New Leaves to Cut.

HANDBOOK OF DUTCH STAMPS.

An addition to the literature relating to the stamps of Holland and its Colonies, which is becoming considerably more extensive than it was a few years ago, has recently appeared in Holland.

This work is entitled, "Handboek over alle Postzegels van Nederland en Koloniën met vermelding van alle papier—, tanding, type— en nuance—verschillen," and has been produced by J. C. Auf der Heide, of Amsterdam.

As may be surmised from its title, the book is written in Dutch, and primarily for Dutch collectors. It is a compilation rather than a book written from "a full mind"—a description which, unfortunately, applies to too many of the publications issued on philatelic subjects in recent years.

The book contains little or no information new to collectors in Great Britain, where the study of the early stamps of Holland has been carried much further than in the country where the stamps originated. Any criticism on this head, however, is met in advance by the introduction, in which the compiler freely acknowledges his indebtedness to Mr. Melville's handbook and to Kohl's Catalogue, and invites suggestions for the improvement of the book in a second edition.

The work is embellished with illustrations which are mostly reproductions of the plates used in the above mentioned handbook, and it contains good check lists of the various issues. There is no new information given about the 1867 issue, which, however, is not surprising, as that issue has never yet been adequately described or classified.

It seems, however, regrettable that Dutch collectors should not have been given more up-to-date information as to the retouches which exist on the first issue of Holland.

Such information is to be found in Mr. Wilkinson's recent articles, in which the 1852 issue is well and accurately described, and in Mr. Leavy's paper now in course of publication in an American magazine, which is on the whole, good, though by no means entirely free from inaccuracies.

The book consists of about 150 pages and is published at the moderate price of fl.1.50 (2/6), and it should find a good sale among collectors conversant with the Dutch language.

D.C.G.

*YVERT & TELLIER CATALOGUE, 1913.

The seventeenth edition of this welcome publication is duly to hand, and we find it, as ever, an extremely useful addition to the year's philatelic publications. As we have said in previous years, the catalogue Yvert & Tellier is *par excellence* the catalogue for the general collector as it omits many of those minute differences which are only of interest to the advanced specialist while it does not go to the extreme lengths of simplification indulged in by our two leading British catalogues (Whitfield King, and Lincoln).

Provided that a catalogue is accurate in its descriptions, has clear illustrations, and is conveniently bound, nothing really matters but the one remaining question of prices, and we find, in this one indispensable feature, that the leading French catalogue is a most reliable guide to the true market value of stamps.

Not only in France and Belgium, but in other parts of the Continent, dealers and collectors take Yvert & Tellier's catalogue as their basis for transacting business, in the same way that Gibbons' catalogues are used in this country, and we think this the greatest test of the book's popularity.

Turning to the question of prices we find that there appear to be comparatively few increases, except of course in the case of recent issues, while even here we find reductions due to many varieties having found their market level since last year's edition. The following rather haphazard quotations will show how the wind blows in Paris,

Canada, 3d. imperf. on laid paper, F 25 S.G.,	12/6
" 1868, 3c. red, 40c.	9d.
" 6c. brown, 1.50.	2/6
Cape, 1d. Perkins, Bacon, F 10.	15/0
" 1d. De la Rue, F 15.	17/6
Falkland Islands, King's Head, 1d. wmk.	
sideways, 7.50, mint, .. S.G. not listed.	
Great Britain, 4d. bi-colour, 1902,	
mint, 2.— S.G.	7/6
Gambia, 1d. on 3/-, F 20 (used or	
unused)	12/-
India, 2a. green, imperf., 2.50	5/-
Jamaica, 1/- multiple wmk., used, 4.— ..	1/-
Levant, English, 1905, 1½, used, 2.50. ..	1/-
Orange River Colony, 5/- King, used, 7.— ..	4/-
" " 1/- multiple, mint, 15.— ..	1/4†
Russia, 10k., imperf., 25.—	16/-
Virgin Islands, 1899, 4d., unused, 3.50 ..	4/-

*Published by Yvert & Tellier, 37, Rue des Jacobins, Amiens, France.

†We should like to buy a few at this price.—Ed. P.J.G.B.

It is hardly necessary to remind our readers that the Yvert catalogue includes telegraph stamps, as well as postals, and that it is quite up-to-date, very many of the new King George stamps being listed.

*THE STAMPS OF THE COOK ISLANDS.

By B. W. H. POOLE.

We have received a copy of the above mentioned book, and find that it constitutes an admirable addition to those many little handbooks which are so necessary to the library of the up-to-date philatelist. There is no need for us to introduce Mr. Poole to our readers his work is too well-known for that; it only remains for us to say that he has treated the stamps of this somewhat neglected little group in a very capable manner, and that he has unearthed a good deal of information which will be new to students of Australasian stamps.

All issues, from the first curious square labels of 1892, right down to date, are fully described, and illustrated, and collectors who read Mr. Poole's little work will probably be astonished to learn how really interesting the stamps of this small Pacific outpost really are.

SENF'S 1913 CATALOGUE.

The new edition of this popular catalogue has just appeared; that is to say the volume which deals with the adhesives.* It follows on the same lines as previous editions. The only alterations seem to be in the prices, which, on the whole, appear to be in an upward direction. We have always held that catalogues published on the continent reflect more truly the relative values of stamps than does Gibbons', for instance, for the compilers are not swayed to the same extent by the effect of the prevailing fashions among specialists—the general collector being still the dominant factor in the stamp market on the continent. For this reason we can recommend Senf's Catalogue as a useful guide to prices and also as a list by which a general collector may safely go if he does not wish to take so many minor varieties as are given in the more advanced catalogues. These remarks regarding prices, however, must not be taken as being true of rarities, or stamps priced at upwards of 80/-, which are here quoted at most erratic figures.

*Published by Mekeel, Severn, Wylie Co., Boston, U.S.A. Price, 25 cents.



The Stamps of Greece.

By P. L. PEMBERTON.

(Continued from page 137.)

FLAWS AND VARIETIES.

ALL values exhibit flaws and varieties of a greater or lesser degree of prominence. Under the heading "varieties" I class those stamps which, owing to some abnormality in making the electros, shew a variation from the normal type. The 5 lepta with lines of shading on the cheek dotted, and the varieties of spacing between the outer frame line and the body of the stamp, noticeable in all values of 1861, belong to this class.

The flaws are of three kinds:—

- a. Those which are due to damage of the electros at the time of making the plates—such as the fish-hook variety of the 5 lepta, the straight nostril variety of the 40 lepta, etc.
- b. Those which are due to the surface of the electros being scratched or chipped at some period after the plates were completed, such flaws appearing on the printed stamps in relief.
- c. Those which are due to pieces of dirt or other foreign matter adhering to the surface of the electros; such flaws appear on the printed stamp in colour and can only be seen when they fall on a portion of the design which should be uncoloured. Flaws due to this cause are far commoner than those due to any other, but they are also much more insignificant. Practically every stamp on the sheet of 20 lepta during the period immediately prior to the plate being cleaned in 1870 shews some small flicks of colour on the pearls, the border, or some other portion of the design.

The flaws of the first variety, which are not very numerous, are found in all printings, though the dotted cheek variety of the 5 lep. is generally very difficult to detect in poor or indifferent printings.

The second kind of flaw is generally constant from the moment of its appearance on the plate until the end of the issue, but in the case of a flaw which appeared at a very early date, and of which I shall speak in its place, either some effort was made to correct it or it became filled up with dirt in such a way that it never occurred again.

In the same way some of the minor flaws which were due to this cause are indiscipherable in the roughest of the late printings. When we remember that in some cases the inscriptions and the Greek border are blotted out with ink this is not to be wondered at.

Flaws of the third kind had very short lives

as whenever the plates were cleaned they disappeared.

In the following list of the flaws and varieties I only mention those which, can be seen with the naked eye, and I have not divided them into the various classes.

1 LEPTON.

1.—Uncoloured blotch in front of forehead. This is the flaw which defies all tradition by appearing only on the first two or three Athens prints. It occurs on No. 116 on the sheet.

2.—Large blotch under point of bust. No. 44 on the sheet.

3.—Oblong flaw at back of head. No. 55. This and No. 2 are the prominent flaws which are well known to all collectors of Greeks. The aim of the most advanced collectors is to get the two together in a block. This is possible in very late printings, Z being the commonest; the earliest printing containing the two flaws which I recollect having seen is V, though I know of a block of M containing one of the flaws.

Until quite lately it was always believed that these flaws first appeared on printing M (Gibbons 49) but I have, during the past few years, found it on several earlier printings, of which I is the first.

4.—Distinct scratch in background between top of petasus and oval. No. 62. The earliest printing I have seen is T.

2 LEPTA.

I have seen no prominent variety on this value, though an examination of an entire sheet reveals numerous trivial ones.

5 LEPTA.

1.—The prominent variety in which the cheek is dotted instead of being composed of continuous lines, occurs on the 2nd stamp in the eighth row. No. 72 on the sheet. In the first Athens prints and in the well printed stamps of 1881 onwards, the variety can be seen very clearly, but on nearly all intermediate printings it is very difficult to discern. The striking nature of the variety makes it a most interesting addition to a collection. Many theories have been advanced to account for this variety, the most popular being that it is a retouch made on this particular stamp in order more nearly to reproduce the appearance of the Paris prints. My own view is that this particular electro was not so thickly coated with copper, and as the original die had dots only on the cheek, in this particular case the dots were not

exaggerated or spread into one another so much as was apparently the case on all the other electros that went to make up the plate.

2.—The so-called fish-hook variety, which is caused by the circle at the right opposite the nose being broken, the upper broken end being curved round like a hook and meeting the outer line. No 129 on the plate. This occurs on all issues, including the Paris.

3.—This is similar to the last, in that the circle is broken in the same place, but there is no hook. There are several of this variety on the sheet, showing different widths of the break.

10 LEPTA.

1.—Small uncoloured loop with dot in the centre, on extreme right of circle. This occurs on A and all subsequent printings and probably exists on the Paris, though I have not noticed it.

2.—Small uncoloured flaw breaking through top of circle. Clear printings also show on the same stamp a thin vertical scratch in the background, in front of the lower part of face.

3.—Two dots, instead of one, after second word of inscription in the top label. The earliest printing on which I have seen this is F.

4.—Broken circle at right. This variety also shows a blotch of colour, in frame, above the dot between the two words of inscription at top. This stamp is certainly from the bottom row of the sheet. According to Mr. Fearnley it is the third stamp in that row.

5.—Thin, almost vertical, stroke immediately to right of the dot between the two words of inscription at top. I have only noticed this on the late printings without figures at back.

6.—Long vertical scratch in background at back of head. This also, I believe, only occurs on the last few printings.

7.—Long white flaw hanging downwards in background from below the point of the chin. M is the first printing on which I have seen this.

There are various other small varieties with scratches in the background, but those mentioned are the most noticeable.

20 LEPTA.

1.—One of the lines of shading on the cheek a little below the level of the mouth, is too short and thus produces a pronounced angle in the shading. This is found on all Athens printings, and is most noticeable on clearly printed copies. (No. 89 on the sheet).

2.—Small flaw between the point of the base of the neck at back and the bearded circle. This occurs on the Paris and all subsequent printings, but is very indistinct in late ones. On an entire sheet of the aniline rose, which I have had the opportunity of examining, it appears to be stamp No. 22, but the impression is so indistinct that it is impossible to be quite certain.

3.—Broken circle at right. There are several stamps on the sheet which have the

circle at right either broken or thinned. These are on Nos. 18, 22, 82, 105 and 123. One of these, viz., No. 22, is further distinguished by an uncoloured scratch, extending from margin at top of key-pattern at left diagonally downwards through petasus and ending in background above the forehead. Each of the other four varieties can be differentiated by means of other very minute flaws or specks of colour which they exhibit, and also by the extent of the break in the circle, but it would take too long and serve no good purpose to attempt to describe them here.

3.—In the fourth horizontal row a thin scratch runs across seven stamps. Beginning at the point of the chin on the third stamp it extends, slightly downwards at first, and later with a more pronounced slope, through stamps Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, and ends in the lower part of the S.E. corner block on the 9th stamp. On this last stamp the line runs in a slanting direction through the word at foot and the second "20."

40 LEPTA.

1.—The outer line at top and for a short way down right-hand side is missing. No. 19 on sheet.

80 LEPTA.

There are no prominent flaws or varieties on this value. On nearly all Athens printings stamps may be found with a blotch of colour on the cheek; these become more pronounced the later the printing.

(To be continued).

History from Postage Stamps

THE current number of the *Colonial Office Journal* contains a very readable little sketch of Champlain, that mighty explorer who founded Quebec in 1608, and did so much to make Canadian history.

The recent celebration in America of the memory of Champlain was a fitting tribute to one of the most able and attractive figures in the annals of colonisation. Champlain was not merely an explorer and a founder of colonies: he was the ideal Frenchman of high and chivalrous character. In French Canada he is revered as a good catholic, and it has been a labour of love of several ecclesiastical historians to write of his career with close attention to this feature. He has become, in fact, to Quebec what Virgil's pious hero was to Rome. Apart from this, there is no doubt that Champlain had the genius of a coloniser. He was a geographer, a sailor, a naturalist, and a surveyor. His foresight was remarkable. He suggested the Panama Canal. He picked out from a vast expanse of territory the sites of Quebec, Montreal and Ottawa, and in a reconnaissance to the south of Acadia he marked the potential ports which are now Portland, Providence and Boston. He sketched out, as M. Hanotaux has remarked, the future United States.

In particular he traced the natural road, by the lake to which his name was given, between the St. Lawrence and the modest settlement of New Amsterdam which became New York. Most important of all, he recognised the fertility of the country. There was no proof of this at the time, as the natives practised only the chase and fishing, and France at home utterly refused to believe that regions which were covered with snow and ice in the winter, could be of any value for French settlers. Champlain, however, was fortunate enough to secure the support of Henry IV. and Richelieu; not that he got much from them, but their favour secured respect for his authority. He began his small settlement in the spirit of a missionary. He is reported to have said that "the conversion of an infidel is worth more than the conquest of a kingdom." Certainly he had a very strong sympathy with the Indians, whose life in winter was often extremely hard, though he was quite aware of their cruel and treacherous attributes. The influence which Champlain won over them has left traces down to the present day.

Lost, Stolen, or Strayed.

For some months now we have not been favoured with exchange copies of the following publications:

The Philatelic Journal of America.

This is an American publication, and we should like to know whether it is still to the fore.

We have also not seen a copy of the

Postage Stamp

for a long time. We should be pleased to learn whether this publication is still being issued.

Years ago we received an odd copy or two of an American publication.

Redfield's Weekly Stamp News,

at the time, if we remember right, we were pleased with the contents of this paper, but as we have not seen a copy for two or three years it is possible that, if still in existence our Yankee friend has improved or the reverse.

Another publication overdue is Messrs. Cassell's

The World of Stamps.

Will any of our readers kindly tell us if they have received a copy lately? In the columns of several of our smaller exchanges we frequently notice a reference to some philatelic paper of whose existence we were in ignorance. Will publishers and editors please take note that we wish to exchange with all philatelic papers, with the proviso that we do not wish to put leaflets on our exchange list which only languish for a few weeks before they slip into the Unknown.

When a well-established paper omits to exchange with such an old and well-known publication as is the *P.J.G.B.*, we are liable to imagine that such a publication is heavily indebted for its contents to our columns, and that a sense of false modesty makes it wish to blush, as far as we are concerned, unseen.



September, 1912, Report.

List of Officers and Committee, 1912-13.

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Hon. Vice-Presidents:

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MAJOR J. DE C. LAFFAN. DR. E. F. MARX, M.A.

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All Officers of the Union are ex-officio Members of the Committee.

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 MEMBER.

Umberto Zaffrani, Cairo, Egypt.

NOTICES.

A well attended meeting of the Committee was held at Essex Hall, on Thursday, September 12th. The President in the chair. It was unanimously decided to hold the Eighth Annual Smoking Concert in November, Messrs. W. E. Lincoln, P. L. Pemberton, F. F. Lamb and the Hon. Sec. being appointed

a sub-committee to carry out the arrangements. The usual monthly meetings will be held at Essex Hall on the second Thursday in each month throughout the season, from October to May—commencing on Thursday, October 10th, at 7.30 p.m. (committee 7 p.m.), when the President will give a display of British Stamps used Abroad, and all members are cordially invited to bring their collections of these or other stamps of Great Britain.

Promises of other displays and papers have been received, and it is hoped to publish the

full programme for the season in the next report. Mr. J. E. Joselin will be glad to hear from all members interested in the Exchange Section; Mr. W. S. King, The Library; and the Hon. Sec. will be glad to receive subscriptions, proposals for membership, or donations to the Forgery Collection.

THOS. H. HINTON,

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

Sept. 14th, 1912.

The World's Most Interesting Stamps.

BY THE EDITOR.

(Continued from page 155.)

DOMINICA.

This West Indian island affords a straightforward little group of stamps, we find the two usual varieties of watermark and perforation, common to the early De la Rue stamps, while we also encounter the usual surcharges and the current pictorial gumpaps of the present day, both evils common to most islands forming the West Indian group. Collectors however who fancy De la Rue stamps will find the 1874-1888 issues attractive, free from too much speculation (a little sometimes does a world of good) and likely to appreciate in value during the course of the next few years. The postal fiscals of 1879 are unfortunately frequently found with forged obliterations.

EAST AFRICA AND UGANDA PROTECTORATES.

The stamps for these two combined Protectorates merely consist of King's head issues with the usual varieties of surfaced and non-surfaced paper, also the single and multiple watermarks, while, to make matters more confusing the currency was changed from annas and rupees to the decimal system of cents and rupees in 1907. If collectors *must* collect King's head stamps they could fare further and fare worse.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

These stamps form a compact and extremely popular little group. The two "Franks" might well be ignored, although an entire envelope they form a very desirable item.

The four no watermark stamps are hard to procure in fine used condition, especially the one penny which will take a very considerable amount of finding.

The provisional half-penny stamps of 1891 still afford room for study, the surcharge can also be found on the 1d. with wmk. sideways. The shades of the 1891-96 stamps are innumerable, especially the 2½d. value, while



the two high values are desirable and attractive labels. The King's Head set, like the Virgin Islanders, only exists on multiple wmk. paper; the 1d. value can be found with the wmk. sideways.

Fiji ISLANDS.

Although they come from a very out of the way corner of the world, I do not recommend any collector to take up the stamps of Fiji with any idea of specializing in them. Many of the early overprinted stamps are almost, if not quite, unprocurable rarities, while the middle and later issues abound with perforation varieties which mean nothing in themselves, except a constant troublesome application of the perforation gauge.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The stamps of our own country constitute an ideal group for any specialist and I think that there can be no doubt but that collectors in all parts of the world pay them full attention. To specialise to the full extent in these stamps would be almost impossible, consequently many collectors divide the issues into two divisions, line-engraved and surface printed, and each section has a very numerous following. Within the confines of my brief notes it would be very difficult to do justice to the manifold charms of either group, so I will content myself by pointing out just a few reasons why I consider British stamps so eminently suitable for specializing in. The line-engraved series is second to none for simplicity and

general attractiveness of design, their colours are effective, without being garish, while they offer a multiplicity of minor varieties so dear to the specialist. To cap these advantages we find that a brave show can be made at a very moderate expenditure. The postmarks of this group are interesting and, with a few exceptions, were in use concurrently with certain varieties of the stamps themselves, so that certain postmarks on certain issues are a desirable acquisition to any specialised collection. The two varieties of watermark, and the two perforations, are clearly distinguishable, while some of the plate numbers are scarce enough to make it amusing, and sometimes profitable to invest in a few hundreds of the common stamps on the chance of securing a rare variety.

With the exception of the 2d. blue, without white line, there is little or no opening for the faker to foist his abominable handiwork on to collectors. I have seen, however, some cleverly faked examples of the 2d., with the white line of the common imperforates painted over. The error of lettering on the 1½d. value is one which might turn up in any odd little lot of neglected correspondence, and one which would be a welcome find, because it is worth, well centred, nearly every shilling of its catalogue value.

The surface printed stamps afford a wider field for variety and at the same time contain some rarities which no ordinary collector can ever hope to obtain.

The charm about this group is partly owing to the fact that the collector has to keep all his wits about him, otherwise, with the bewildering variety of watermarks and plate numbers, he will be letting slip some opportunity of securing a scarce stamp. In no country that I can think of are there so many details that one has to memorize. The most dangerous fakes that are likely to trouble ordinary collectors are fraudulently blued copies of the high values. Faked "hair line" varieties of the 9d. value, of 1862, are in existence, but they constitute no obstacle to the average collector. I have also been warned against faked copies of the 2/- brown, but I have never seen a faked copy that did not look as if it had been boiled in thick coffee for a day or two. There are, unfortunately, some clever forgeries of the scarce high values made by bleaching fiscal stamps and printing the design on the correctly watermarked paper.

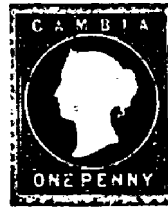
I do not consider the postal-fiscals and telegraph stamps worth collecting, especially the former, which are so frequently found with false, or else with done-to-oblige postmarks. The telegraphs are an interesting group, but quite hopeless when it comes to completing them.

The officials of Gt. Britain have been, at least the rare varieties, very extensively

forged, while some of the later issues are not free from the taint of official jobbery and speculation.

GAMBIA.

The embossed stamps of this small African dependency form a group by themselves different from any other within the confines of the Empire. Printed in small panes of fifteen, it is still possible to obtain many of the later printings in this condition, so that Gambia affords the specialist the opportunity of collecting on somewhat novel lines at a not altogether prohibitive figure. The C.C. stamps, at any rate the two lowest values, could easily, by aid of minor flaws, be plated. Most, if not



all the values can be found perforated by a line, as well as a comb machine. The surface-printed set of 1898 is quite attractive, but I am afraid the Edwards' are not free from the taint of speculation. The surcharges of 1906 were, in my opinion, totally uncalled for. Another interesting country, and a very popular one also, is

GIBRALTAR.

The overprints on the first issue have been cleverly forged, but they can easily be avoided by the exercising of a little care. The issue of December, 1886, is straight forward, so also are the surcharges of 1889, with the exception that the minor varieties of overprint known as the small "I", and broken "N", ought most



emphatically never to have been catalogued. The only rare stamp of Gibraltar is the variety of the one penny with the value tablet blank; this was sent out to the Rock, but whether any used specimens are known I cannot say. The stamps overprinted for use in Morocco are not very exciting, especially the petty varieties of surcharge, which, although of interest and value to the specialist, only cause annoyance to the general collector.

GILBERT AND ELLICE.

This small group of islands, forms a Protectorate in the S. Pacific which it has been considered necessary to provide stamps

for. As is usual with out of the way places, with only an infinitesimal population of white people, the stamps have been speculated in with the result that the labels issued last year are now almost unprocurable. The second issue, fortunately limited to the face value of 6d., should be sufficient to meet all the needs of the half-dozen letter writers in the Group; unfortunately, however, there are already rumours of high value King George stamps! It is the Caymans, the Gilbert and Ellice, and the Brunei's which do a tremendous lot of harm to the hobby of stamp collecting in as much as they disgust hundreds of collectors.

The next G. on my list comes under the heading

GOLD COAST,

and here we find a nice little colony eminently suitable for moderate specialists. The surcharged stamp of 1883, namely the one penny on fourpence C.C., need cause no bother, this label, although known to exist savours more of a myth, or a bugbear to would-be completionists, than a variety likely to be found. The known copies of this surcharge could, I should imagine, be counted on the fingers of one hand.

The C.C. stamps, in both perforations afford scope for the accumulating of many slight shades, while the C.A's are also not behind in this respect. Quantities of the high values of the 1889 to 1898, stamps came on the market *ex* parcel post labels and Judicial sources several years ago, but these have been absorbed and lightly cancelled copies are daily becoming scarcer to find. The C.C. stamps, or rather the low values of this set, frequently did duty halved and quartered as provisionals. I have seen several undoubtedly genuine covers franked by these curious freaks. The later issues of the Gold Coast need not trouble the collector who only cares for the older and more interesting stamps. Should there be any who would take my advice they will find that Gibbons 1 to 21 will afford plenty of pleasure without worrying about the later labels. The stamps of

GRENADA

constitute a really difficult study and, on that account, are popular with the advanced specialist. I do not recommend them to the would-be moderate specialist, although the design of the first labels, as well as the colouring, is most attractive. There are too many overprinted varieties, while the surface-printed issues are tainted with the general monotony of the majority of the De la Rue surface-printed stamps.

I cannot resist the fascinations of any of the early line-engraved stamps, but I limit myself, in Grenada, to Gibbons' Nos. 1 to 26 and this moderate list includes one or two surcharges which I never expect to possess; were I lucky enough to obtain one or two at

bargain prices I should be only too pleased to "trade" them for pairs or strips of the commoner stamps. The error "PENCF" found on the large Star 2½d. lake is catalogued at £3 15s. od., while the normal stamp is listed at 10/-. The same error on the broad-pointed Star paper is only priced at £2 10s. od., against



the £1 for the normal specimen. According to my method of calculating, an error of a stamp priced 20/- should be considerably rarer than the same error of a 10/- stamp. Messrs. Gibbons, however, judging from their catalogue quotations, seem to think otherwise.

My remarks concerning the stamps of Bangkok apply almost literally to the stamps of

GRIQUALAND WEST,

where we find nothing but overprints. I cannot advise any collector to specialise in these stamps, for they are both troublesome and expensive, while like practically all overprinted stamps they are open to the unwelcome attentions of the forger. Occasionally pairs or strips of stamps showing the various types of overprint are met with, and, in this condition, it is hard to refuse them admittance to one's album, but it must always be remembered that although some of the varieties are priced low, it is almost impossible to procure them. As an instance of their unpopularity, I note that the 5/- Cape of Good Hope is catalogued at 8/6 with the C.C. watermark, while the same stamp overprinted for Griqualand is listed at 3/-.

Another country which hangs fire with collectors, and naturally enough, is

HELIGOLAND,

where we find such a flood of reprints and forged postmarks that it takes an expert amongst experts to say in many instances which is genuine and which is not. Those of my readers who are thinking of taking these stamps as a subject of study will require far more learned advice than I am able to give them.

HONG KONG.

Although boasting no line-engraved stamps, and guilty of having placed far too many surcharges on the philatelic market, the stamps of the Island of Hong Kong prove interesting to very many collectors.

The flavour of variety is present in the form of a 4c. in the 12½ perforation while we find several shades which are scarce; the two

watermarks, as usual, provide one or two to-be-hunted-for varieties. As it is almost impossible to take Hong Kong without including some surcharges, I think it would be a very good plan to take all stamps issued up to January 1891, and then ignore the minor, and, in my opinion, totally uninteresting varieties listed in Gibbons' catalogue 63 to 71. None of these is priced! The Jubilees of 1891 were also a sad falling off from grace. Amongst the later labels I notice that the 12c. blue, CA., of 1900, is now listed at 10/- mint, and 2/6 used. Why I wonder, surely the prices should be transposed!

I think that the stamps of this outpost in the China Seas afford a good field for the would-be specialist, but I certainly consider that Gibbons No. 62, should be the collector's omega.

INDIA.

The stamps of India form an admirable group for all classes of collectors, from the Great Mogul to the beginner, while they yet afford scope for the researchist who may chance to find a hoard of the early issues. The locally lithographed, and printed stamps are, with few exceptions, still comparatively common, so that specialists have material to work upon and material which is particularly attractive to handle. The only stamps likely to trouble collectors amongst the stamps of the East India Co., are the various settings of the 4 annas of 1854, which in cut close specimens are impossible to distinguish with certainty.



The surface printed De La Rue labels are an attractive set; the two values on glazed paper are worth securing in very fine condition, while the 4 annas of the unwatermarked set occurs on a bluish paper which deserves to be catalogued.

The same value was forged to defraud the Post Office, but is of considerable rarity.

Copies of the unwatermarked stamps are sometimes found showing traces of a watermark—these are from the margin of the sheet and should not be confused with the elephant's head set of 1865.

The later issues call for little comment they are all above board, and while not mildly exciting, are certainly more interesting than the mediocre issues of a similar date for many other British possessions. The recent high value stamps are fairly plentiful, due to the fact that there is a leakage somewhere, consequently absurdly high values are avail-

able, mostly from telegraphic sources. The official stamps of India are worth taking.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

The three values of this one time British possession call for little comment, they can still be procured from most dealers at twenty-five to fifty per cent. off catalogue quotations and are worth taking. The only warning necessary is to beware of fraudulent postmarks.

(To be continued).

[Our Publishers wish it to be understood that they do not identify themselves with all the views expressed in this article.]

Auction of Old Danish Stamps.

I HAVE not seen any mention in the philatelic press of the Government auction of unused old Danish stamps, which took place on April 23rd last.

The lot consisted of the following varieties:

- 1853. 2 and 8 sk.
- 1863. 4 sk.
- 1864. 2, 3, 4, 8, and 16 sk., both perf. and imperf.
- 1870. 2, 3, 4, 8, 16, and 48 sk.
(The 4 sk. perf. both 12½ and 14.)
- 1875. 8, 16, and 20 öre.
- 1879. 5 öre.
- 1871. Official. 2, 4 and 16 sk. (16 sk. perf. 12½ & 14.)

The numbers of the different stamps varied from about one hundred to eighteen thousand, the latter quantity being that of the common 5 öre of 1879.

Most of the small lots sold at good prices, from half to full catalogue, but some stamps, of which there were large numbers, fetched very low prices; e.g.:-

			BACH
1864.	Imperf. 2 sk., blue,	633 sold for about	9/6
"	" 3 " mauve,	156 " "	10/0
"	" 4 " red,	773 " "	3/6
"	" 8 " bistre,	59 " "	60/0
"	" 16 " olive-grn.,	10 " "	32/0
"	Perf. 2 " blue,	800 " "	0/6
"	" 3 " mauve,	1430 " "	0/7
"	" 8 " bistre,	364 " "	3/3

And so on.

—The Monthly Journal.

The Publishers of the

" P. J. G. B."

will be pleased to

see any of their Subscribers

at the Stamp Exhibition,

STALL No. 19.



SEPTEMBER 20, 1912.

Philately at Home.

The August number of the *Monthly Journal* contains a further instalment of M. L. Hanciau's "The Stamps of the Spanish West Indies, 1855-1876." The following lengthy extract, referring to the grotesque looking stamps of 1870 is of interest:—

ISSUE OF FEBRUARY 1ST, 1870.

Emblem of Spain, represented by a female head full face, in an oval, enclosed in a rectangular frame with "CORREOS" at top, in white letters, and the value, followed by the date "1870," below.

Engraved by E. Julia, whose initials appear below the head, and whose whole name (though not always visible) is arranged between the letters of the word "CORREOS." Surface-printed at Madrid, in colour on white, wove, unwatermarked paper. Perf. 14.

5c. blue (pale, bright, deep).

10c. green (pale, bright, deep), yellow-green (pale to bright).

20c. yellow-bistre (pale to bright).

40c. carminé (pale to bright).

Varieties.—Divided diagonally, and used for half their value.

Half of the 10c. green.

" " 20c. bistre.

These stamps were withdrawn on the 31st. of January, 1871, but reappeared on two subsequent occasions, to fill wants:—The 10c. on the 21st November, 1873; and the 10c. and 20c. on the 27th June, 1874, according to Postal Notices of those two dates, which will be quoted later.

In reference to the fractions of stamps which we noted above, the Director of Posts issued the following circular, with a view to forbidding their employment:—

"Post Office Department.

"Having noticed that there are very frequently deposited in the Post Offices printed matter and commercial circulars bearing half-stamps for postage, as equivalent to the amount of the rate; since there exist at the post offices stamps as low as 5 milesimas, which not only obviate the necessity for dividing the stamps, but have been created by the Government for that very purpose, notice is given to the general public and to the sub-offices of the district that, in future, no nature of divided stamp will be admitted for use, unless previously authorized by the law.

"Havana, the 5th May, 1870.

(Signed) "ANTONIO F. DURO,

"Acting Director-General."

This circular seems to be a complete mystery; the use of divided stamps is forbidden, and people are recommended to employ stamps of the value of 5

milesimas, or less, which stamps had no existence. This Acting Director-General probably had come straight from Madrid, where he thought himself still to be, when he suggested the employment of stamps which had never been on sale in Cuba. The subordinate officers might well have prevented this mistake on the part of their chief, but they were only too pleased to see him thus exhibit his incapacity, and preferred to hold their tongues; the public must have been filled with astonishment, understanding nothing of this circular.

[It seems simpler to suppose that *milesimas* was a mere slip of the pen for *centimos*, more especially as there does appear to have been any 5 milesimas stamp in use at Madrid at this period, or any rate of postage in Cuba less than 5 centimos.—ED.M.J.]

Essays (or Proofs). We know the following:—

5c. pale blue on greyish white laid.

20c. " " " "

40c. " " " "

40c. " " on thick white wove.

In 1870 a lithographed essay was chronicled, which had been proposed, together with other designs intended for Spain. We do not know who was the author of them. It shows a representation, in an oval, of two globes, between the Pillars of Hercules, the latter bearing the inscription "PLUS ULTRA"; within a rectangular frame, with a Greek-pattern border at each side, the word "ULTRAMAR" at top and the value "100 CTS" below; and a cross in each corner.

100c. vermilion on white.

The Pillars of Hercules form part of the Arms of Spain. According to ancient fable, Hercules, having penetrated as far as Cadiz and believing that he had reached the end of the earth, set up two pillars there, with the inscription "Non plus ultra" (*There is nothing beyond this*). Charles V., successor of Ferdinand and Isabella, in whose reign America was discovered, thought it necessary to correct this famous inscription, and erased the word "non," leaving only "plus ultra" (*there is something beyond*), which he took for his motto.

Dr. Marco Del Pont contributes a lengthy instalment of his exhaustive paper dealing with the Rivadavia stamps of the Argentine Republic. The Doctor has finished describing the fascinating locally printed issues and now writes about the American Bank Note stamps of 1867-8. Messieurs Gelli and Tani complete their article dealing with the "Congo Belge" overprints while Messrs. Ahrens and Thornton also conclude their paper describing the provisional issues of

Nicaragua, 1908-11. The Zelaya overprints are the subject for this month's discourse. One of Mr. W. T. Elliot's Papuan articles, dealing with the 2d. label, S.G. type 7, an up to date list of new issues, and three pages of Mr. C. J. Phillips' "Topical Notes" complete a very excellent number of our contemporary. Mr. Phillips' advice is usually so very sound that we think the following extract will be appreciated by our readers.

What country is there in our vast Colonial Empire that offers any field for new work? Australians have been "worried" almost to pieces for the last ten years; the issues of the Fiji Islands are now pretty well understood; Mr. M. P. Castle has said almost the last word on Trinidad and British Guiana; Major Evans and Sir D. Masson have cleared up all the mysteries of the native Indian States, and so on; and I can only pick out two Colonies that, in my opinion, present still some scope for the student—these are Natal and Prince Edward Island, and in the case of the former it is practically impossible to get the necessary material.

How different it is when we look to Foreign Countries. Let us start near home, in Europe—here are many, many countries about the issues of which by no means the last word has been said, e.g., Finland, Turkey, Spain, Oldenburg, Denmark, Parma, Roman States, Bosnia; in Africa we can still study with advantage Egypt, Liberia (early issues), some of the Portuguese Colonies, etc.; in Asia there are Siam, Persia (early issues, not the modern trash), Corea, etc.; and almost every country in Central and South America still requires study.

The August *London Philatelist* is an enjoyable number. We find a readable editorial, the first instalment of some "Notes on Perforations," being a paper read some time ago before the Royal Society, and the completion of Mr. C. F. Dendy Marshall's paper entitled "British Stamps of the Reign of King Edward VII.

A budget of "Occasional Notes," New Issue list, and an excellent criticism of Stanley Gibbon's new catalogue, etc., complete our brief review.

Reviewing the new Part. I., Mr. Castle writes:—

It is very difficult within a few years of the issue of any stamp to assign the true value, and every year sees this difficulty accentuated. In olden days relatively few stamps, especially of the higher values, were imported, and these practically only by a very few of the then leading dealers, hence within a reasonable period after the supersession of an issue a fairly accurate value could be determined. Even on the exhaustion of the stocks available in those days, however, remainders might occasionally be found in Colonial Post Office or Departmental Offices, or a collector might unload an unsuspected accumulation so that it might reasonably be a few years before prices could settle down.

During the last quarter of a century—and every year sees these conditions developing—the circumstances have entirely altered, and at the present time the quantities of new issues imported, or retained in the Colonies for future transactions, are frequently so great that a new issue cannot be safely and perma-

nently approved until it has attained its majority. I am well aware that if collectors or speculators refused to buy until a stamp was twenty years old that it would spell ruin to the modern stamps, nor do I counsel it. I only wish to sound a word of warning to those who rush in where dealers fear to tread. The purchase of recent issues, except in the most limited form for the exigencies of either a simplified or specialized collection, must inevitably partake of the nature of speculation. As on the Stock Exchange, this form of "investment" generally means success—for the limited inner circle which has knowledge and the reverse for the far greater number of the outside public.

I do not, therefore, agree with many of the suddenly raised prices of the later and latest issues of British Colonials, and I am confident that the only way to properly appraise these is (with a few exceptions) by a slow, steady, and regular rise that should not be practically felt until several years have elapsed from the dates of issue.

We hope that our readers will pay attention to the above remarks, made by a collector whose general knowledge of stamps is universally acknowledged to be almost unrivalled.

Continuing his review Mr. Castle says:

Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' Catalogues have a world-wide and well-earned reputation, but it is incumbent on them not to live on their reputation as regards the Catalogues, and I do not hesitate to say, as one of the oldest clients and well-wishers of the firm, that, in their own interests, the time has come when a careful revision of the British Section is absolutely called for if they wish the Catalogue to maintain its prestige.

Independently of the pricing, there are many anomalies that call for redress—some minor varieties being excluded while similar ones in other countries are included—there are a number of stamps that should be eliminated—there are many lists that require simplifying, and beyond all, the urgent need for characterization of the minor varieties in dropped type is apparent to everyone. I can but hope that in the near future, with the help of a skilled compiler, that Messrs. Stanley Gibbons will prepare a revised Edition, which will restore to their Catalogue of the British Empire, the prestige and authority that, by universal consent, has always been maintained until the recent editions.

Capital. We hope that Mr. Castle's excellent remarks will bear fruit.

The August number of the *Philatelic Record* contains a second instalment of Mr. L. W. Fulcher's article dealing with the stamps of the Roman States. We also find continuations of the articles mentioned in last month's *P.J.G.B.* Mr. Fulcher describing each value separately, says of the 5 Bajocchi (1852):—

I have not seen a sheet of this value. Mr. Phillips describes one as consisting of 100 stamps in four panes of 25, without any frame lines. I find the following flaws in this stamp:—

- (a) Right-hand margin wanting a little over a millimetre in distance at the bottom corner.
- (b) Right-hand bottom corner wanting.
- (c) Left-hand bottom corner rounded.
- (d) Top right-hand margin wanting for a little less than a millimetre from the upper corner.
- (e) Flaw deleting the "E" of the word "POSTALE."
- (f) Flaw in top right corner and over the letters "LO" of the word "BOLLO."

(g) Flaw deleting the lower portion of the "A" of "BAJ" and the frame below.

The paper varies in quality, and the stamps are readily found both on thick and thin paper, the latter sometimes *sablé*. The colour "rose" is probably somewhat fugitive, and the pale shades are doubtless more or less due to fading, though the latter appear to occur usually on the thin paper. The impression varies much from black to grey-black, and is sometimes very poor. This stamp is also found printed on both sides of the paper, and a dangerous forgery of this variety exists. The normal stamp was forged for the purpose of defrauding the revenue, and may be found genuinely used. The postmark of one I possess on the original cover is Bologna, 28 April, 1856.

The August number of the *Stamp Collector* contains an editorial dealing with a recent stamp prosecution case, incidentally the writer points out that many dealers, by their carelessness in neglecting to take up references, are largely to blame for the ease in which wrong doers get approval selections. We also find a letter from Mr. Hollick, and some editorial comments thereon, dealing with the representation of Stamp Exchange Clubs at future philatelic Congresses. Our contemporary also contains a number of readable extracts, reviews, and other odds and ends.

The *West End Philatelist* for August contains a further chapter (which deals with the last of the yellow half-penny stamps) of Mr. Séfi's article describing the stamps of Malta. We also find the first instalment of the same writer's paper dealing with the stamps of the New Republic.

The August 17th number of the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* is a rather attenuated number. We find, however, an illustrated interview with Mr. John Thomson, Jr., a goodly budget of new issue notes, and some other matter.

Mr. Irwin Faris also contributes a few New Zealand Notes as follows:—

4D. KING'S HEAD.

The new colour is in orange, of which there are two shades.

1D. DOMINION.

The old plate (now obsolete) had two variations ("broken O" and "dash on N"). The new plates have not these, but give us two others, viz., "feather in the hair" of central figure (on one stamp of each sheet), and a "crack on globe," also one to each sheet. These defects appear on "Officials" also.

FULL-FACES.

A number of 10×12½ are being found perforated 10 on three sides and 12½ on the other, or *vice versa*.

BOOKLETS.

A new booklet, interleaved with advertisements, has been issued. It contains full value for price, viz., twenty-four penny stamps for 2/-. I understand that similar booklets of ¼d. stamps are being issued.

2D. KING'S HEADS.

There are two distinct shades of these.

A fortnight later we find an illustrated interview with Mr. J. L. Baber, a youthful American collector. Mr. W. H. M. Marsden contributes a few notes relating to the first issue of Montenegro. Our Chancery Lane contemporary has got rather run down during the past few weeks, we hope it will get stronger (fatter) during the coming season.

The September number of the *Stamp Lover* is almost entirely devoted to Exhibition and other J.P.S. news. We find, however, a few odds and ends of other philatelic matter, notably the first instalment of an article contributed by Mr. L. W. Crouch dealing with the stamps of Haiti, 1887-98. Regarding the 1887 issue he writes:—

The manufacture of these stamps is of considerable interest, and thanks to the courtesy of the printers I am able to give some interesting information. As you may recollect, all the "Liberty Head" stamps were produced in Paris, the Mecca of all Haitians. It is evident that the Haitian Consul-General in Paris had the ordering of the stamps. Whether he was dissatisfied with the Parisian printers, or what the reason was, I do not know, but the fact remains that he placed the order for four values (1c., 2c., 3c., and 5c.) of a new issue in London, with the firm of Messrs. Charles Skipper & East, of 49, Great Tower Street, E.C. The new stamps were to bear a portrait of Salomon, and Mr. Herbert Bourne, a well-known die engraver, was employed to engrave the portrait from a photograph. At least the frame was first engraved by means of a Rose machine or something similar, labels for the inscriptions and the name HAITI were roughed out, and an oval space in the centre was cleared for the portrait. Mr. Bourne then engraved the portrait, and I exhibit to-night two die-proofs showing very slightly different stages of the engraving of the head. In one a few lines of shading have been added to Salomon's shirt front, which are absent in the other. The frame was then completed by the printers themselves, but the value tablets were still left blank. From this original die four secondary dies were taken, upon which the figures and words of value were engraved, and from these the plates were made. Die proofs in black on card of the 1c., 2c. and 5c. are in Mr. Melville's collection, but they are apparently not from the dies eventually used, as these proofs have numerals differing from those on the issued stamps. The sheets contained 100 stamps in 10 rows of 10, and there were no marginal inscriptions. The paper was thick and unwatermarked, and was a special paper made by Messrs. Skipper & East themselves. Two single-line perforating machines were employed, one operating horizontally and the other vertically; both produced a perforation gauging barely 14. The gum was thick and colourless. The 3 centimes is known imperforate. The issue took place about November, 1887.

Philately in the Colonies and Elsewhere.

The July number of the *Australian Stamp Journal* mainly consists, as is only natural, of items relating to Australian philately. The following extract is typical, while it will interest many of our readers who take an interest in recent issues:—

The appearance of the current 2d. stamps surcharged "one penny" will come as a surprise to many. It has been stated in the daily press that the reason of this innovation is to work off a surplus stock of values above 1d., but we have been informed that it was a case of necessity owing to the non-arrival of a fresh supply of paper from London.

It seems to us, now that stamps are interchangeable between the States, it would have been a simple matter to have used South Australian paper and printed off a sufficient number of S.A. 1d. stamps. These could have been put on sale at the Victorian offices. Why not? If the public can use any stamp in any State, what is to prevent the stamps of any State being sold in any other State? The question may be asked, "Is there a sufficient stock of S.A. paper on hand to permit of this procedure?" We believe there is.

Those who gave instructions to have the 2d. stamps surcharged "one penny" evidently forgot the existence of a regulation made a few years back which prohibited the use of surcharged stamps throughout Australia. Such being the case, the present action of the postal authorities is all the more inexplicable. From a philatelic point of view it seems hardly politic for us to harass the postal people over this matter, for they have created something new which will act like a tonic, as it were, to those novelty hunters who like to get in at the beginning of the hunt with the hope that the run may be a short one. In this case, however, there is no likelihood of that happening, for we understand that many thousand sheets have been surcharged.

The failure of the arrival of the paper should be a warning to the authorities to make due allowance for shipwrecks, strikes, earthquakes and such like; and in making preparations for the future, stocks should be provided for 12 months ahead.

It has been mooted in certain quarters that higher denominations are likely to be similarly surcharged in order to get rid of superfluous stocks. There is, however, no foundation for this statement.

Mr. J. Bradley-Cooke, the Commonwealth Stamp Printer, has our sincere sympathy, for the difficulties of grappling with such unforeseen circumstances as those above referred to are enormous, while, at the same time, coping with the ordinary work of his department, which has increased very considerably during the past few years, and, besides, as we predicted, the trouble of getting a Commonwealth Stamp Printing Office in perfect going order has proved a much heavier task than many supposed it would be.

Even now the preparations for the new Commonwealth series are bound to entail a lot of worry and anxiety on those concerned, for, in addition to the preparation of the new perforating machines, the difficulty of issuing the stamps in coils to be used in stamp selling machines and stamp affixing machines will have to be coped with for they have come to stay. We presume the authorities are not neglecting this aspect of the case, and we are confident that those responsible will do their very best to please the general public, which at times is a difficult task.

Neither the July, nor the August number of the *Philatelic Journal of India*

contains much original matter. We find, however, each number very readable. In the copy for August, Mr. Godinho, writing about the recently issued provisionals for Portuguese India, says:—

There has been a great dearth of stamps of lower values in Portuguese India. The usual supply not having arrived from Lisbon, the Governor of Goa, Senhor Conceiro Da Costa, towards the end of June telegraphed to Lisbon to expedite the stamps requisitioned for some time ago, and asked for instructions how to meet the pressing emergency till their arrival. The Minister for the Colonies, on the 29th of June, conceded to him the power to surcharge with the necessary values the stamps existing in the Treasury.

In accordance with these instructions the Governor-General of Portuguese India issued a decree that the following surcharges should be impressed in the *Imprensa Nacional* (Government Press):—

- 93,800 stamps of the current 1 real grey to be cut vertically, and each half to be surcharged 1 real.
- 14,000 stamps of the current 2½ reis chestnut to be cut vertically, and each half to be surcharged 1½ reis.
- 29,400 stamps of 2½ reis chestnut to be cut vertically, and each half to be surcharged 2 reis.
- 34,300 stamps of 2½ reis chestnut to be cut vertically, and each half to be surcharged 3 reis.
- 99,400 stamps of the current 9 reis deep lilac, to be cut vertically, and each half to be surcharged 6 reis.

The decree also adds that 35,000 Reply post cards of 3 reis should be separated and converted into 70,000 after obliterating in red ink the inscriptions, "Resposta paga" (*Reply paid*), and "Resposta" (*Reply*).

I must draw the attention of collectors to the expression in the decree to be cut vertically (*cortados verticalmente*).

In the previous surcharges of 1 real on 2 reis, interpreting the text of the decree in its literal sense, some sheets were at first issued to the public with the stamps cut in halves *diagonally*; but finding that this operation was both inconvenient and laborious, and incidentally caused the loss of many stamps, the sheets were then perforated *diagonally* or vertically. Evidently instead of cutting, perforation will be resorted to in this case also.

Nearly a fortnight has elapsed since the publication of the decree, and although the scarcity of stamps is keenly felt by the general public throughout the territory, not one of the above surcharges had been issued up to to-day, the 13th of July.

It is also not yet known whether the 2½ reis and 9 reis are to be surcharged *with* or *without* the overprint *Republica*. In all likelihood they will be in the latter condition. I shall give more ample details in our next issue.

A glance at our New Issue list will shew that some at least of the above freaks have duly arrived.

The *Australian Philatelist* for July is an excellent number. One article alone, namely, Mr. W. A. Hull's paper entitled "Perforations," constitutes a feast in itself. We find twenty-eight varieties described and illustrated, and collectors who are at all hazy regarding the various methods of separation would do well to study Mr. Hull's contribution. Besides other articles of general interest, we find one criticizing the recently held Margate

Congress, the following extract, especially the closing lines is rather pertinent.

At this year's Congress the question of federation came again before the members, but the only progress made in this direction was a resolution passed, having for its object the co-operation of collectors to check nefarious traffic in stamps and bring offenders to justice, and another for the establishment of a postal museum in London and a central philatelic rendezvous for collectors. As one of our English contemporary journals states:—"The elements of a constitution were in existence, but there was no cohesion or correlation, which makes a constitutional whole." The museum and rendezvous, it is of opinion, might have been merged into a composite whole, but the carrying out of the work should be the concern of all philatelic organisations, and should be placed in the hands of a Federal Council rather than in those of a Congress Committee.

We quite agree with these contentions, and something more than the two objects quoted are needed for the development and advancement of philately. Although the societies in the other parts of the British Empire were not represented at the Congress, these would take as much interest in the proceedings as the members present, and would look upon the work to be done as a guide for future operations. But now that the Congress is a thing of the past, we out in Australia, and no doubt those in the other British possessions, are greatly disappointed at the results. No previous Congress has been heralded with so much éclat as the recent one, yet none has been so barren of benefit, at least, to the over-sea collectors. It was more in the shape of a huge picnic—very enjoyable, no doubt, to those who participated in it, but of no interest to outsiders.

Recent numbers of the *Philadelphia Stamp News* have all contained a good deal of interesting matter. In the last copy to hand, we find, among other good contributions, a short article contributed by Mr. R. E. R. Dalwigk, dealing with the Post-office arrangements on board the Norddeutscher Lloyd boats. The following extract will probably interest some of our readers:—

As a general rule the sea-office is open at the following times: 6-8 a.m., 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and 2.30-7 p.m., in all 10½ hours per day. Every year the staff has to be increased on the "Atlantic Ferry" P.O.'s, owing to the fact the mails increase, and the time employed in linking the two continents together decreases.

The post-office work on board ship commences, at least, one day before the ship is due to leave Bremerhaven, as otherwise the sorting could not be finished in time, as hundreds of bags from Egypt and Asia Minor—not to mention the German mail itself—have to be sorted.

The mail bags are divided into two groups as follows:

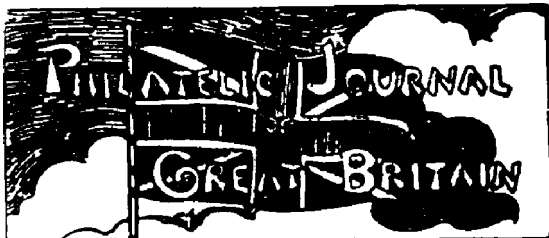
(i.) Mails to be forwarded from New York unopened—such as closed bags from Vienna to Chicago, or from "train post-office 10" (Cologne-Verviers) to Yokohama.

(ii.) Mail bags to be opened and sorted on board ship—such as the mail to New York City, which on arrival has to be ready for immediate delivery.

At Southampton and Cherbourg more mails are taken on board, with much the same routine as at Bremerhaven. Mail bags which are not attended to

during the voyage, are deposited in the storage room, the rest are placed ready for sorting—about one-third of the total.

Directly the last European port has been left, the officials have to settle down to their work in real earnest, as they have only five days in which to complete their enormous task, for upon arrival at Staten Island, the U.S.A. mail-steamer "Postmaster-General" is in waiting to take over the mails, and convey them, without delay, to the harbour post-office in New York—the liner meanwhile being detained with such duties as quarantine and customs.



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[PRICE 2D.]

♦ ♦ Editorial. ♦ ♦

THE months of September and October are busy ones with the Secretaries of Stamp Clubs, for then it is they have to arrange the syllabus for the coming season, and secure for their members displays of stamps and papers, which will reflect, in these days

A Hint to Club Secretaries. when various stamp papers give such prominence to Societies' reports, great credit on the Society fortunate to secure the exhibits, and sometimes presence, of the Great Moguls. This, to a certain extent, is only as it should be, and we, in common with every other collector, tender our best thanks to those generous princes of philately who are willing to place their collections, and, incidentally, the result of months, perhaps years of study, at the command of collectors who perhaps do not fully realize, as they should, the immense amount of scientific research which is placed, if for only one evening, at their disposal. Nevertheless we should like to see some of the Societies, and especially those domiciled in the Provinces, relying more on the services of their own members than canvassing broadcast amongst well-known collectors (very frequently not members of the Society which approaches them) with a view to having some of their

treasures loaned to them for a few hours. This remark also applies very forcibly to several of the London Societies, so much so that it is no uncommon thing for three or four Societies to have the same display and paper down on their agenda for different dates during the one season. In some instances the generous owner of some specialised collection is a member of three or four Societies, and in this case he suffers the penalty of fame by finding it difficult to refuse to one Secretary what he has promised to another. Again, we find that because some member of a Society has done his best to amuse and instruct his fellow-members, he is approached by Secretaries of Societies of whose existence he was probably in ignorance, with the request that he be kind enough to favour the members of such and such a Club with a sight of his treasures! Such a proceeding, although indirectly flattering to the collector approached, is, in our opinion, detrimental to the true advancement of our hobby, as it is not likely to call into prominence the dormant talents of many of the members, who, if left to their own resources, would blossom out with displays, which, on account of their very incompleteness and homeliness, would appeal to other members with a directness which is frequently lacking when they

gaze on the unapproachable hoard of some monied Mogul.

Every collector—at least we hope so—made his *debut* into the world of philately via the *debris* of a packet of mixed stamps and the wreck of a cheap album or blank collecting book; consequently, when he reaches a more advanced stage, he has a fellow feeling for the more recent recruit who is hovering between his inclination to take up certain countries for study and

his secret, but waning, love for the elephants, crocodiles or other pictorial beasties which seductively led him into the pleasant paths of philately.

This being so, we think it would add to the enjoyment of many a philatelic evening were Club Secretaries to rely more on their own members and not seek outside talent, which, although highly appreciated, is sometimes apt to leave a slight aftermath of envy and uncharitableness.

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.

Great Britain. To the great surprise of stamp collectors there was placed on sale on October 8th, a new penny stamp, which we have pleasure in illustrating below. The design is, in our opinion, very handsome.

The 3d. value has also come to hand, the design being similar to that of the 2d. issued last month. We are much indebted to Mr. F. J. Melville for his courtesy in kindly sending us copies of these stamps which came to hand first post on October 9th.

Mr. G. A. Higlett has shewn us the ½d. and 1d. King George stamps, Die I., on the Royal Cypher paper, while Mr. Nissen tells us he has the ½d value, Die II. on the same paper! These varieties are from the stamp booklets.

The control on the sheets of the new George penny stamps is C12, while the 3d. value has the control A.12, another novelty.

We apologise for all we have ever written, or said, about recent New Zealand stamps.

As we go to press we have received the new 1½d., which is printed in pale chocolate.



Adhesives.

Wmk. G.R.V. and Crown. Perf. 15 x 14.

1d. carmine.

1½d. pale chocolate.

3d. purple.

Die I. ½d. green.

1d. carmine (unshaded lion).

Die II. ½d. green.

The *British Philatelist* chronicles a part

sheet of the 1d. George (Die II.) with inverted watermark.

Morocco Agencies. Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have shewn us specimens of the 2½d. stamps, overprinted Morocco Agencies and the value, on the compound perforated stamps.

Adhesive.

Overprinted for use in Morocco. Perf. 15 x 14.
25c. blue.

Australian Commonwealth. The Rev. T. P. Davis, of South Australia, very kindly sends us the following newspaper cutting:

THE NEW STAMPS.

To be Issued Shortly.

Melbourne, Sept. 2nd.

Within a comparatively short time the Postmaster-General hopes to be able to supply the public with new stamps. The design as originally selected had in it what looked like a turnip top before a kangaroo. Mr. Fraser said it was kangaroo grass. But so much exception was taken to it that he has had a die cast from which this has been eliminated and some shaded ground put in. The stamp has been improved thereby. Specimens in the various colours have been submitted, and after the stamp has been approved—a formal matter—Mr. Frazer will issue an order for the printing of a large supply.

—*Adelaide Advertiser*, Sept. 3rd, 1912.

Canada. Mr. C. W. Cruickshank, of Toronto, writing on October 1st, sends us a strip of three of the current King George 1c. stamps perforated 8 vertically, and apparently imperf., horizontally. These are sold in rolls of 500 and are, we fancy, for automatic machines. The 2c. has also been issued in this condition.

Ceylon. The *London Philatelist* chronicles three more King George stamps.

Adhesives. Multiple wmk. Perf. 14.
2c. brown orange.
5c. purple.
25c. orange and blue.

The values of all three are on plain tablets.

Gambia. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have shewn us a full set of the recently issued King George stamps.

Adhesives. Multiple wmk.
¾d. green.
1d. carmine.
1½d. olive-brown and green.
2d. grey.
2½d. ultramarine.
3d. purple on yellow.
4d. black and red on yellow.
5d. orange and purple.
6d. violet and red-lilac.
7½d. brown and blue.
10d. olive-green and red.
1/- black on green.
1/6 lilac and green.
2/- violet and blue on blue.
2/6 brown and red on blue.
3/- yellow and green.

Gilbert and Ellice Islands. The *London Philatelist* chronicles the following stamps:—

"We have seen seven more values of the Georgian set, all with the small head as the ½d., 5d., 6d. and 1s. previously chronicled.

Adhesives. Multiple wmk. Perf. 14.
1d. red.
2d. grey.
2½d. ultramarine.
4d. black on yellow, name and value in red.
2s. purple and blue on blue.
2s. 6d. black and red on blue.
5s. green and red on yellow.

India. The September number of the *Philatelic Journal of India*, contains the following:—

"The dies for the Georgian stamps of India are being re-cut. The Government of India have objected to the head die, as it throws a queer high light on His Majesty's countenance, especially about the nose and moustache. The new head die will remedy this defect, and also improve the appearance of the elephant in the chain around His Majesty's neck. To prevent a scarcity in stamps of any particular denomination, the supplies already under order are being struck off from the existing plates.

"But there is to be one important exception. It is thought that the present George V. 2½ an. stamp is a poor-looking affair, and it has been decided to introduce the new 2½ annas label at once."

The *Stamp Lover* chronicles the 8 and 12 annas stamps with head of King George. The *London Philatelist* also chronicles four other new varieties.

Adhesives.
4 annas, olive green.
8 " bright mauve.
12 " reddish purple.
25 rupees, blue and brown orange.

Officials.
Overprinted 'Service.'
4 annas.
25 rupees.

Jamaica. The *Stamp Lover* chronicles 2d. and 1/- King George stamps.

Adhesives. Multiple wmk. Perf. 14.
2d. grey.
1/- black on green (chalky).

Northern Nigeria. The *London Philatelist* contains the following:—

"We have seen six values of the new Georgian set, Leeward Islands type small head of King George.

Adhesives. Multiple wmk. Perf. 14.
¾d. green, lined tablet.
1d. red "
2d. grey "
3d. purple on yellow, plain tablet.
4d. black and red on yellow "
6d. dull and bright purple "

Queensland. We are indebted to the August number of the *Australian Stamp Journal* for the following:—

"We have been shown the ½d. cameo head on burele paper, perf. 12. This stamp is not catalogued with this perforation. It should follow Gibbons' No. 188. In addition, we have found in our stock used copies of the current 2d., perf. 13×11, &c."

¾d. green, burele back, perf. 12.
2d. blue, Cr. & A, perf. 13×11.

South Australia. The following letter received by our publishers, from the Rev. T. P. Davis, will interest our readers:—

"I enclose current 5s. stamp in payment of my subscription to the *P.J.G.B.* for two years. The stamp is Gibbons' No. 345, which is likely to be the last issued 5s. stamp of S. Australia.

"You will have seen by now the provisional Victorian 'one penny' on twopence. We are to have a similar variety in S. Australia. The stamp issuer in Adelaide informed me last week that on requisition from Melbourne, he had returned there £25,000 worth of 2d. pence stamps to be surcharged one penny; this means three million stamps."

Southern Nigeria. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., have sent us copies of the 1s. King George Stamps. The *London Philatelist* lists the other values as follows:—

Adhesives. Head of King George. Multiple wmk. Perf. 14.
4d. dark green.
1d. carmine.
2½d. ultramarine.
3d. purple on yellow.
4d. red and black on yellow.
6d. bright and dull purple.
1s. black on green.
2s. 6d. red and black on blue.
5s. red and green on yellow.
10s. red and green on green.
£1 black and purple on yellow.

Straits Settlements. We are indebted to the *London Philatelist* for the following information:

"Three stamps of the Georgian set are before us, 5c., 10c., and \$500.

The 5c. and 10c. are of the Leeward Islands type, plain tablets, small head of King George; the \$500 is type 48 of Gibbons, and with large

head of the King. As before, the inscription reads 'POSTAGE REVENUE.'

Adhesives.

- 5c. orange, plain tablet, multiple; perf. 14.
10c. purple on yellow, plain tablet, multiple; perf. 14.
\$500 orange and dull purple, multiple; perf. 14."

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Belgium. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., kindly send us four more values of the new set.



Adhesives.

- 2c. brown.
20c. olive-green.
25c. blue.
35c. brown.

Bosnia. Mr. W. T. Wilson has very kindly shewn us a complete set of the new stamps just issued for Bosnia. The design, a most attractive one, shews the Emperor of Austria, side face, on all the values up to, and inclusive of, the 72 heller. The high values shew a full face portrait.

Adhesives.

- 1h. sage green.
2h. milky blue.
3h. lake.
5h. green.
6h. grey-black.
10h. deep rose.
12h. myrtle-green.
20h. brown.
25h. bright ultramarine.
30h. vermilion-red.
35h. indigo-grey.
40h. deep violet.
45h. grey-green.
50h. dull blue.
60h. purple.
72h. Prussian blue.
1 kr. purple on straw.
2 kr. indigo on blue.
3 kr. lake on green.
5 kr. violet on lavender.

China. A new type of the overprint of the vertical "Chinese Republic"—in native characters, of course—has appeared on the lowest two values; and we feel safe in predicting that the other values will duly follow.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us copies of the stamps showing the new overprint, which measures about 19mm. as against 14mm. of the superseded setting; moreover, on the Half Cent the overprint is in blue instead of black, and on the One Cent carmine in place of vermilion: there is no difficulty in distinguishing between the types at a glance, even without comparing the characters, which differ very considerably.

New overprint of "Chinese Republic" in Chinese characters.
No watermark. Perf. 14, 15.

- ½c. brown blue overprint.
1c. dull orange—carmine overprint.

From the same source, we also have the Half Cent postage due, with a new black overprint in two vertical lines instead of in red in one line only.

- Postage Due; new overprint in black.
½c. deep blue.

The above information is extracted from the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have shown us several new overprints, but we are hopelessly muddled as to which is the latest when every mail brings a new consignment.

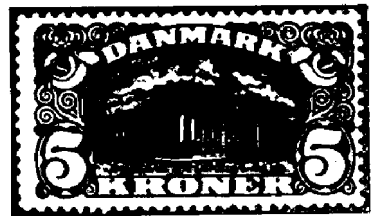
To add to our difficulties Mr. W. S. Lincoln very kindly sends us the following letter:—

"I have just received a new over-print emanating from 'Kien Yang Fu' in the province of *Fukien*, like the 'Hwang-do' surcharge previously received, consisting of seven values, ½, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 cents, and the over-print is found both in red and black, the red ones being considerably rarer than the black.

"I understand that about 1,000 of each value has been surcharged, of both coloured overprints; the type employed for the surcharge is quite distinctive, and can readily be separated from the other over-prints."

If we survive the new issues of another month or so we will try and draw up an illustrated list of the various overprints. In the meantime, we sincerely hope that Mr. Lovelace will take pity on our overheated condition and come to the rescue. At present we are nobly struggling with the new issues of Great Britain.

Denmark. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have favoured us with a sight of one of the new 5 kroner stamps. The design, depicted below is rather attractive and rather reminiscent of the 5k. Swedish stamp.



Adhesive.

- 5 kroner, marone and carmine.

Portuguese India. Some more freaks, similar to those chronicled last month, have come to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Adhesives. Perforated through the centre.

- 1 real on half 1 tanga.
1½ reis .. 2½ reis.
1½ 9 ..
2 2½ ..
2 4 tangas.
6 4½ reis.

New Leaves to Cut.

*THE STANDARD CATALOGUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

The thirteenth edition of this extremely hardy annual is before us and we find it, as of old, a very useful book of reference. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., the publishers, ever thoughtful of weary philatelic editors, tell us in their preface that :

"It is gratifying to be able to announce the still increasing popularity of Stamp Collecting, to which we referred in the preface to the last two editions. So great is this increase that the twelfth edition of this catalogue was sold out early in May of the present year, although we had printed and bound a number which we had calculated would have been sufficient to last us till November or December.

"This has necessitated the hurrying forward of the present edition so that it may be on sale in September, but notwithstanding the shorter space of time at our disposal, the revision has been done with our usual care, the British Colonies being revised completely, stamp by stamp, a great many advances in prices being again necessary owing to the increasing difficulty in replacing depleted stock.

"The issues of King George V. are included as far as known up to the date of going to press, but some, of which details are known, are not yet issued, for which reason we have not priced them.

"The total number of stamps issued to date as included in this catalogue is 24,973, of which 7,334 are apportioned to the British Empire and 17,639 to the rest of the World. Europe has issued 5,203, Asia 4,823, Africa 5,763, America 5,470, the West Indies 1,958, and Oceania 1,756."

There is no need for us to comment on these statements, we can only add that the great question of prices seems to have been carefully considered by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. and that collectors with want lists would do well to remember that Ipswich, although not *the* mecca for philatelists, has claims on the purse strings of collectors, who would do well to compare East Anglian prices with those of Ye Strand.

Many recent Portuguese, and other new comers, are priced, in our opinion, rather too highly in the Standard Catalogue. Time alone will tell whether these quotations are justifiable.

We have received, due to the kindness of Mr. Rasmus Bartleson, the International Secretary of the Association, a copy of the Metropolitan Philatelic Association's Year Book for 1912. This Society is next to the

American Philatelic Society in importance, and, judging from the admirable report before us, the premier Society will have to look to its laurels.

We note that there are thirty-five "foreign" members—so any of our readers, not resident in the States, who wish for further particulars, should write to Mr. Bartleson, 723, 13th Ave., So. East Minneapolis, Minn., U.S.A.

A Badge for Stamp Collectors

In our advertisement columns will be found particulars of an extremely attractive little badge which a well known firm of manufacturers of philatelic accessories have placed on the market. The illustration is life size and we can recommend these trinkets to those of our readers who own such loyal allegiance to the Goddess of Philately that they must seek to do her service by advertising their adherence to her charms. These badges are eminently suitable for hanging on watch chains.

The Stars of Bolivia.

If you will notice on the stamps of Bolivia, issued in 1867, there are but nine stars, while on those of the issues of 1871, 1876 and 1887, there are eleven. Then on the issue of 1890 and on all stamps issued since then that have the stars on them, we find but nine again. Bolivia is an inland country, bounded on the North and East by Brazil, on the South by Argentina and Paraguay, and on the West by Peru and Chile. It is divided into nine departments, for which the stars stand, viz. : La Paz, Beni, Oruro, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, Potosi, Chuquisaca, Tarija and Atacama. The addition of two stars, making eleven, from 1871 to 1887, tells of a long struggle both by warfare and treaty between Bolivia and her neighbours, Peru and Chile, in a futile endeavour to maintain two other departments on the coast as an outlet for her products, being compelled finally to give up all her seaports, and to depend entirely on concessions obtained by treaty and otherwise, from Chile. In 1905 the government of Chile undertook to construct a railway, at its own cost, from Arica, on the coast, to the Bolivian capital, La Paz, and to give the Bolivians free transit through Chilean territory to certain towns on the coast. Chile further agreed to pay Bolivia a cash indemnity and lend certain pecuniary assistance to the construction of other railways necessary for the opening out of the country. The natural resources of Bolivia are great and the thing most needed is an outlet.

—*New England Stamp Monthly.*

Current Chatter.

By ANGUS MCTAVISH.

THERE seems to be truth in the rumour that Nicaragua, Great Britain and China have entered into competition, with the object of seeing how many varieties of stamps they can issue every week. The Begum of Salvador and the Crown Prince of Paraguay are to adjudicate as to which country is the winner.

I was told the other night that the Professor from India, and Cuthbert from Wooloomooloo, proved that East and West are not twin, as some of those chaps who stop a night at the G.O.H. or the Galle Face Hotel, try to make out. I also learn that at a certain stage of the proceedings it was extremely hard to convince Cuth. which *was* West and which wasn't, while the Professor, who dislikes a crowd, suddenly vanished, but was discovered shortly afterwards abstractedly studying astrology (Venus or Mars?) from the kerb of — street. I don't believe one single little word of it. Hush!

The new issue chronicler of the *Philatelic Record*, referring to the recent big Bulgarian stamps, says:—

"Mr. W. T. Wilson kindly sends us three values which appear to be commemoratives of some event."

Granted that they are commemoratives, the betting is 10 to 1 on there having been an event.

Continuing, our N.I.C. says they

"bear a portrait of King Ferdinand in circle."

What was Ferdy doing in the circle?

A writer in the *London Philatelist* says:—

"English collectors have, however, a great advantage; they can measure perforations with a two-foot rule: 14 holes to the inch gives perf. 11; 15 holes gives 11½; etc.

For my Bosnians I use a ten-foot roach pole, while my last encounter with a perf. 16 English left me stymied behind the black with the blue and the pink still to play.

The I.P.U. Smoking Concerts have been such successes during the past, that the Committee has hired the Council Chamber of the Holborn Restaurant for the evening of November 25th. What ho! it's worth a "bob" to see the room; two, to tell your friends you've been there; and another "tanner" to see the Committee in their reach-me-down coats and their button-up-the-back shirts. Although there will be a better programme than last year, the tickets will only cost 1/- each.

The Amusements Committee of the I.P.U. have arranged for cheap excursions to be run from Chirk, Constable Burton, Dinas Mawddy, Hipperholme, Llansaintffraid, and Yockleton, in connection with the above

concert, while the Manager of the Inns of Court Hotel (two minutes' run from the Holborn), will guarantee bed and breakfast, from 1 a.m. to midday.

Ambulances, stretchers, and quinine can be arranged for before hand.

I take off my wee bonnet to Sir Herbert Melville, and Sir Frederick Johnson, they have worked well to make the great Exhibition the huge success it was. May they never lack the price of a lemon squash.

The McHaggis, a great friend of the Postmaster General, sends me yet another letter, this time it is fit for publication, the last wasn't. Mrs. McHaggis is too liberal with the salt in the wee man's porridge of a morning, it makes him restive, and communicative.

"Dear McTavish,

Has it ever occurred to you how greedy are some of our philatelists? Looking at the current number of the *Stamp Lover*, I find Mr. Ereaut advertises 'WANTED—HELIGOLAND.' Do you think the Kaiser will let him have it? Then I note Mr. Pringle advertises 'Guatemala wanted.' Well, what is the good of spending money on advertising it? Why not go over to America and take it? You have no objection, I suppose? Then Mr. Wedmore says he 'wants to buy'—the others say merely that they want the things, and don't talk about paying for them—'Wanted To Buy . . . France, Prussia . . .' He must be a bloated billionaire, and even then I don't think he can manage the purchase. Then Mr. Nissen says he has 'For Sale—Great Britain.' Bully for Nissen! Not the first time G.B. has been sold, and badly sold, eh? And finally, Messrs. P. L. Pemberton & Co. say they want to buy Greece, Mexico, and the Prince Edward Isles. What a lot of greedy folks there are about nowadays, not the modest people like you and I—content with a small portion of the good things of this life!

Yours,

McHAGGIS."

P.S.—Where are the P.E. Isles?

A writer in the *Stamp Lover* seems rather fond of Brighton, for he states:

"Individuals must be difficult to please if they cannot pursue their particular "penchant" in Brighton under more advantageous circumstances than in any other provincial town in England."

Where is Brighton? Near Cromer on the East coast isn't it?

The design for the front cover of the October number of the *Stamp Lover* is rather fetching. There is an excellent full face portrait of King George with a well developed young lady—couchant—tickling the royal beard with an ear of corn (?). The damsel's right arm looks rather like a frog's leg and she

is certainly scantily clothed. At the top are the words "Postage" and "Revenue" together with a few bunches of oak and laurel leaves which have evidently become detached from the young lady's wardrobe. The whole forms one of the designs sent in for the Junior Philatelic Society's Competition. I should like to see H.M. Government adopt it.



October, 1912, Report.

List of Officers and Committee, 1912-13.

Hon. President: H. R. OLDFIELD.

Hon. Vice-Presidents:

W. DORNING BECKTON. H. L. HAYMAN.

MAJOR J. DE C. LAFFAN. DR. E. F. MARX, M.A.

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F. F. LAMB. P. L. PEMBERTON. E. W. WETHERELL.

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81, Bennerley Road, New Wandsworth, S.W.

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Hon. Librarian: W. S. KING,
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Hon. Solicitors: MESSRS. OLDFIELDS,
13, Walbrook, E.C.

All Officers of the Union are ex-officio Members of the Committee.

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: Lieut. H. H. Wright, A.S.C.; proposed by Major N. J. Hopkins, R.E., seconded by T. H. Hinton.

NEW MEMBERS.

H. S. Staniforth, Hatch End, Middlesex.

Proposed by E. W. Wetherell, seconded by T. H. Hinton.

A. Wauters, Antwerp, Belgium.

Proposed by W. Schwabacher, seconded by E. W. Wetherell.

The nomination of the above members was inadvertently left out of last month's report, but they have been unanimously passed by the Committee.

NOTICES.

The opening meeting of the Season was held at Essex Hall, on Thursday, October 10th. Present: J. C. Sidebotham (chair), W. Schwabacher, W. Schwartz, Guy Semple, J. B. Seymour, E. W. Wetherell, A. B. Kay, Wilmot Corfield, P. L. Pemberton, F. F. Lamb, W. S. King, J. Wagenhauser, and the Hon. Sec. The President gave a display of his fine Collection of British Stamps used abroad and a selection of fifty rarities from his General Collection, including amongst the many fine things shown, superb specimen of 3 pf. Saxony, 1st issue, 3 kr. Baden, error of colour, rare Ceylons, Nova Scotia, 1s., etc. A hearty vote of thanks proposed by Mr. Corfield, seconded by Mr. Wetherell, was unanimously accorded. Mr. J. B. Seymour followed with a display of Great Britain, including many fine unused blocks and rarities in mint condition, also a selection of used abroads. An unanimous vote of thanks for this unexpected pleasure, proposed by the Hon. Sec., seconded by Mr. W. S. King, concluded a pleasant evening.

The next meeting will be held at Essex Hall, on Thursday, November 14th, when a display of Essays will be given by Monsieur A. Coyette, of Paris. The remainder of the programme for the season is as follows:

Thursday, Dec. 12. Kerula (Travancore and Cochin). E. W. Wetherell.

1913.

- Thursday, Jan. 9. Nicaragua. H. Ahrens.
- " Feb. 13. Roman States. L. W. Fulcher.
- " Mar. 15. Generalia. Wilmot Corfield.
- " Apr. 10. Argentine to 1867 Postage.
T. W. Hall.
- " " Ditto Fiscals. W. Schwabacher.
- " May 8. Annual General Meeting and Displays of Interesting Stamps by Members present.

SMOKING CONCERT.

The Eighth Annual Smoking Concert will take place at the Holborn Restaurant, on Monday, Nov. 25th. Tickets 1/- each, may be had from members of the Sub-Committee, Messrs. Lincoln, Pemberton, Lamb, and the Hon. Sec., or at the Publisher's Stall No. 19 at the Exhibition. Early application is desirable.

EXCHANGE PACKET SECTION.

The Exchange Superintendent, Mr. J. E. Joselin desires to call the attention of members to the advantages offered by this Section,

and solicits increased support for it from buyers and sellers. Sellers are reminded that it is useless to send selections of undesirable and overpriced stamps, good things at reasonable prices alone finding buyers. All selections should reach Mr. Joselin by the 10th of each month.

Any proposals for membership, subscriptions or donations to the Forgery Collection will meet with prompt attention from

THOS. H. HINTON,

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

Oct. 12th, 1912.

The Stamps of Greece.

By P. L. PEMBERTON.

(Continued from page 174.)

ISSUE OF 1886-88.

Three new denominations—the 25 and 50 *lepta* and 1 *drachma*—were rendered necessary by Greece joining the Universal Postal Union at the end of 1885. The Greek Government thought it advisable to make use of a design which should throw the figures representing the value into greater prominence than was the case in the stamps then in use. A design was submitted by a Belgian artist, which proved to be satisfactory, and the stamps were printed at the Belgian Government Printing Works at Malines. The design includes a small head of Mercury on a solid ground, within a circle, which is so much smaller than in the first issue, that space is found for the numerals of value in blocks measuring 5mm. square in both bottom corners. The numerals, being printed in colour on white ground, stand up very clearly, and admit of no confusion. These three stamps were issued in January 1886, and, no doubt for the sake of economy, were not perforated, although perforation was at that date practically universal. The new stamps were considered so satisfactory that it was decided to abandon the old design and issue all the other values in conformity with them. Accordingly on Jan. 1st, 1888, the 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 40 *lepta* appeared in the new type. As in the case of the other values, they were printed on paper of very fine texture and polished surface, attributes which help to distinguish between the Belgian prints and those afterwards produced at Athens.

The colours of the stamps are as follows :

- 1 lepton, brown.
- 2 *lepta*, bistre.
- 5 " green.
- 10 " orange-yellow.
- 20 " carmine.
- 25 " blue.
- 40 " violet.
- 50 " grey-green.
- 1 *drachma*, grey.

These shades do not vary very much in the case of the Belgian prints, though the 25 *lepta*

occurs in distinctly light and dark shades. This value is also found, unused only, in a pale but very bright blue. Whether this is a proof or a printing which was never required, I am unable to say, but the fact that it is not found used proves that it must be one or the other.

Early in 1890 the Greek Government invested in a perforation machine (giving a gauge of 13½), and in February of the same year the 1 lepton and 20 *lepta* were issued, at Athens only, with this perforation. At different times since then the other values of the Belgian prints have turned up with the same perforation, but I believe the two values mentioned were the only ones which were regularly issued in that condition. The appearance of the other values may be accounted for by the fact that the Athens post-office was always ready to perforate any sheets (and possibly part sheets) of stamps which might be sent to them for that purpose and that merchants, stamp dealers, and others who happened to have sheets of any denomination or issue on hand, could have them perforated as desired. It is a matter for argument whether such varieties should not be excluded from a collection, though as the perforation was certainly official, this is a great argument in their favour. All the values are included in the principal catalogues.

At the beginning of the following year another machine, gauging 11½, was imported from Paris and was employed on the three highest values of the Belgian prints, and the 1 lepton, the intervening values having by that time (March 1891), been superseded by Athens prints. The only values of the Belgian prints therefore which were issued in the ordinary way with the 11½ perforation, were the 1, 40 and 50 *lepta* and the 1 *drachma*, the other values in this state being due to the same cause as in the case of the 13½ perforation.

But in addition to the Belgian prints of the new type, a number of sheets of various values of the first type, which were still in use concurrently with the new issue, received this perforation and were sold at the Athens post

office. The values so issued were the 1 lepton (printings P, W and Y), the 2 lepta, printings Q and R; the 5 lepta, printing W, and the 10 lepta, printing U. The resuscitation of the 1 lepton, printing P, with the perforation is a curious fact. Probably a few sheets were returned to the head office from some outlying post office where they had little sale for them and were re-issued. The printings of the 5 and 10 lepta which were issued in the same way were considerably earlier ones than might have been expected.

The list of the stamps of the old type which received this perforation at the request of private individuals is a long one, and I do not propose to give a list—(I doubt if it would be possible to give a complete one). Gibbons' catalogue lists many of them but I have seen several which are not mentioned there; of these the 60 lepta, Athens print, is perhaps the rarest and most extraordinary. I have seen this used in a strip of three. Every collector will please himself as to the advisability of collecting these abnormal semi-official varieties, but for my part I consider them of very little interest.

It would be as well to give here a list of the varieties which were issued in the ordinary way over the Athens post-office counter.

BELGIAN PRINT.

1890. *Perf.* 13½.

- 1 lepton, brown.
- 1 " dark brown.
- 20 lepta, carmine.

1891. *Perf.* 11½.

- 1 lepton, brown.
- 40 lepta, violet.
- 50 " grey-green.
- 1 dr., grey.

Old Issue (first type).

- 1 lepton, brown, printings P, W and Y.
- 2 lepta, bistre " Q and R.
- 5 " deep green, printing W.
- 10 " orange " U.

(To be continued.)

Obituary.

MR. H. L'ESTRANGE EWEN.

It is with much regret that we learn of the death, on October 1st, of Mr. H. L'Estrange Ewen, the founder of the world known business now carried on as Ewen's Colonial Stamp Market, Ltd., Norwood.

Mr. Ewen was ill for many months, but his demise was an unexpected loss for the hundreds of stamp collectors and dealers

who have had dealings with him in the past. He was the pioneer of the specialised catalogue of English stamps, and his early work, published at Swanage in the early "nineties," is looked upon by many present day specialists as their first initiation into the mysteries of British stamps. Mr. Ewen was the great authority on the Railway stamps of the United Kingdom, and his book, published a few years ago, is ever likely to remain the standard work on these labels.

From all accounts, Mr. Ewen was a most energetic worker, and philately has undoubtedly lost one, who, on more than one occasion went to considerable trouble and expense, to try and stop the malpractices of those parasites who, by putting false surcharges, overprints, and forged stamps on the market, have, of late years, done their best to besmirch the cult of stamp collecting.

MR. FRANK BESCHER.

Recent copies of our American exchanges have contained the news that Frank Bescher, of Kansas City, a well-known collector, died suddenly on September 4th. Mr. Bescher was one of the old school type of collectors, and American philatelic circles will mourn the loss of a keen enthusiast and a genial personality.

DR. ANDREW HOUISON.

The September number of the *Australian Philatelist*, just to hand, contains the sad news that Dr. Houison, one of the pioneers of our hobby, died at Sydney, N.S.W., on August 22nd last. The doctor was born in Parramatta, in January, 1850.

"To the older collectors of stamps in New South Wales, in fact all over the world, he was best known as one of the pioneers of philately. Quoting from *Vinden's Philatelic Monthly*, which gives a philatelic history of the doctor, in its issue of February, 1888, we note that he started collecting as early as 1865, and amongst his treasures then was a 'Sydney View.' His collection increased slowly, and on leaving Newington College (of which he was captain), he parted with it in exchange for a pistol. In 1884, his son, who seems to have inherited the mania for collecting, brought the matter forcibly under his father's notice, by showing him his assortment of stamps in an exercise book. This revived the old love of the doctor for his early hobby, and little by little it grew until the collection numbered fully 12,000 varieties. On the 10th September, 1885, Dr. Houison took the chair at a meeting of collectors in Sydney, called for the purpose of forming a Philatelic Society. The outcome was the 'Philatelic Society of Sydney.' The first meeting was

held on the 21st September, and Dr. Houson was chosen as the first president. In course of time this society became defunct. In June, 1887, Mr. Fred Hagen brought under the notice of the doctor the advisability of resuscitating the defunct society. A meeting was called, and the Philatelic Society of Australia was formed in June, 1887. For some months previous he had been engaged upon the history of the early issues of New South Wales stamps, and succeeded in bringing to light many facts of great importance, and he embodied these in that interesting and valuable work: 'The History of the Post Office, and of the Issue of Stamps in New South Wales,' published for him at the Government Printing Office, early in 1890. The edition was limited to a small number of copies, at 15s. each. The value of this work was quickly recognised by the leading philatelists of to-day, and the edition was soon exhausted. Copies now seldom come on the market, and when they do, they bring a price far beyond that at which it was published."

City of London Philatelic Society.

REPORT OF OCTOBER MEETING.

The initial meeting of the eleventh session of the Society was duly held on the 9th inst., when Mr. B. Metzger, of Southgate, was made a member, and the applications of five more collectors were passed, subject to their references being found in order and satisfactory.

Following our usual procedure, the evening was mostly occupied by the Presidential opening address for the new season, and Mr. Westcott gave us a résumé of the past philatelic year, together with a broad outline of what was to be done during the next twelve months. Needless to remark, the address was well intersected by our President's funny little anecdotes.

During the evening Mr. Westcott was made the recipient of the silver medal he had won in the competition of last season, respecting "Stamps printed by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co.," and the new style of medal (of exhibition size, in case) was pronounced to be a decided improvement upon those the Society had hitherto awarded for the competitive displays. It may be noted that the foregoing competition was based upon a paper read by Mr. P. L. Pemberton, before the Society, on the subject of collections consisting of the work of one or other of our great philatelic printers.

Regarding the competition to be held at the next meeting on the 13th November, the following regulations have been formulated by the Committee, who trust that there will be very many entries for such a simple subject as the one chosen, viz., "Ten Minute Papers."

Regulations.

Any subject may be chosen.

Intending competitors should advise the Hon. Secretary of their intention to compete, and give the title of the paper which they propose to submit.

The list of entries will close on Saturday, 9th November, and all entries must be received on or before that date.

The time taken to complete the reading of the paper should not exceed ten minutes; for on the expiration of that period, the Chairman will call upon the competitor to cease, whether his paper be completed or not.

No paper which is not on the Agenda will be allowed to compete for the Silver Medal.

The final decision will be arrived at by ballot, and all members present will be asked to record their votes for (1) Research, (2) Intelligence, (3) Interest, (4) Delivery, (5) Time occupied.

The Hon. Secretary will be pleased to receive and enter papers on behalf of country members, and full attention will be given to the proper rendering of the papers at the meeting.

Competitors may enter one or more papers, as desired; but in the event of there not being time to hear all paper sent in, those competitors entering more than one paper will be liable to have the excess barred from competition; and they should therefore mark the paper which they desire to receive preference in the case of the above event happening.

DUNCAN PRINGLE, *Hon. Secretary*,
38, Grasmere Road, Muswell Hill, N.

The Jubilee International Philatelic Exhibition.

THE long looked forward to afternoon of October 14th saw a representative crowd of philatelic enthusiasts gathered together at the Horticultural Hall, when H.M.'s Postmaster-General declared the Exhibition open. Owing to our going to press a day earlier than usual, we are unable to give but the briefest of reports, while an extended list of the many wonderful exhibits will have to be held over until next month.

Amongst the well known people present at the opening ceremony, the following are but a few whom we had the pleasure of seeing:— Messrs. Leon Adutt, J. R. M. Albrecht, E. D. Bacon, P. C. Bishop, E. J. Bridger, Capt. Clark, W. J. Cochrane, W. Corfield, D. Field, L. W. Fulcher, M. Giwelb, W. M. Gray, T. W. Hall, C. L. Harte-Lovelace, L. L. R. Hausburg, A. B. Kay, A. S. Mackenzie Low, Capt. Napier, Messrs. C. Nissen, W. H. Peckitt, H. Wade, A. J. Warren, W. T. Wilson, Baron A. de Worms, Baron P. de Worms, Messrs. R. B. Yardley, F. Wadham,

R. B. Sparrow, W. S. Lincoln, W. E. Lincoln, J. C. Sidebotham, and many more. Quite a number of ladies graced the ceremony with their presence. Messrs. Melville, Johnson, Harland, Armstrong, and other members of the Executive Committee looked tired, but happy, as well they might, for they have worked at high pressure, and with admirable results. The lighting arrangements were all that could be desired, while the Model Stamp Factory, the Post Office, the Orchestra, and last, but not least, the Catering department all exacted tribute from a big throng of animated collectors.

The exhibits were well mounted, and constituted a wonderful array of philatelic knowledge, variety and rarity. The following gentlemen's displays were particularly fascinating: Baron Anthony De Worms' unrivalled Ceylons, which are almost too well known to need description; Mr. Sydney Loder's magnificent exhibit of British Stamps; Mr. Warren's Dutch, which, although they have won their owner many honours, are still as fascinating as ever. A good deal of fresh research has been put into this collection. Another superb collection of English was shown by Mr. W. M. Gray, while Ceylon, always a hot favourite, was strongly represented by Mr. O. K. Trechmann's very fine collection.

Next month we hope to give a full list of the exhibits—but in passing we must mention Mr. Harvey Clarke's, New South Wales; Messrs. Henry Grey, C. A. Stephenson and W. H. Tarrant's, Barbadoes; Major French, Canada; J. C. North's, Cyprus; H. P. Ereaux's, Heligoland; H. H. Harland's, St. Helena; Mackenzie Low's, Sudan; M. H. Horsley's, St. Lucia; R. Wedmore's, Prussia; Baron Leijonhufvud's, Sweden; Mrs. Bridson's, Portugal; T. W. Hall's, Danish West Indies; Capt. Napier's, Brazil; H. M. Ahrens' and J. R. M. Albrecht's, Nicaragua; Harte-Lovelace's, China; R. W. H. Rows, Siam; and dozens of equally interesting exhibits which lack of space forbids us even to mention. Mr. H. J. Reckitt showed several highly specialised collections, amongst which we noticed a superb lot of Greeks, Nevis, Grenada, Bosnia, etc.

The Postmaster-General, in his speech, promised two more of the new King George stamps for this week, namely the 1½d. and 2½d. values.

The Philatelic Club—a cosily furnished room on the first floor—was much appreciated by those entitled to membership.

STOP PRESS NEWS, Thursday, Oct. 17th.

At the Banquet last night, Mr. Fred. J. Melville announced that the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* had been awarded a Silver-Gilt Medal, the highest award.

"Full Face" New Zealand 3d. Deep Mauve Imperf.

In the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, June, Mr. Faris objects to the statement that this stamp was "in use" in May, 1867, and thinks probably a single copy I have dated thus is a belated one, viz., not "on issue" at that time. My impression is, that about that date was the only time they were "on issue."

Probably some collectors in England may be able to confirm this, or prove it incorrect.

Copies dated on stamp are rare, but one can frequently get some information as to approximate date from the cancellation, of which unfortunately there is frequently too much.

About 1866 or 1867 the cancellation became rougher and much heavier, than one sees on London prints and on no watermark paper, viz., undoubted early issues. One much in evidence on 2d. Plate II. (which were not issued earlier than end of 1865), is one of 8 bars forming circle with letter or numeral in centre, others of same class, differing somewhat, but all heavy. They are common on 2d. Plate II. retouched copies, also the "1871" Issue (1d. brown, &c.)

A year or so ago, a fair lot, "full face" stamps were purchased at one time in Auckland, seller unfortunately had just taken them off original covers, there was a large proportion in the lot of 3d. deep mauve. Three copies imperforate, balance (say 40 to 50) were perforated, judging from stamps I saw, correspondence only extended over a few years. I got two imperf. from this lot, one dated May 1867, the other shows heavy bars as in cancellation I mention above. Some few copies of imperforate I have noticed, in other selections sent me, have also shown parts of similar cancellation. This shade is rarest of the 3d. imperf. and is a most distinct ink. As I have never heard of a copy "perf. 13" (Dunedin machine), if there was an early printing in the shade, it would probably have been before 1863, and this shade of ink not used again until about 1866 or 1867. It seems more probable, that there was only one consignment of this ink, which was used continuously until finished and the shade discontinued, and that a few sheets were issued imperforate, the balance perforated.

I have read of copies of 2d. Plate II. *imperforate*, which must have been issued at least a year after Government machine was in use, therefore probably other values were also issued imperforate after 1864, but except in the case of the deep mauve, the inks are not distinctive enough to call attention to the fact.

Some early dated copies may quite upset my theory, my reason for writing is to attempt to prove matter one way or the other.

W. D. ULPH.

Societies' Doings.

THE Leeds Philatelic Society has arranged a very attractive programme for the coming season. The following are only a few of the items, and should do much to keep alive the keen interest in philately which our Yorkshire friends are so noted for :

- Oct. 22—France : Display by
Franz Reichenheim, Esq.
Nov. 16—Paper : H. L. Hayman, Esq.
" 19—Nevis Display : Abraham Oxley, Esq.
Dec. 3—Trinidad Display : R. B. Yardley, Esq.
" 12—Visit to Leeds Post Office.
1913.
Jan. 7—British Guiana : H. M. Hepworth, Esq.
Feb. 4—Roman States : L. W. Fulcher.
Mar. 18—Austrian Newspaper Stamps :
R. Wedmore, Esq.
" 25—Japan Display : F. J. Peplow, Esq.
Apr. 8—British N. America : J. H. Abbott, Esq.
" 22—Hungary : H. Wade, Esq.

The Junior Philatelic Society has, as usual, a very attractive syllabus for the 1912-13 Session.

On November 16th, Mr. Victor Beaujeux exhibits recent Swiss retouches, while later in the evening Mr. H. H. Harland shows early Portuguese.

- Dec. 7th—Jamaica : W. B. Edwards, Esq.
" 21st—Gt. Britain : Baron A. de Worms.
Jan. 4th—Travancore : Major Evans.
" 4th—Ceylon : Albert Ashby, Esq.
" 18th—Roman States : L. W. Fulcher, Esq.
" 18th—Tibet : C. L. Harte Lovelace, Esq.

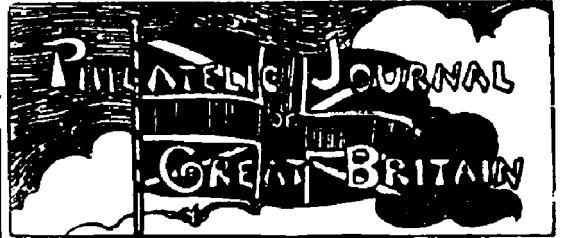
Equally interesting papers and displays will be given until June, when the programme winds up with Mr. and Mrs. Field's Garden Party.

The Philatelic Society of Rhodesia with its headquarters at Bulawayo, seems to be a real live one. From a lengthy report we note that the membership is 40, being an increase of 15 during the year. This is very satisfactory for an African Society, and we trust that any of our readers, living in the Union, and who wish to belong to an up to date Society will write to the Hon. Sec., Mr. W. L. Simon, at Bulawayo.

The Manchester Philatelic Society has drawn up an excellent "bill of fare" for its members during the coming season. The following items are down for the last two months of the year.

- Nov. 1st—Paper: "Mythology and Postage Stamp Designs." R. S. Archer, jun. (*Liverpool Philatelic Society*).
" 15th—"Nevis," with Notes. Walter Oxley (*Leeds Philatelic Society*).
" 29th—"Malta," with Notes. J. E. Williams.
Dec. 13th—"France," with Notes.
W. G. Hamersley.

The Herts Philatelic Society has drawn up a very strong programme for the 1912-13 Session. On November 19th, Mr. W. S. Tarrant shows a fine lot of Indian stamps, while a month later Mr. G. B. Bainbridge is down for a display of his noted triangular Cape of Good Hope stamps.



The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain.

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The World's Most Interesting Stamps.

BY THE EDITOR.

(Continued from page 179.)

JAMAICA.

The stamps of this well known West Indian Island are very popular with medium specialists and rightly so. There are no rarities, so that the great Moguls pass over this country as not worth powder and shot.



The moderate specialist, however, will find plenty of scope for his ambition and well centred copies of the Pine issue, not discoloured by atmospheric, or other conditions, are desirable acquisitions. Copies of S.G. No. 13, should be carefully scrutinized before being purchased, as a fair number of copies, on entire, are on the market with forged obliterations. With this one exception the stamps of the banana island are quite straightforward. Unfortunately, the issues of the last year or two have been subject to too much official juggling, consequently it is at present quite impossible to say what many of the stamps are worth. I am inclined to think that the 2/- red-brown, multiple watermark, is a really scarce stamp, while I do not think that the present quotations for the 4d. red-brown and the 6d. orange will hold their own. Neither do I think that the 4d. black on yellow will prove to turn out the treasure that many collectors so fondly hope.

The postal fiscals, like all labels of this class, are always open, where their postmarks are concerned, to a great deal of suspicion.

LABUAN.

Although the later issues of this Colony, or rather the methods used to distribute them, are beneath contempt, I have rather a weakness for the early stamps bearing the effigy of Queen Victoria, and am inclined to think that a collection of Nos. 1 to 61, with the surcharges excepted, would prove an interesting and honest group. Several of the surcharges are above board, but then again many are not, so I think in this case it would be a good thing to ignore all varieties of overprint. Collectors who start out to complete their Labuan stamps on the above suggested lines, must not expect to complete their task in a few days—or even months.

LAGOS.

Until we come to the King's Head stamps of this West African possession, we find a very pleasing little group on a par with the emissions of our other West Coast Colonies. It is true there are no variations of design, but the two watermarks and the two perforations, add just that flavour of variety



which is so desirable. Specialists on the look out for sidelines should look for copies of the C.C. 14 stamps with *dated postmarks* (common enough on the C.C. 12½), and also for copies with the watermark sideways.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

The stamps of 1890 are a monotonous lot and so easily completed that it really matters little whether they are collected or not. The Jubilee abortions of 1897 are beneath contempt; while the surcharges of 1902 are little better, although anyone collecting them would find quite a number of minor varieties of type. The King's Head stamps of 1902 to date are on a par, for absolute lack of interest, with practically all the De La Rue key plate type.

MADAGASCAR.

I have never paid any attention to these labels and have always classed them with the Pietersburg, and New Republic, emissions. Doubtless a collector who gathered a number of these labels, would find a certain amount of pleasure in classifying them into various groups, but then he would be perfectly happy in sorting out a bundle of cigarette pictures or tram tickets.

MALTA.

The stamps of this Mediterranean stronghold form an interesting little group, and, although their interest is chiefly centred in the local halfpenny yellow stamps, it is even



possible to take all issues to date without accumulating a number of unnecessary gumpaps.

The halfpennies of 1860 to 1881 combine practically all the varieties of De La Rue printing and perforation that it is possible to obtain, and they form a series, which, in fine used condition will prove very hard to complete. Copies of the no watermark, and C.C., stamps with dated postmarks are really scarce, while, although there are plenty of unused copies on the market, it is difficult to obtain *mint* specimens of some of the shades.

The 1885, to date, labels call for little comment; if they are collected, it is easy to complete the series at a comparatively small cost. The only rarity is the 4d., of 1885, which was issued imperforate, a variety not likely to trouble any collector who reads these notes, although the Great Mogul may find a good deal of difficulty in running a pair to earth. The three high value labels, of 1893-99, are always acceptable stamps; unlike high denominations of some other colonies, they do not seem to reach the philatelic market through unauthorized channels. The King's Head stamps of Malta are more collectible than most, if for no other reason than that chalk-surfaced paper has not, up to the present, been employed.

MAURITIUS.

Another Island group, namely the stamps of Mauritius, now come up for discussion. I know so little about, and have handled so few of the early issues, that I am not competent to voice their charms or decry their ugliness, all I know is that the 1847 to 1859 issues are very popular with many big collectors and, on this account are almost unprocurable by more humble philatelists. Any of the early stamps in very fine condition are a treat for tired eyes, but the stamps which were printed from the latest stages of the plates are almost unrecognizable as adhesive labels, although, of course, on this account alone they are sought after.

The Britannia type stamps of 1854-1862 are similar to the early issues of Barbados, and Trinidad, and only need the same variety of watermark and colour to make them equally fascinating. Collectors must beware of the 6d. stamps of 1861 and 1862 with forged postmarks.

The surface printed labels of 1860-72 are of considerable interest, and, in my opinion, not too dearly priced in the current catalogue, emphasis, of course, being laid on the fact that they must be in fine condition.

Other values of these stamps, besides the 2d. listed, are known imperforate, but these freaks, like the poor, are always with us.

The surcharges of 1876-1878 were necessary, owing to the change of currency, and form, in my opinion, a very straightforward little group.

The regular cents stamps, both C.C. and C.A. varieties of 1879 to 1887, are well worth taking, as also are the surcharges of 1883-1885, which were necessary owing either to new postal rates, or else to a shortage of stock. The varieties, however, of the 2 cent overprints of 1891 are outside the pale, at least most of them are, even if the stock of 2c. stamps was low, there was no need to resort to inverted, double, and other freaks of surcharge.

The Arms type stamps and their successors, the various overgrown labels and surcharges, are, in my opinion, not worth bothering about. If the early stamps present themselves in fine condition, permit them entrance, but my advice to collectors is to concentrate their energies on the 1854 to 1887 issues and leave the others to those who are usually to be found at each end of a countries issues, namely the great Moguls who only specialize in early prints, or the rush-in-and-buy collectors who only take their stamps damp from the printing press.

MONTSERRAT.

These stamps are not likely to give much pleasure, or trouble to any collector; the two values of the Antigua set, overprinted for use in Montserrat, are very interesting and there are varieties of shade and overprint well worth hunting for.

The surface printed labels of 1884 are straightforward, and like the contemporary De La Rue stamps for other West Indian Islands, are well worth taking. The resurrected issues of 1903 to date are on a par with the rest of the Island gumpaps.

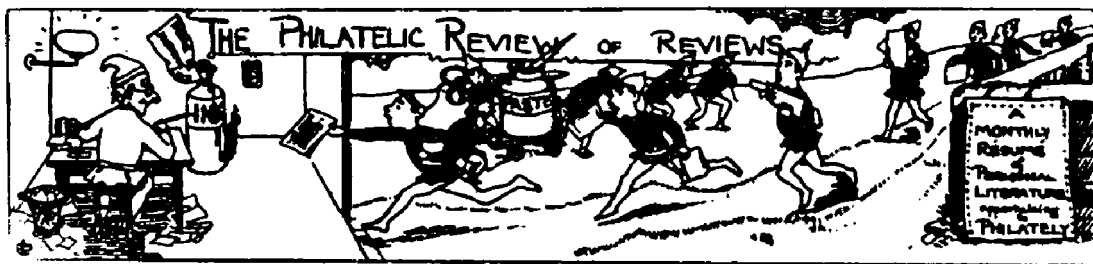
NATAL.

I find it very hard to advise any collector what stamps are most collectible, as, were I to delete all the surcharges, and ignore the surface-printed labels, the stamps of Natal could be easily dismissed in a few lines. The embossed stamps of 1857-58 are quite outside the scope of an elementary paper, such as mine, suffice it to say that they are extremely unpopular with the majority of general collectors and medium specialists, due, no doubt, to their unattractive design and their general blotting-paper appearance.

The line-engraved series of 1859-1864, and the one surface-printed label of 1867, call for little comment; they combine, at least the Perkins, Bacon stamps do, the various varieties of perforation which are to be found in similar stamps of this date, while they offer no special attractions in the way of rare varieties or ultra beauty of colour or design.

(To be continued).

[Our Publishers wish it to be understood that they do not identify themselves with all the views expressed in this article.]



OCTOBER 20, 1912.

Philately at Home.

The September *London Philatelist* contains a capital editorial, wherein Mr. Castle points out the danger of disused dies or plates, from which stamps have been produced, falling into private hands.

Mr. T. W. Hall's notes relating to the stamps of Danish West Indies are very readable, especially as the stamps comprising this group are within the reach of medium specialists.

The following extract may induce some of our readers to turn their attention to the Colonial Stamps of Denmark.

According to a Royal Decree, dated 1855, it was decided to issue postage stamps for the Danish West Indies. This decree was similar to the one in effect in Denmark, and resolved:

That the Danish West Indies should have a uniform postage of 4 cents for single letters if paid in cash, and 3 cents if stamps were used.

It was also resolved that a discount of 8½ per cent. should be allowed for stamps bought by the entire sheet of 100.

In order to comply with the above decree, the Colonial Directors sent a request to the Postmaster-General in Denmark for postage stamps. The request was granted, and a 3 cent stamp was issued November, 1855, the design being typographed and similar to the then current Danish 4 skillings stamp (Royal Crown: sceptre and sword crossed below, all within a circular laurel wreath). Watermarked small crown and printed at first in dark red on wove paper, 100 stamps to the sheet. The margin of the sheet also had a watermark, viz: a crown on each corner, and "Kgl Post fr.," Royal post stamps, on each of the four sides.

By a new decree, dated August 30th, 1861, it was further resolved that the discount should be allowed on a purchase not less than twenty single stamps if bought at one time. From the beginning the stamp was good for local postage on the Islands and for postage between the Danish West Indies and Denmark only.

This 3 cent stamp was the only stamp issued up to January, 1872, and the entire issue consisted of 5,000 sheets.

The total amount of stamps issued for the Danish West Indies up to 1900 was 77,710 sheets of stamps, 253,200 envelopes, and 120,000 cards.

The Danish West Indies stamps have never been reprinted.

Total amount of stamps issued up to December, 1900:

	Sheets
3c. carmine, November, 1855, to January, 1872	5,000
3c. carmine, perf., January, 1872, to September, 1873	2,500
4c. blue, January, 1873, to September, 1873	2,500
1c., new design, since September, 1873	10,000
3c. " " " "	14,000
4c. " " " "	3,500
14c., new design, September, 1873, to September, 1877	1,000
7c., new design, since June, 1874	3,500
5c. " " September, 1876	11,000
10c. " " " "	14,000
12c. " " " "	3,010
50c. " " July, 1879	1,500

Another interesting contribution is the completion of the article entitled "Notes on Perforation." A very generous budget of "Occasional Notes," list of New Issues, etc., all help to make the current number of the Royal Societies' paper a success.

The September number of the *Monthly Journal* contains the usual feast of good articles.

M. L. Hanciau contributes another short instalment of his article dealing with the stamps of the Spanish West Indies, 1885-1876, Dr. Marcò Del Pont another chapter of his exhaustive paper concerning the Rivadavia Stamps of the Argentine Republic (1864-1872,) and Messrs. Ahren's & Thornton the completion of their article entitled "The Provisional Issues of Nicaragua, 1908-12."

Shorter papers deal with various subjects, namely, Mr. Stanley Phillips' "The Provisionals of 1906 of Santander and Cucuta." Mr. Ahren's note referring to the forgery of the 15c. Uruguay of 1865, and the usual budget of "Notes and Queries," Topical Notes, New Issues, Correspondence, etc.

From the last we extract part of Mr. J. Chapman's letter in the course of which he points out and rightly so, the many charms of Mexican stamps.

Any one of the earlier issues, 1856 to 1868, would afford a considerable amount of work and study for a collector desirous of specializing. Some indications of prices are given on page 244 of the *Journal*, and I can here say that for actual rarity, as apart from popularity, the Post Office Mauritius is relatively common in comparison with specimens of some of the invoice numbers of the Eagles and Maximilians.

For those who do not wish to lock up too much capital, it would be well to select 1868, or one of the later issues. For 1868 I should suggest for the moderate collector a specimen of each catalogue number 115 to 138 (keeping a look-out for varieties), and in addition one common district, e.g. Veracruz, completing this for each year 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872; also subdividing each year into the three varieties of overprint 13 $\frac{1}{2}$, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$, and 15mm. respectively. The fascination of hunting for these would probably lead to taking on other districts similarly.

The 1872 series could be similarly collected, except that as regards *laid* paper, most collectors would have to be content with a specimen of 170 or 171.

For those who wish to limit their expenditure there is much of interest in the issues of 1874 to 1883, if collected on similar lines to those suggested for 1868 and 1872, and in the 1874 issue there are possibilities of finding other values on "thick horizontally wide laid paper," to follow 184, and also of finding "thick horizontally narrow laid paper," with figures "wide apart" and "close together." There are numerous errors in consignment numbers and dates well worth hunting for.

The 1884-1885 series is cheap, except for the two high values, and affords great scope for the collection of many beautiful shades of colour, some of which are rare, but can be purchased at the price of the normal. There are also opportunities of discovering additions to the list of compound perforations.

Although the overprinting of district names officially ceased at the end of 1883, various names may be found overprinted even as late as the 1895 issue (on which I have found Maravatio), and these are well worth hunting for. In the figure series the plate number was usually printed in the centre of the sheet, and specimens of the 10c. may be found with a double-lined 1 or 3. In the 1895 series the plate numbers extend up to No. 9.

The most interesting number of the *Philatelic Record* which we have received for some months past is the September copy just to hand.

Mr. L. W. Fulcher continues his exhaustive article dealing with the stamps of the Roman States; Mr. F. J. Peplow also favours us with another chapter of his capable paper dealing with the stamps of Buenos Aires. A readable contribution is Mr. Wilmot Corfield's article, entitled "Collections and Reflections," this writer breaks a lance on behalf of used stamps, he writes as follows:

The Used Collection in which "condition" is ignored is an abomination. Its owner is false to his fellowship. Taste is not to be accounted for, but a collector whose taste permits of the accumulation of snipped, rubbed, washed out, shabby stamps is an interloper to be avoided.

The very poorest collector of used stamps may bend at the shrine of "condition." Every true Philatelist is a Philatelic Conditionist.

Follow the lead of His Majesty, reversing his order of arrangement. The honey-bee first. The drone *proxime-accessit*. Two collections in one (or one

collection in two main divisions), *the first consideration being given to the used stamps*.

The difference in the cost of the two divisions is of material significance. It may mean to thousands of sincere philatelists the difference between collecting and giving up collecting. A General Collection in mint condition is an impossible luxury, impossible because of its prohibitive cost. A note pitched too high for safety breaks in discord and disaster.

The advantages of an Unused over a Used collection are not so real as some imagine. This may be proved true by arranging two pages of identically the same stamps, one set in mint condition and the other in brilliant and lightly marked used condition. The first lacks postmarks, not necessarily a disfigurement; the second original gum, not necessarily an unmixed blessing. The cost of the first is prohibitive. The cost of the second feasible. To the student both are of equal value, the advantage, if anything, inclining to the Used. To the sentimentalist the Used have an individual character of their own, they are reminders of other days, old friends, old foes, old faces, old places—coloured milestones on the roadway of life of charm and tenderness. The Unused, of rigid respectability, tell no tales of by-gone times, they recall no memories, irresponsively immaculate, they answer to no questionings into the past that has gone by. A thousand collections of the same thousand stamps unused would all look just alike. They have no soul. The post-marker stamps a soul into them. You must buy such as these in cold blood, you may buy the used too, but after a hunt for the brighter, better, lovelier specimens, and all the fun is in the hunting.

These remarks are meant for the collector who collects for the joy of collecting. If wise he will think on all these things.

Some readable Reviews, list of New Issues, etc., complete our brief résumé.

We welcome the October number of the *Herts Monthly Report*, the first to appear for 1912-13 Season. As in previous volumes Mr. Reichenheim provides his readers with a good deal of interesting matter. A strong feature of the *Report* is the capable budget of reviews of new books, etc.; the pages devoted to Philatelic Crumbs are also full of interest. Mr. Slade's report for the last Session is a masterpiece, but we regret to notice that the membership of the Herts Philatelic Society showed a loss of five during the year.

The Society has drawn up an excellent programme, so we trust the coming Session will see a big addition to the membership roll.

The September number of *Griebert's Philatelic Notes and Offers* contains another of Mr. H. M. Ahrens descriptive articles. He deals with the recently discovered plate of the 15 centesimos, yellow, stamp of Uruguay, 1866, and gives a careful description of the various differences on each of the thirty-five stamps.

The following extract will interest our

readers, and probably cause some of them to peruse Mr. Ahren's article *in extenso*.

The finding of an original plate of an old stamp is always an event which is worthy of attention, especially when it is of a philatelically *first-class* country.

The Pacific Philatelic Society, San Francisco, Cal., are to be congratulated on having gained possession of the original engraved plate of

URUGUAY, issue 1866, 15 Centesimos yellow.

This stamp was authorised on the 6th September, 1865, and issued imperforate in Montevideo on the 10th January, 1866. (Vide *Griebert*, A Study of the Stamps of Uruguay, page 29).

The above-mentioned plate was engraved by Messrs. Maclure, Macdonald & Co., London, who made lithographic transfers from it, and printed the first parcel of this stamp in England. Exactly what happened to the original plate has not as yet come to my knowledge, but probably it went to Montevideo, and has now finally, after no doubt many wanderings, been recently unearthed in San Francisco, California.

It is indeed most fortunate that this plate should have fallen into such good hands, and I trust the Pacific Philatelic Society will publish the past history of this interesting plate, should anything further be known about it.

The Society were careful enough to have the plate marked in such a way that no further printings can be made from it without immediately showing them to be reprints. This is as a safeguard in the unlikely event of the plate ever getting out.

Now *before* the marking of the plate took place, the Society had fifty-five sheets struck in colour off the plate, all numbered, which were disposed of to the members of the Society. Each sheet bears the signatures of the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary of the Society.

There is no danger of this reprint ever being sold as a coloured proof, because the paper is wove, slightly thick, soft and porous, so it could not possibly be confused with the thick card or thin crisp paper on which those proofs of this issue were printed. To mistake it for a genuine stamp would be equally impossible on account of the paper used.

The principal item in the September *West-End Philatelist* is Mr. A. J. Séfi's paper dealing with the locally produced stamps of Uganda. These curious labels are never likely to prove popular with collectors, nevertheless their history is interesting.

The following extract relates to the first issue:—

The first stamps were issued on March 20th, 1895, and were produced by the Rev. E. Millar, C.M.S., on his typewriter. The value was expressed in cowries; these shells were the popular "coinage" of the country, and had a recognised value. The rates of postage varied according to the distance, and ranged from 10 cowries to 60 cowries. At this time 200 cowries were equal to 1 rupee (1/4).

The design can hardly be called elaborate, consisting as it did of the letters "UG," Uganda Government, and the value, the whole being surrounded by a frame of dotted lines.

These early typewritten stamps can be divided into various sets, the first in order of issue being what I may describe as the wide "UG" in the wide setting. The stamps of this setting measure some 20 to 26mm. across. They were printed in sheets of 117, thirteen horizontal rows of nine stamps each. The sheets were made up of various values, as might be wanted. The 117 stamps were as much as could be got on to the

paper, which was a white laid foolscap, with the result that, if Mr. Millar started his first row the slightest bit too low on the paper, he would find himself in difficulty when he came to the thirteenth. This he usually overcame by turning the paper round when he had finished the twelfth row, and printing the last one tête-bêche. There was then generally a blank space between these two rows, in which he would type a summary of what the sheet contained.

As the stamps were typed separately by hand a small mistake was occasionally made—one finds letters struck in the wrong place, or a wrong figure with the correct one typed over it. One or two cases are known where there is an error of lettering, such as "UA" for "UG", but these are very rare.

The denominations issued were as follows:—

5 cowries black.	25 cowries black.
10 " "	30 " "
15 " "	40 " "
20 " "	50 " "
	60 cowries black.

The August number of the *British Philatelist* contains much to interest collectors of English stamps. Amongst other items we note that a horizontal strip of eight of the current penny stamp has been discovered, without watermark.

A capital article is one entitled "Recent Perforations"; the writer has recently inspected the principal perforating machines at Somerset House, he writes as follows:—

From a mechanical point of view, the machines are wonderful pieces of mechanism, but we will not venture on any attempt to describe them technically: it is sufficient for present purposes to say how the sheets are perforated, and we ask our readers to mentally substitute what we now state in place of our incorrect remarks in the last two paragraphs on page 36.

In the first place, the sheets are always *single* (240 stamps), and are fed into the machine seven or eight at a time.

Secondly—the long line of perforations—whether the set of pins is arranged for vertical or horizontal perforation—extends across the machine, with the usual short rows at right angles.

Now, when the sheets are fed into the machine, it is obvious that (with a horizontal perforator) they may be inserted top or bottom first, or (with a vertical perforator) the left or right side first.

Whichever way this is done, the sheets are fed in close up to the left-hand side of the machine; so that the end (top or bottom) or the side which goes in first is *imperforate*, as is also that side or end (top or bottom) which happens to be at the left of the machine.

At the right side of the machine, the pins extend beyond the sheet, invariably perforating the margin which happens to be on that side; and, of course, the *completion* (i.e. the second long line) of the perforation of the last (horizontal or vertical) row of stamps, necessitates the perforation of that particular margin.

This then is the cause of two margins, and two only, being perforated; and the reason for the perforation of the side-margin (*as fed into the machine*) is to further facilitate severance of the rows of stamps.

It is a little awkward to explain, but we have risked being "wordy" in the hope—which we trust is realised—of making the description clear.

We also find a further chapter of Messrs. Bernstein & Nissen's "British Stamps Used Abroad."

The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* for September 14th contains an illustrated interview with Mr. F. A. Wickhart. We also find a lengthy report of the meeting of Exchange Club Secretaries held on September 7th, when it was proposed to form a Protection Society to defeat the substituters and others, who once they get a footing in exchange clubs are an unmitigated nuisance. Mr. F. H. Vallancey was appointed Secretary *pro tem* and Mr. F. A. Wickhart, President. With the exception of a readable little article, entitled "The Stamps used in South Georgia" our Chancery Lane exchange devotes its columns to extracted articles, Reviews, list of New Issues, and Exhibition notices.

Extracting from the above-mentioned article, contributed by Mr. W. H. Lawson, we print the following:—

Eight hundred miles away from the nearest inhabited territory, which in turn is 8,000 miles distant from England! This is the first thought which occurs to one's mind when searching on a map for South Georgia, that lonely island Colony which seems lost in the remote waters of the Southern Ocean. A veritable St. Kilda of the Atlantic, or rather the "sentinelle perdue" of the British Empire in that mighty waste of waters stretching away from the shores of Patagonia to the desolate solitudes of the South Pole.

Apart, however, from the British Ensign which waves over its unpretentious Government House, there is little in South Georgia to remind the traveller from the homeland of British ways of life, or even of British speech, for the prevailing tongue of the sparse population is that of the "hardy Norsemen" who have made the island a base from which to carry on the pursuit of the fast vanishing industry of whale fishing. Prior to the introduction of this industry, the Island, discovered in 1675 by Antony La Roche, and explored and taken possession of by Captain Cook, in 1775, was practically uninhabited, notwithstanding the fact that it has an area of about 1,000 square miles. Some thirty years ago, however, it was temporarily utilized as the headquarters of a German expedition for observing for observing the Transit of Venus. It is satisfactory to know that at the conclusion of their scientific mission these pioneers of the German Fatherland vacated the Island and have not since laid claim to its possession.

It is, however, owing to the needs of twentieth century commerce, that a postal system—if it can be so designated—has been called into existence, and as a natural consequence, postage stamps have been required.

The Post Office, which is in charge of the Chief Magistrate of the Island, was opened on the 3rd December, 1909, and as South Georgia is a dependency of the Falkland Islands, it was only natural that the Falkland stamps should be brought into requisition. This was done, a supply of all the current values—½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 6d., 1/-, 3/-, and 5/-—being sent across the eight hundred miles of lone waters.

No date-cancelling stamp was however issued for use in the island, the instructions from the authorities being that the words "South Georgia" should be stamped on the envelope at the foot of each stamp used for prepaying the letters posted from the island. Then, on the arrival of the post bag at Stanley, the

whole of the mail was stamped with the ordinary Falkland Islands cancelling stamp. As a consequence the earlier postage stamps used from South Georgia have the name of the island stamped immediately beneath them, with the dated cancellation stamp of the Falkland Islands superimposed. It is to be noted that the words "South Georgia" are practically always on the envelope or margin of the stamp, and very rarely indeed surcharge on the stamp itself. This arises from the fact that the Colonial Office now discourage, on principle, the surcharging of stamps, and Colonial Postmasters are so advised.

In 1910 it was, however, decided that the island was entitled to some better recognition, and a cancellation stamp bearing the words "South Georgia" between two circular lines, with a date in the centre, was issued and brought into use on the 23rd July, 1910, and subsequently to this date, the earlier stamp, *viz.*, that with the two words "South Georgia," was but very infrequently employed, and for some time past its use has been entirely discontinued.

A fortnight later we find a capital number. Mr. A. J. Séfi is the Philatelist of To-Day, while Mr. Emil Tamsen contributes a most readable article dealing with Transvaal stamps, he points out that the so called "remainders" from 1885, 1894, 5, and 6, issues are to be regarded with extreme caution. Regarding the false surcharges on these stamps Mr. Tamsen is not so guarded in his language for he calls them, as of courses they are, forgeries. There is, in our mind little doubt but that all these so called remainders are forgeries, pure and simple, an opinion only strengthened by Mr. Tamsen's remarks when he states:

As the printers in Holland had been informed, in 1899, of the new issue to be locally printed, there can have been no remainders on hand, because if there were any, the printers would certainly have asked permission to send them out, and get paid for their work instead of being left with (to them) unsaleable stamps on hand. This point I wish to emphasise.

Last year I heard through friends in Holland, that there had been placed on the stamp market large numbers of *remainders* of the 1896, 1895, 1894 and 1885 issues!

Now, I have shewn above that there ought not to have been any remainders of the 1896 issue, and it is absolutely unthinkable that quantities of any of the earlier issues of 1885, 1894 and 1895 should, or could have been in the printers' hands, it would have been against all idea of government control to have allowed the printers to accumulate "remainders," besides, why should they have done so? How, then, were stamp dealers in Europe able to buy enormous quantities of these stamps as "remainders"?

Finding such huge quantities rather unsaleable the parties concerned had some overprinted V.R.I. and E.R.I. while others were utilized for the surcharges of 1885. Truly a regrettable state of affairs.

Our contemporary also contains many readable extracted articles, Reviews, Exhibition Notes, and the usual budget of chatty philatelic items.

Philately in the Colonies and Elsewhere.

The August number of the *Australian Stamp Journal* is of exceptional interest; we find a wealth of news relating to Australian stamps. A lengthy budget of "Items of Interest" leads the way, and contains notes relating to the rumoured issue, in 1899, of about 20 sheets of the then current 2d. Queensland stamps, in an imperforate condition; reference to the minute holes which are sometimes found in the stamps of the first issue of Victoria, etc. Nearly two pages are devoted to Commonwealth news, mostly relating to the recently issued Victorian Provisionals. The following brief extract will interest some of our subscribers:—

One of our correspondents has sent us a stamp for inspection showing apparently a small "p," and another has sent us a specimen which is, to all appearances, a figure "1" between the words "one" and "penny." Having had previous ideas as to the manner in which these surcharges were applied, we could not straight away accept these as real varieties; for in our opinion they were merely defective printings. We have made inquiries at headquarters, and have been informed that all the surcharges (viz., "one penny") are from the same mould, and consequently, all must be alike. In reply to our inquiry regarding the figure "1," the Commonwealth Stamp Printer states that the machinist has informed him that a piece of roller composition became jammed between the two words causing it to appear as it does in the printing. Directly he observed it the same was removed.

The question arises, is this figure "1" entitled to the status of a variety. We are inclined to think it is, but we cannot admit the defective "E" to the same status, for several of these throughout various sheets are to be seen in numerous stages of defectiveness, some letters showing more distinct than others.

Mr. W. E. Johnson contributes a lengthy article wherein he describes his visit to Brisbane and some of the collections he inspected while in the capital of the banana State. This makes interesting reading as he draws his readers' attention to varieties of common stamps and does not confine himself to a list of mouth-watering rarities.

Reviewing some of the treasures in the Rev. James Mursell's collection of South Australians, he says:—

One cannot but be struck by Mr. Mursell's apparent fancy for the South Australian 10d. surcharged on 9d. yellow, and orange-red. Whilst most collectors consider themselves lucky to have, say, half a dozen copies in their collection, Mr. Mursell has somewhere about 120, comprising the various shades, perforations and watermarks. The six types of the overprint are plated in each instance, several of the stamps being unused, whilst a very fine copy exists of No. 50 printed on both sides.

The earlier S.A. stamps, including the first issue, are strongly represented, fine copies being the rule rather than the exception; and I particularly noticed a lovely block of 8 of the 6d. imperf. (No. 3), a stamp which seems to be a great deal scarcer than the catalogue price would imply. There are five good copies of the 3d. carmine surcharged (No. 109), three of which are very well centred, a most unusual feature in these stamps. Other rarities which catch one's attention are the 4d. roulette and perf. (three copies), 4d. on Victorian paper (two copies), 9d. p. 11½ x roulette (the two latter being almost the scarest of the standard issues), whilst in proofs there is a magnificent block of 8 of the first 4d. printed in black, and a block of 10 of the 9d. likewise in black, also a single copy of the 4d. printed in the pale carmine shade in which the 2/- was first issued. I also saw an interesting variety of the 9d., which is uncatalogued, viz., perf. 11½ x 12½, and also rouletted inside the 12½ perf. on the left-hand side, and the 9d. mauve (No. 141) printed on both sides. The latter, and also No. 50 previously mentioned, is a true double print, and not merely coloured on the back through being pressed on the face of the underneath sheet before it was dry.

The middle issues are strongly represented, particularly the high values, many of which are in mint blocks of four.

A glance at these pages would, I feel sure, gladden the heart of the most apathetic Postmaster-General when he thought of the good sovereigns stamp collectors put in the way of his department without demanding the expenditure of more than a few pence for the printing and handling of the stamps. Imagine Mr. Fraser's joy at beholding three pages of this collection, each containing 14 stamps of the respective values of 5/-, 10/-, and £1! Space does not permit of more than a passing reference to these issues, but I noticed in the "Thin Postage" series two unused and one copy of the £1 (the latter being probably the rarer), a block of four of the 10/- compound perf. 11½ (3 sides) x 12½, a block of 8d. showing the error "EIGNT," and a lot of the marginal stamps showing error in watermark "SUOTH," amongst the latter being the £1 (thick), which must be almost unique. In the "Thick Postage" I saw the scarce block of 3d. perf. 11 all round, with a line of 12 running at the top of the tablet of value in the lower stamps, referred to previously in journal, Vol. 1, No. 9, whilst here, as elsewhere throughout the collection, many freaks of perforation or non-perforation, shades, printing, &c., are seen.

Another capital article deals with the curious perforation vagaries of the current Queensland 2d. stamps. Other features are a list of new issues, a goodly budget of Societies Reports and a letter from Mr. F. B. Barton of New Zealand, entitled—"People in Glass Houses shouldn't Throw Stones"—wherein he sarcastically, but truly points out that the stamp printers of Great Britain are now doing what their *confreres* of Australasia did a few years ago, namely creating numerous uncalled for errors of paper and colour. We writhe under the sting of Mr. Barton's lash, nevertheless, as one of the dwellers in the glass house we would point out that in common with other Londoners, we have already ventilated our own dwelling house with numerous brickbats. Anyway we have not come to

mixed perforation yet, altho', whisper it not in Gath, we tremble for what might happen were our own Government jobbers aware that such freaks could be produced.

Our appreciation of the August *Australian Stamp Journal* speaks for itself in the length of our review.

Roessler's Stamp News is always an amusing little paper, and the copy before us more so than ever. There are so many "heavy" magazines that we appreciate the "breeziness" of our wee contemporary. True, *Roessler's* never contains anything but snappy paragraphs, and offers of cheap stamps, but a little leaven livens up the windy official decrees of some of its more pretentious competitors. The following clipping is typical, while we note that the publisher is advertising copies of the stamp at 3 cents. We should like a few.

VICTORIA PROVISIONAL.

This Australian State, eminently respectable heretofore, has gone wrong. It surcharges the 2d. violet in red ink, "ONE PENNY," and gives as an excuse, "the print shop burned down." 'Tis a poor excuse, and not a new one. Only a few months ago Denmark worked it. Victoria could have used the stamps of any of the Australian States; but that would not have put 1,000,000 2c. pieces into the treasury.

The August number of the *Australian Philatelist* contains several readable contributions, mostly in the nature of an editorial, correspondence from collectors in New Zealand, relating to the postal methods of to-day, and an article entitled, "Some Notes on Perforations and Colours," contributed by "Timbrologist."

Lengthy reports of various Philatelic Societies, an up-to-date list of New Issues, four pages devoted to a rough draft of rules, competition, etc., for the London Jubilee Exhibition, and the following short article, all help to fill the pages of our old established Sydney contemporary.

AN EASY METHOD OF DISTINGUISHING ENGRAVED FROM LITHOGRAPHED STAMPS.

In the course of some correspondence with Mr. W. D. Ulph, the question of being able to distinguish between the engraved and lithographed issues of Chili cropped up.

Mr. Ulph now informs us that he has been told that tinfoil is a sure test whereby to distinguish an engraved stamp, as it will give an impression on the tinfoil (more or less according to printing), if it is rubbed gently over the stamp with the finger. A lithographed stamp will not transmit any part of its design on the tinfoil. An engraved specimen will not always give a very distinct copy, but one can invariably trace a portion of the design.

When one considers that the ink of stamps printed by the lithographic process is absorbed into the paper and presents a perfectly smooth surface, and that the printing of stamps from a plate causes the ink to stand

up in ridges no matter however minute, the tinfoil must necessarily show the whole or part of an impression when it is slightly rubbed.

We think that a burnisher or something equally as smooth would be better than a finger for rubbing purposes.

The September number of the *Philatelic Journal of India* is the best number of our Eastern exchange we have seen for many "moons." It is hard to eulogize any one contribution, but recent numbers of the *P.J. of I.* have been so meagre that we welcome even the shortest of original articles. Mr. J. Godinho writes about the recently issued provisionals of Portuguese India, describing the various errors, quantities printed, etc. The following brief extract relating to Indian stamps may interest some of our readers:—

BRITISH INDIA TELEGRAPH STAMPS SURCHARGED "ON H.M.S."

With reference to the statement appearing in some philatelic journals, Sir Charles Stewart-Wilson, the present Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, informs us that a certain number of sheets of the higher values of the last issue of the long telegraph stamps (Edwardian type), were overprinted "On H.M.S.," the intention being to use them on official or service telegrams, but it is doubtful if any were actually used as the stock was burnt.

Correspondence.

18th Sept., 1912.

To the Editor, "P.J. of G.B."

LEVANT STAMPS.

DEAR SIR,

The following, if found to be correct, may possibly be of use to the readers of the *Journal*. As you know, the 4d. Harrison, perf. 14 all round, has recently been overprinted $1\frac{1}{2}$ piastres. In the ordinary course of events, this stamp is very difficult to distinguish from the 4d. De La Rue (orange) similarly overprinted, but in the specimen I have seen of the later printing, the fraction of the overprint is much clearer, and the "4" of the fraction considerably larger and thinner than that on the De La Rue prints. By comparison, the difference is very obvious, and I am wondering whether it is constant throughout the printing.

Yours faithfully,

KENNETH N. BEAUMONT.

The International Philatelic Union will hold their Eighth Annual Smoking Concert on November 25th, at the Holborn Restaurant. Mr. W. E. Lincoln has the programme well in hand and tickets, which are now ready, can be obtained from any of the members of the Committee.



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

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[PRICE 2D.]

♦ ♦ Editorial. ♦ ♦

ONE of the greatest lessons which the recently held exhibition at the Royal Horticultural Hall has taught collectors is: that not only are the days of the general

Lessons of the Exhibition.

collector numbered, but that the specialist, as far as his love for single countries is concerned, is also doomed. In other words the time has come when collectors will find their time fully occupied in collecting the stamps, and their attendant essays, proofs, etc., of a single issue. A notable example of this was a fine display of early Rivadavia stamps exhibited by a North of England collector, stamps which, if we err not, have kept their owner busy during the years he has been collecting, without sparing him much time to run after other loves. The "pence" issues of Ceylon are another group which afford scope for almost undivided attention, while the line-engraved stamps of New Zealand, New South Wales, South Australia, Great Britain, and many more, are sufficient in themselves to retain the attention of any keen collector, unless he is allied with a banking account which knows practically no limitations.

Other instances afforded at the Exhibition of specialized single issues were Mr. Pack's

wonderful lot of Dilegencias and Brazils; Messrs. Wade & Higlett's Dutch, and others, all evincing a vast amount of time and study, which, had it been put into a general collection would have been completely swamped.

Another, and a very pleasing lesson was the *keenness* which collectors showed at the Exhibition. Apart from dealers, private and otherwise, who had a business reason for their devotedness, there were hundreds of collectors who spent many hours every day in wandering round the Hall seeking other enthusiasts who were equally keen on having a philatelic "chat" without any after-thought of buying or selling. This interest in our hobby was also reflected by the many juniors who spent happy hours in viewing the displayed, and to them unobtainable, treasures which were scattered in such profusion.

The Philatelic Club, another successful feature, has already borne fruit, inasmuch as Londoners now have a rendezvous (and we hope a permanent one), where they can, in Temple Chambers, exchange stamps and meet other collectors who, finding time hang heavily, drop in for an hour's conversation with one or more enthusiasts.

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.

Great Britain. *The British Philatelist* announces the discovery of another imperforate of the old Penny, plate-number series:

Our publishers have shown us an undoubtedly used copy of the old One Penny, plate 79, imperforate. The copy is lettered "AM—MA", and is therefore the first stamp in the thirteenth horizontal row: it has a very good margin on the left, and a fair one on the right, the width of the specimen being considerably more than the space between the vertical rows of pins, as set in the "vertical" comb-machines then in use. We mention this, as a critic might unthinkingly condemn it, because cut from the edge of the sheet.

Bahamas. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the 1d. stamp with head of King George.

Adhesive. King George. Multiple C.A. wmk.
1d. rose.

Bechuanaland Protectorate. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the Georgian 1d. red, improved design (shaded lion) overprinted for use in the Protectorate. The Control is BIR.

Adhesive.
1d. red.

Canada. *The Monthly Journal* chronicles the following:

"We have received the 5c. King George in a very markedly altered shade, *deep ultramarine* instead of the previous *deep indigo*."

East Africa and Uganda. Mr. R. C. Victor de Sousa, of Molo, has very kindly sent us specimens of the following novelties:

Adhesives. King George. Multiple wmk.
12c. grey.
15c. blue.
50c. mauve and black on chalky paper.

Fiji. In our August number we chronicled, on the authority of the *Colonial Office Journal*, 5/- and 20/- King George stamps.

The *Australian Stamp Journal*, for Sept. 10th, contains the following:—

"Several of our contemporaries, notably the *London Philatelist*, have stated that they have seen 'specimen' copies of three new stamps, of the values of 1d., 5/- and £1, bearing the small Georgian head, and that they have been despatched to that Colony.

"We received last week a letter from a correspondent at Suva, dated 28th August, in which he sends us a supply of the ½d. Georgian stamps (referred to on a previous occasion) and some £1 stamps. These are

in purple and black on red, as described by our contemporaries, but we were astonished to find that instead of the portrait being that of King George, they bore the portrait of His late Majesty King Edward. We began to wonder whether this stamp was new or not. We have never seen it before, and we have no recollection of having seen it chronicled. Our correspondent merely said in his letter that he was enclosing some £1 stamps. He did not even mention the ½d. stamps, and we think he must have got them after he had written his letter. It is evident, however, that a stock of £1 stamps, bearing the portrait of King Edward, must have been sent out to Fiji, and the question arises, are they going to be withdrawn from sale when those bearing the portrait of King George have reached the island, or will the latter be held over until the supply of the King Edward stamps has been exhausted? We have not had time to make further inquiries into this matter, but we hope to be able to publish some fresh information next month. We may add, however, that the new £1 stamp is in the same colours as the 1d. stamp which was issued in 1903 and superseded in 1906, except that the purple is a little brighter."

Wmk. multiple Crown and C.A.
½d. green, King George, ordinary paper.
£1 purple and black on red, King Edward, chalky paper.

Grenada. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. are officially informed that new stamps bearing the portrait of King George V. will be issued on January 1st, and that the stock on hand of the issues now current will be then burnt.

India. The *London Philatelist* chronicles the 5 rupees stamp of the Georgian issue.

Adhesive.
5 rupees, violet and bright blue.

Nova Scotia. We extract the following interesting information from the current number of the *Monthly Journal*.

"Mr. W. E. Hidden tells us that he has in his collection a curiosity which he estimates as unique; this is the 1s. stamp of the Nova Scotia first issue, with one quarter of the stamp cut out, and the remainder used as a 9d. value. It has for some years been known that the 1s. stamp had been met with quartered and each quarter used as a provisional 3d., but we believe the discovery of such a provisional 9d. has not hitherto been noted."

Hidden treasure.

Queensland. We are indebted to the *Australian Stamp Journal* for the following:

"One of our correspondents has informed us that he has found the 5d. current stamp with the peculiar perforations referred to last month.

Wmk. Cr. & A.
5d. Queen's Head, dull brown, perf. 13x11, etc.

Rhodesia. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* says:

"In our latest consignment the 6d. of the Royal Portrait set appears in a distinctly new shade."

Adhesive.
6d. deep brown centre instead of grey-brown.

Sierra Leone. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have kindly sent us some of the new King George stamps. The full set as chronicled in *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* for Nov. 9th, is as follows:

- Adhesives.* King George.
- ½d. green.
 - 1½d. orange.
 - 2d. grey.
 - 2½d. blue.
 - 4d. black and red on yellow.
 - 5d. lilac and green.
 - 6d. lilac.
 - 7d. lilac and orange.
 - 9d. .. black.
 - 10d. .. red.

We have already chronicled the 1d. value.

Southern Nigeria. For £1, black and purple on *yellow*, on page 187, read £1, black and purple on *red*.

Straits Settlements. *Kedah.* We are indebted to the *London Philatelist* for the following:

"The High Commissioner for the Malay States informs us that prior to the transfer of suzerainty of Kedah to Great Britain, Siamese stamps were used there, and we have seen a large number of these with the Kedah postmark.

From the time of the British suzerainty (1911) until the present issue, the stamps of the Federated Malay States were used, and we have seen the 1c., 3c., 4c., 5c., 8c., 10c., 20c., 50c., \$1 and \$2 so used with Kedah postmarks."

Sudan. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* says:

"Mr. A. S. Mackenzie Low has shown us a block of the 10 piastres surcharged O.S.G.S. with watermark star and crescent, which he received from Egypt ten days ago."

Adhesive. Multiple wmk. Overprinted O.S.G.S.
10 piastres, mauve and black.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Belgium. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have shown us another of the new King Albert stamps, namely, the 2 fcs.

Adhesive.
2 fr. violet.

Bolivia. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

send us another of the fiscal stamps, overprinted for postal use.

Fiscal, overprinted "CORREOS 1912."
10c. vermilion.

The *Monthly Journal* chronicles another provisional, of which only 300 were made; it is the twenty centavos of 1901, surcharged and overprinted diagonally in black, "5 Centavos, 1911."

Provisional.
5c. or 20c. black and lilac.

Chili. The *London Philatelist* says:

"Messrs. Alfred Smith and Son have kindly shown us a new 10 centavos stamp.

The portrait in black is O'Higgins, and the colour of the rest of the stamp is blue.

Adhesive.
10 centavos, blue and black, perf. 12."

Guatemala. We are indebted to the *Monthly Journal* for the following information:

"This republic is becoming all too liberal with provisional surcharges; the three latest are all set in different style on three different high values of the 1902 issue."

1c. on 20c. black and claret.
2c. on 50c. blue and brown.
5c. on 75c. black and lilac.

Hayti. Several of our contemporaries are chronicling the new President Leconte stamps. The following have, we believe, been already issued.

1c. lake.
2c. yellow.

Paraguay. The *Monthly Journal* chronicles a new provisional, namely the 50c. of the 1910 type overprinted "Habilitado en VEINTE."

Portugal. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the current 1c. and 2c. Portuguese stamps overprinted "Assistencia."

Azores. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us a complete set of the new stamps. Our Strand contemporary lists the colours as follows.

- ½c. brown-olive.
- ¾c. black.
- 1c. deep green.
- 1½c. chocolate.
- 2c. carmine.
- 2½c. violet.
- 5c. blue.
- 7½c. yellow-brown.
- 8c. slate.
- 10c. brown-red.
- 15c. claret.
- 20c. chocolate on green.
- 30c. brown on rose.
- 50c. orange on salmon.
- 1 esc. deep green on blue.

Portuguese India. We have received some further bisected provisionals without the Republica overprint.

1½r. on 4 tangas, blue on blue.
3r. on 2 .. brown.

Russia. *Post Offices in the Levant.* The *Monthly Journal* chronicles the following:

"Five new provisionals, with a fresh setting of the surcharges, have lately arrived. They bear no town-name, so that we presume they are for general use, and hope that the localized system of overprinting is to be discontinued."

20 par. on 5k., dull purple.
 1½ pi. on 15k., ultramarine and purple.
 2 pi. on 20k., carmine and blue.
 2½ pi. on 25k., mauve and grey-green.
 3½ pi. on 35k., green and purple.

Uruguay. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us two more values of the locally lithographed stamps.

Adhesives. Perf. 11½.
 5 mills, plum.
 5 centesimos, blue.

New Leaves to Cut.

KING EDWARD VII. LAND.*

BY ALEXANDER J. SÉFI.

THIS little work, attractively bound and illustrated, is a welcome addition to the vast array of cheap philatelic literature which has been placed on the market during the past few years.

Mr. Séfi, drawing on Sir Ernest Shackleton's "The Heart of the Antarctic," gives a brief but attractive account of the great expedition which so nearly reached the South Pole, while, naturally enough, he lays special stress on the fact that Sir Ernest was constituted postmaster and carried a supply of New Zealand stamps, which were overprinted "King Edward VII. Land." We learn, from official documents, that £100 worth of 1d. New Zealand stamps were so overprinted, all of which, with the exception of about 500, were taken on board the "Nimrod." The 500 odd being distributed among the offices of the Universal Post Union, except a few—sixty in all—which were retained as specimens at the Wellington N.Z. Post Office.

Mr. Séfi's little monogram, is, as we have already hinted, admirably illustrated, including a capital photo of the "Nimrod," a complete sheet of the King Edward VII. Land stamps, an original cover, franked with one of these labels, etc., etc.

Those of our readers, who, for the modest sum of sixpence, would like to be geographically and philatelically amused for half-an-hour, will do well to secure a copy of Mr. Séfi's latest.

HISTORY OF THE CITY OF LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.†

This work, compiled by Mr. A. C. Constantinides, will find a circle of appreciative readers amongst the members of the City of

London Philatelic Society, also we hope amongst members of other Societies. It is a capital history of how a successful Stamp Club was inaugurated, and carried to its present high position; Mr. Constantinides, having served energetically as Hon. Secretary for several years, is thoroughly *au fait* with the inner workings of a popular Stamp Club, and he compels his readers attention from the very beginning of his preface.

Divided into five sections we find that the first deals with the early doings of the Society, when, in 1902, Mr. Albert H. Harris, together with two or three other enthusiasts, founded the Enterprise Stamp Club. Section II. treats of the Society in its new headquarters at Devonshire House Hotel, and we find that the Society had so increased its roll that larger premises were desirable, while the title, City of London Philatelic Society, was adopted. Section III. takes us down to the end of 1908, and, as in other chapters, we find interesting accounts of the various innovations and schemes which were concocted by the Committee on behalf of their members. Section IV. deals with the present meeting place, and also touches on the fact that it was at the meeting held on December 9th, 1908, that the membership total exceeded the "century." We also find the usual references to the items which have proved of importance in the annals of the Society. Section V. deals with present day affairs and we are pleased to note that no fewer than 116 philatelists are enrolled under the Club's banner. On the 8th of November of last year thirty-five members were present to welcome Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg when he shewed his Sydney Views. We doubt if there is any other Society in Great Britain of which such a goodly proportion of the members attend the monthly meetings. An appendix contains a list of members and their date of joining, a list of the papers read before the Society (apart from displays), and other particulars. Every club member will find this book of considerable interest, and we feel sure that many who read such a carefully compiled history will wish to join a Society which is second to none from the standpoint of having enjoyable evenings and displays, not of the dry-as-dust order, but friendly, instructive, and eminently interesting.

THE MARGINAL VARIETIES OF THE EDWARDIAN STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN, 1902-1912.*

By S. C. BUCKLEY.

We have received a copy of this little book from the publisher, and find that it presents a great deal of useful information

*Published by D. Field, Royal Arcade, Old Bond Street, W. Price 6d. nett.

†Published by the Society. Hon. Sec., Duncan Pringle, 38, Grafton Road, Muswell Hill, N. Price 6d. nett.

*Published by Oswald Marsh, 18, Hamlet Road, Norwood, S.E. Price 2/6 nett.

regarding the perplexing marginal varieties which have appeared of late years. Mr. Buckley's introductory notes are lengthy and interesting, giving as he does practically a *resumé* of the causes of the various varieties; we do not, however, agree with him when he states that "There are very few philatelists, it may safely be said, who have thought it worth their while to get together a collection of the marginal varieties of the stamps of our own country." Judging from the book under review, the many advertisements which have appeared in the philatelic papers, and the recently circulated Post Office decree forbidding post office clerks to mutilate their sheets, we think that collectors have, for several years, been very keen in their search for these varieties.

Mr. Buckley, distinguishing between Harrison and De La Rue printed stamps, says:—"The difference is easily distinguished in the case of unused stamps by laying them face down on the table, when the De La Rue stamp is seen to have a yellowish gum, which renders the paper rather opaque; whereas the Harrison colourless transparent gum allows the design of the stamp to be seen clearly through the paper."

All values, from the $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to the £1, are discussed, and we find a wealth of information relating to the control letters, continuous marginal lines, broken lines, rounded lines, shades, dates, cuts, and the dozen and one varieties so dear to the collector's heart. Every value is illustrated, sometimes by "miniature" sheets, and Mr. Buckley's work will be much appreciated by many.

Current Chatter.

BY ANGUS MCTAVISH.

ONE of the visitors to the Exhibition banquet, Fee Foo Fum from Hang Chop, asked me why it was that the company consisted of Somerset House officials, stamp collectors, notables, dealers and the wives of dealers. In the fruity and picturesque pidgin jargon of the East he said—

"Muchee large chop chop—plenty big dam swell—allee eat two times twice expansively—allee swallow too muchee wet—catchee devilish top piece mollow early day. Muchee big collector of sticky bottom sides, muchee big dam manderin—velly muchee big and unbig quantity dealer chap—muchee swollen wiffee b'long dealer fellow, but velly little wiffee b'long one piece collector man."

I suppose it must be that collectors are too busy hunting for new varieties to be able to spare time to get married, or else they leave the better half at home to look after the new issues. Anyway it would be a hard matter to explain to Fee Foo Fum.

Another visitor to the Exhibition, this time an Englishman from somewhere north of Highgate Ponds, told me that it was a very good thing the show closed on Saturday night; as it was he had collected so many ginger beers during the week, that on Sunday he could hardly hear himself speak owing to the splashing noise his food made as he swallowed it. Aye, lads, it was a gradely time, but I wish I'd coom oop a day earlier.

The wee manee from Southend-on-Thames who was seen following Long Jock from Oban late on Saturday night at the Exhibish was heard to say that he was glad that he hadn't been shipmates with Jock and that in future he wouldn't collect stamps with Camels, Giraffes or Deserts on them. They would make him feel thirsty.

Police Constable Bishop, of Chancery Lane division, said it was a good thing there was a lift connecting the first floor with the main hall, otherwise his Cliftonville friend would have got a nasty twist when he tried to jump the staircase.

Several well known dealers didn't have stalls at the Exhibition—while many less known dealers were heard to say that they couldn't see the fun of sticking behind a stall when there was such a wealth of collectors who could be waylaid and carried off for a quite quiet little yarn upstairs. Anyway, as the Show got older the private dealers got more numerous and the "no dealing allowed except by stall-holders" notices got fewer; Messrs. Brown, Haverson, Woolybear & Co. said the notice cards did nicely to tot up their takings on.

Judging from the sounds of mirth which frequently came from the corner near the band stand, frequented by Curley Will, Undertaker Cuthbert, St. Patrick, Uncle John, Certainly-not-Percival, and a dozen more of the bhoys, stamp collecting must be a very humorous pastime.

I am told that taxi drivers are petitioning for another Stamp Exhibition to be held at the Horticultural Hall, especially the chap who took a country visitor to the Hagricultural Hall by — mistake.

The Horticultural Hall people are, I am told, thinking of changing the name of the place and calling it Baronial Hall. Baron Reuterwormhuvud says he doesn't mind if they do.

The two Post Office officials at the Exhibition could not have been more obliging and courteous, but I think they were awed by numbers. I will, however, subscribe a shilling to go towards a wreath for the first collector who strolls into their permanent office and

asks for a block of four from the lower half of the sheet with a control on it.

Somebody, I have forgotten who, said that he—or she—had been told that the Hall was damp. The only damp spot I could find was the right-hand corner as you went in. W. H. Peckitt's frames of rarities must, however, have been rather dampening to those collectors who think they have everything.

Mr. J. E. Heginbottom, B.A., writing in the September number of the *Stamp Collector*, under the heading, "Australasian Stamps, Victoria," informs his readers that:—

"Old-Age-Pensions of 7/- per week and not to exceed 10/-, have been established."

This I suppose is to enable them to buy either Melville's or Hinton's Hints to *Stamp Collecting*.

Continuing, Mr. Heginbottom, B.A., writes:

"There is a Parliament of two Houses: the Legislative Council of 48 Members, one-third of whom retire every two years, and the Legislative Assembly of 95 Members, elected by universal suffrage for three years. Clergy of any denominations and convicted felons, are excluded from both."

Seems a bit rough on the parsons. Another half page of *philately* and I learn that "The College of Pharmacy is also affiliated to the Melbourne University."

Next time I want to write about the stamps of Eastern Roumelia I shall first enquire at the Chilian emigration office for a pamphlet or two.

An advertiser in the one and only Birmingham stamp paper records the fact (?) that he gave away in August last a "Transvaal 1896, 4c. green, mint," to his subscribers; at the same time he wants to know what "other paper can show such a good record in gifts?" That stumps me.

Some of the visitors to the Exhibition, after availing themselves of a free entrance ticket, free information from the weary officials, and dealers, free music, and a free opportunity to gaze at many thousands of pounds worth of stamps are now grumbling because *every* country wasn't represented! Good Lord, some Englishmen strain their natural privilege.

Several visitors to the Exhibish: all of the fair sex (bless 'em) wanted to know where the famous missionary stamps (Hawaiian) were. One charmer, who didn't look as old as she might have been, asked me where the "Missionaries" were. I pointed out the Rev. Metcalfe and the Bishop, and she was charmed. Dear old soul.

Judging by the news from the Balkan War, which has been published in the London papers, the collector of postmarks will have a busy time of it in the near future.

The following extracts from the *Daily Telegraph* may be of value to any of my readers who are preparing their papers on Balkan War cancellations:—

"October 21st. Our correspondent at Constantinople wires as follows:

"Turkish army everywhere triumphant. Pasha Cachou, with the eighty-first division, has attacked, stormed and taken Sofia and Ananias. Terrific slaughter. 7,000 Bulgars killed, 70,000 prisoners. Seven of the Faithful wounded. Allah be praised."

"October 21st. Our correspondent at Sofia wires as follows:

"Bulgarian army, aided by a few Greek and Servian irregulars, stormed Constantinople last night, now before Jerusalem. Wonderful feat of endurance on the part of the hardy mountaineers. Expect to march on Teheran to-morrow. General Smellavitch estimates Turkish losses at 35,000 killed and eight wounded (but not captured). Turks fleeing in direction of Bombay."

"Oct. 22nd. From Constantinople. The Crescent everywhere rampant, Bulgars, Serbs and Greeks, all exterminated this side of Paris. Pasha Catabaptist, wiring from Boulogne Sur-Mer, says 'Just chased and killed 40,000 Slavs and Greeks, forty wounded captured, all of whom have since died. Two divisions of Servians fleeing in direction of Amsterdam.'—Infidel dogs.

"Oct. 22nd. From Sofia. 'Remnant of Turkish Army, estimated at 90,000, overtaken by the gallant 12th Regiment of Bulgars at Colombo, and General Assinatevitch (late of Belgrade) estimates Turkish casualties at 95,000 killed and 10,000 drowned attempting to swim to the Maldiv Islands.'

"Oct. 23rd to 31st. Etc., etc., only more so. Nov. 1st, reported capture of Levuka. Port Moresby and the Solomon Islands by the Servian Fleet.

"Nov. 2nd. Bombardment of Yakutsk, Tomsk and Reykjavik by the Crescent gun-boat 'Mumid Allah Akbar.'"

Parliamentary News.

REGISTERED LETTERS IN THE TITANIC.

MR. H. SAMUEL, in reply to Mr. French (Nat., S. Wexford), said he was advised that, on the finding of the Court of Inquiry, the loss of the Titanic was to be attributed to causes beyond control; and, under the regulations published in the Post Office Guide, no compensation was payable in respect of a registered letter addressed to a place abroad and lost in such circumstances, shipwreck being specifically excluded by those regulations. He regretted that compensation must, therefore, be refused in these cases. Compensation was being paid in cases where letters and parcels lost in the Titanic were insured.—*Daily Telegraph*, Nov. 5th, 1912.

The London Philatelic Club,

41/2, TEMPLE CHAMBERS,
TEMPLE AVENUE, E.C. . .

A SMALL, but, as the novelists say, a very select party of philatelists gathered together in the Temple Chambers on Saturday afternoon as the guests of Messrs. Wickhart and Vallancey, on the occasion of the formal opening of the long needed Philatelic Club for London. The new club, which it is hoped will be the headquarters for all visiting collectors to London, is conveniently situated a few minutes walk from Fleet Street, close to the scurry and bustle of the newspaper world and the comparative quietness of the Thames Embankment.

At present the club accommodation is limited to two cosily furnished, and convenient main rooms and offices, but immediately the need arises other suites of offices can be thrown open, so members may rest assured that their comfort will always be one of the main objectives of the energetic managers. The premises have been adequately, and comfortably furnished, and are fitted with electric light, proper heating arrangements, writing tables, files of papers, etc., and in fact combine on a miniature scale practically all the comforts so lavishly displayed in the bigger club-land of Pall Mall. Refreshments of a non-alcoholic nature can be obtained on the premises, and, judging from the dainty tea which was prepared for the edification of the visitors on their visit of inspection, we feel sure that invitations to tea at the Philatelic Club will be a feature of the near future.

A list of rules has been drawn up and, although one or two need a little revising, they constitute an admirable *modus operandi*.

The following are a few extracts :

OBJECTS.

To provide stamp collectors in London, the Provinces, and abroad, with a central place where they can meet in friendly intercourse for the exchange of duplicates, discussions on philatelic matters, etc., etc., with some of the advantages of a cosy club room.

To further the interests of philatelists, and individually as well as collectively, to promote good fellowship, and in all other ways to extend the hobby of stamp collecting.

RULES AND MEMBERSHIP.

(1) The Club shall be limited to stamp collectors, so that every member on meeting another member in the Club rooms may at once exchange views without the formality of introduction, the Freemasonry of the hobby promoting the friendly intercourse. The Club shall consist of subscribing members, and such honorary members as the Managers may, in their discretion, admit to its privileges and advantages.

Although the object of the club is to promote good fellowship and exchange of duplicates, no objection will be raised to the sale of stamps on the Club premises, provided it is not made a practice of.

(5) No member may introduce a stranger into the Club rooms without the consent of the Managers, the *raison d'être* of the Club being the friendly intercourse of stamp collectors *only*. It is considered necessary to make this stipulation in order that members' comfort may not be interfered with, the obvious deduction to be drawn from membership being that every person in the Club rooms is a philatelist.

(6) The Club shall be open on week days *only*, from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m., or later, if the Managers consider it necessary.

One or more of the rooms may be placed at the disposal of any philatelic society or exchange club, etc., etc., for any particular evening previously arranged for, at the nominal charge of 5/-, including heating and lighting. But such meeting must close not later than 10 p.m.

Rule 5 will, in our opinion, need altering. The subscription has been fixed at the nominal amount of half a guinea, no entrance fee being payable by the first 250 members. We trust that the energetic managers will soon have to call upon members for their entrance money.

A copy of the rules, etc., will be forwarded to any of our readers who apply to the Managers at the above address, provided they mention this paper and do not forget to enclose return postage.

City of London Philatelic Society.

THE 83rd monthly meeting was held at 14, Broad Street Place, E.C. on Wednesday November 13th.

The first part of the meeting was taken up by Mr. T. G. Arnold's "Display and Notes of British Americans." The stamps he showed were very complete, and practically all in fine used condition. Several uncatalogued varieties being shown. The stamps were universally admired and a hearty vote of thanks was passed by the members.

The second part of the meeting was taken up by a competition, "ten minute papers," which brought forward three very interesting entries from Messrs. W. B. Edwards, D. H. Jackson and J. P. Smart. The publishers of the *P.J.G.B.* have much pleasure in publishing Mr. Smart's paper below, and hope to receive the two others in due course.

At the next meeting, December 11th, we have two very fine displays. "France" by Mr. G. A. Higglett and "Cape of Good Hope" by Mr. F. C. Graham. I hope there will be a record attendance.

We have started this season well, 27 members being present at last meeting. During the evening seven new members were elected, making twelve for the season.

The Hon. Secretary will be pleased to send reports on to any collectors who would like to become members.

Will members kindly return their membership forms, which will be found at the back of the reports, filled in, to the Hon. Secretary at once.

DUNCAN PRINGLE, *Hon. Secretary*,
38, Crasmere Road, Muswell Hill, N.

Used Stamps not Postmarked

AND

Postmarked Stamps not used.

BY J. P. SMART.

WHAT is a used stamp? This would seem on the face of it an easy question to answer. But is it? It is only the ignorant who would venture an immediate reply. The more one knows of philately the greater the difficulty of defining a used stamp.

I suppose it is a common experience to receive letters, the stamps on which have escaped obliteration. I exhibit four of these. Three were given to me by the recipients, and the fourth I bought from a dealer. The three which were given to me certainly are used stamps, in the sense that they have served the purpose of their existence in pre-paying the cost of the conveyance of letters. But would a philatelist regard them as used stamps? Would he include them in his collection as used? And, if so, would he like the whole of his collection to consist of specimens in this condition?

As you know there are some stamps scarcer and dearer used than unused. Now if a collector is satisfied to include an unobliterated stamp in his album as a used stamp, how is he to distinguish between one which has genuinely gone through the post and one which has been simply stuck on to an envelope and then cut off. For if it be accepted that a stamp which has escaped obliteration is a used stamp what is to prevent the manufacture of scarce used stamps by means of the process I have indicated above.

But I will presume my supposed collector to reply: "No, I do not regard such stamps as used, I would call them philatelic curiosities." And I would be inclined to agree with him. I like used stamps to be postmarked, lightly and clearly. But then the question arises: Are all postmarked stamps used stamps? I should like to believe so, but I cannot. If an obliging Colonial post-master obliterates stamps on an envelope lightly

and clearly and hands them back to the purchaser, does this process convert them into used stamps? Or we will even presume that the envelope (empty, or containing some waste paper), is put into the post box and conveyed by the postal authorities to its destination, does this going through the post make the stamps used stamps? Or would you describe all such stamps as being postmarked to order? And how is the collector to distinguish between postally used stamps and those which are not?

As illustrating this difficulty, I pass round two sheets, the one containing a set of Gambia up to 1/- of the universal colours of King Edward, and the other a similar set of Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Gambia set I purchased from a dealer, and he charged me 6/-, being on the basis of one-third above face value. I rather objected to paying more than face value for used current stamps, but he replied that if he put them in his window they would sell immediately! So I paid his price. Now, if you will examine these stamps you will observe that four of them, the 2d., 3d., 4d. and 6d., all bear the same postmark date "10 Nov.," and other four 1d., 5d., 7½d. and 10d., are dated "22 Sep. 11." With the exception of the 1d. all bear part of the word "Registered". You will notice that all the stamps are in fine used condition, being clearly and lightly obliterated.

If you will now look at the set of Turks and Caicos Islands (which I bought from another dealer for 3/-) you will find that all of them (with the exception of the ½d.) are postmarked "Turk's Islands, May 2, 11" and they are all on pieces of the same rough paper. You will also observe that some of the papers have blue pencil lines *under* the stamp.

This set also is in fine used condition, being clearly and lightly obliterated.

But I am not satisfied that these two sets are used stamps; in fact I am very suspicious of them. They seem to me to be postmarked to order. There is a demand for current British Colonials in fine used condition, and—they are supplied. If collectors are foolish enough, myself among the number, to pay 33½% above the face value for current Colonials, it stands to reason that a fair profit can be made by supplying them with what they want. But can such stamps as I have exhibited be regarded as genuinely used? What would a serious philatelist say? He would probably call them genuine stamps postmarked but not postally used, and I am of opinion that he would be correct in so describing them.

Now a few words respecting the difficulty of detecting these "postmarked to order" stamps. Of course, shown to you all together, as I have done, you immediately jump to the conclusion that they are not genuinely used; but suppose that twenty members of

this Society had in their collections specimens of these twenty stamps in a similar condition to those which I have passed round, and that they met one evening at this table and exchanged their stamps in such a way that each retained only one of his original set and received one from each of the others. Could anyone then by examining the re-arranged collections separately, not collectively, be able to pick out any stamp as not genuinely used? I do not think it would be possible. But perhaps in course of time careful research will prove that certain stamps postmarked with certain dates are probably not postally used, and collectors will be officially warned not to buy such stamps. Then there would be examination of albums and wailing! Can nothing be done to stop the production of such "post-marked-to-oblige" stamps at once by the action of this and other Philatelic Societies? I appeal to our Committee to take this subject into consideration.

At present such postmarked stamps are officially recognised as used stamps. In the recent Exhibition I noticed a set of Gambia very similar to my own, and I also saw a set of some country (I forget its name) gummed on an envelope and cancelled with neat and careful postmarks!

Jubilee International Stamp Exhibition, London, 1912.

Judges:

E. D. BACON. ALBERT COYETTE.
L. L. R. HAUSBURG. NILS STRANDELL.
Baron A. DE REUTERSKIOLD. R. B. YARDLEY.

LIST OF AWARDS,

Note: The italic numerals in parentheses indicate the sections.

Class A.

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|---|---|------------|
| (1) | Baron A de Worms | - | - | Great Gold |
| | S. Loder | - | - | " " |
| (2) | A. J. Warren | - | - | " " |
| | Dr. A. Chiesa | - | - | Gold |
| | V. Beaujeux | - | - | " |

Class B.

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|---|---|-------------|
| (1) | W. M. Gray | - | - | Gold |
| | L. A. B. Paine | - | - | Silver |
| | T. H. Hinton | - | - | Bronze |
| (2) | No Exhibit. | | | |
| (3) | R. M. R. Milne | - | - | Silver Gilt |
| | J. C. Sidebotham | - | - | Silver |
| | H. Clark | - | - | Bronze |
| (4) | Mendel and J. R. M. Albrecht | - | - | Silver Gilt |
| | J. R. M. Albrecht | - | - | Bronze |

Class C.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|---|---|--------|
| (1) | E. R. Ackerman | - | - | Gold |
| | H. M. Hepworth | - | - | Silver |
| | O. K. Trechman | - | - | " |

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|---|---|------------------|
| (2) | C. L. Bagnall | - | - | Silver |
| (3) | H. Grey | - | - | Gold |
| | Major H. C. French | - | - | Silver Gilt |
| | W. M. Gray | - | - | " " |
| | H. Grey | - | - | Silver |
| (4) | H. H. Harland | - | - | Mr. Field's Gold |
| | A. J. Séfi | - | - | Gold |
| | H. P. Ercaut | - | - | Silver Gilt |
| | J. C. North | - | - | Silver |
| | Miss F. Graham | - | - | Bronze |
| | J. E. Williams | - | - | " |
| | A. S. M. Low | - | - | " |
| (5) | E. M. Taylor | - | - | Silver Gilt |
| | M. H. Horsley | - | - | Silver |
| | L. A. Adutt | - | - | Bronze |

Class D.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| (1) | K. Gunther | - | - | Gold |
| | R. Wedmore | - | - | Silver Gilt |
| | J. Schieb | - | - | Silver |
| | K. Hiemann | - | - | " |
| | H. J. Reckitt | - | - | Bronze |
| | E. Metzkes | - | - | " |
| (2) | H. J. Reckitt | - | - | Silver |
| (3) | R. Koehler | - | - | Gold |
| | Baron E. Leijonhufvud | - | - | " |
| | W. von Polansky | - | - | Mr. Field's Silver Gilt |
| | P. Kohl | - | - | Bronze |
| (4) | Commandant G. Aupeple | - | - | Gold |
| | Mrs. A. H. Bridson | - | - | Bronze |
| (5) | T. W. Hall | - | - | Silver |
| | E. Metzkes | - | - | Bronze |
| | J. Schmidt | - | - | " |

Class E.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| (1) | G. Brueckner | - | - | Silver Gilt |
| | J. A. Steinmetz | - | - | Bronze |
| (2) | Capt. G. S. F. Napier | - | - | Gold |
| | A. H. Davis | - | - | Mr. Field's Silver |
| | G. H. Dannatt | - | - | Silver |
| | W. B. Calvert | - | - | Bronze |
| (3) | H. M. Ahrens | - | - | Silver Gilt |
| | J. D. Ragg | - | - | Silver |

Class F.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| (1) | A. S. M. Low | - | - | Gold |
| | C. L. Harte-Lovelace | - | - | Silver Gilt |
| | R. W. H. Row | - | - | " " |
| (2) | W. Jacoby | - | - | Silver |
| | C. A. Howes | - | - | Mr. Field's Bronze |
| | L. W. Crouch | - | - | Bronze |

Class G.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|---|---|---------------------------------|
| (1) | C. L. Pack | - | - | Baron Leijonhufvud's Great Gold |
| | H. Wade | - | - | Gold |
| | W. J. Cochrane | - | - | Silver Gilt |
| | C. L. Pack | - | - | " " |
| | A. Ashby | - | - | Silver |
| | E. W. Floyd | - | - | " |
| (2) | C. L. Pack | - | - | Gold |
| | J. N. Luff | - | - | Silver |
| (3) | C. L. Pack | - | - | Gold |
| | S. C. Buckley | - | - | Silver |

Class H.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| (1) | No Exhibit. | | | |
| (2) | C. L. Harte-Lovelace | - | - | Mr. Adutt's Silver Gilt |
| | E. Klein | - | - | Bronze |

Class I.

(1)	A. Wehn	-	-	Gold
	J. C. Sidebotham	-	-	Silver
(2)	W. H. Fordham	-	-	Bronze
(3)	C. F. Harriss	-	-	Bronze
(4)	Mrs. Field	-	-	Gold
	T. Allen	-	-	Silver
	P. Beaumont	-	-	Bronze
(5)	J. Ireland	-	-	Bronze

Class J.

	V. A. Cazalet	-	-	Mr. Melville's Cup
(1)	D. A. West	-	-	Gold
	W. B. Haworth	-	-	M. Coyette's Silver
	H. Burnett-Bruce	-	-	Bronze
(2)	Countess Apponyi	-	-	Gold
	H. Burnett-Bruce	-	-	Bronze
	E. Cazalet	-	-	"
(3)	R. Schunck	-	-	Silver
	L. H. White	-	-	Bronze
(4)	H. R. Holmes	-	-	Silver
(5)	A. Pollitz	-	-	Silver
	F. S. Chilcott	-	-	Bronze

Class K.

(1)	Capt. G. S. F. Napier	-	-	Silver Gilt
	W. P. Costerus	-	-	Silver
	H. Rehlen	-	-	Bronze
	W. T. Wilson	-	-	"
	L. D. Raay	-	-	"
(2)	H. Rehlen	-	-	Silver

Class L.

(1)	H. J. Crocker	-	-	Gold
	Dr. A. Chiesa	-	-	"
	H. L. Hayman	-	-	Silver Gilt
	J. C. Sidebotham	-	-	Silver
(2)	M. K. Maier	-	-	Silver

Class M.

(1)	R. B. Sparrow	-	-	Silver
	G. B. Duerst	-	-	"
(2)	H. L. Hayman	-	-	"
	W. Corfield	-	-	Bronze
	M. Giwelb	-	-	"
	A. E. Glasewald	-	-	"
(3)	H. Clark	-	-	Silver
	E. Zumstein	-	-	Bronze
(4)	H. Clark	-	-	"
	G. H. Holland	-	-	"
	W. Nake	-	-	"

Class N.

(1)	H. Griebert	-	-	Silver Gilt
	F. J. Melville	-	-	"
	D. Field	-	-	Bronze
(2)	P. Kohl	-	-	Silver
	The New England Stamp Co.	-	-	"
	Capt. P. Ohrt	-	-	"
	C. Schmidt	-	-	"
	Sveriges Filatelist Forening	-	-	"
(3)	P. L. Pemberton & Co.	-	-	Silver Gilt
	Junior Philatelic Society	-	-	Silver
	British Guiana Philatelic Society	-	-	Bronze
	D. Field	-	-	"
	H. Griebert & Co.	-	-	"
	P. McGrawMann	-	-	"

(4)	P. Kosack	-	-	Silver Gilt
	Philatelisten-Verein Bern	-	-	"
	P. Kohl	-	-	Bronze
	L. Schneider	-	-	"
	Sveriges Filatelist-Forening	-	-	"
(5)	P. Kohl	-	-	Silver Gilt
	D. Field	-	-	Silver

SPECIAL GOLD MEDALS AWARDED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Messrs. Waterlow, Bros. & Layton, Ltd.
Messrs. Grover & Co., Ltd.
Messrs. Miller & Motley.

Exhibition Catalogues, with full particulars of all the exhibits can still be obtained from Mr. F. Johnson, 44, Fleet Street, E.C.; any collector who has not already obtained one should do so before the supply is exhausted.

Death of Henry J. Crocker.

WE learn from our American exchanges with great regret of the death of this well known collector. We are indebted to the *Philatelic Gazette* for the following particulars:

"It is with the deepest regret that we have to announce the death on October 11th, of Henry J. Crocker, the well known philatelist of San Francisco. His loss will be most keenly felt, not only on the Pacific Coast, but throughout the philatelic world, where he was so much in evidence. He was heart and soul with the International Stamp Exhibition to be held in San Francisco during the Panama-Pacific Exposition in 1915, as well as very much in favour of the New York Exposition next year. As one of the foremost collectors of the world his philatelic research and study in connection with the Hawaiian numerals is of the highest order. His world famous collection of Hawaii was awarded gold medals last year at Vienna and Sydney, and previously in London and Germany. Wherever shown it attracted the greatest admiration. The "gem" of the collection was a 2c. "Missionary," the finest copy known.

"Mr. Crocker suffered a great loss during the fire in San Francisco in 1906, when his magnificent specialised collection of Japan was destroyed by the flames. It was valued at \$40,000, and believed to be unequalled.

"Surely the death of no American philatelist could be received with more genuine regret than that of Mr. Crocker. Excepting the brief telegram announcing his death, we are without particulars.

"Born in Sacramento, Cal., in 1860, he was a nephew of the late Charles Crocker, one of the pioneer builders of the Southern Pacific Railroad."

The 75 cents Postage Due of the Dutch Indies.

THERE has recently been a find (or a remainder) of the 75 cents Dutch Indies unpaid stamp, of the type of 1882, perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, with the variety $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$. Mr. Charlick has kindly supplied us with a chart shewing the arrangement of the four types on the sheet. We think it should be of interest to publish this and so put it on record before all the sheets are broken up. The sheet consists of 200 stamps, arranged in 20 rows of ten, and except that all the stamps of type 4 occur in the three bottom rows there appears to be no sort of order in the arrangement. The totals of the types shew that type III., which is catalogued by Gibbons at about four times as much as types I. or II., is more than twice as common (in *this* sitting, for there may have been others) as either of those. These totals are as follows:—

Type 1—44	Type 3—99
" 2—43	" 4—14

The chart shewing where the different types occur is given below. It should be remembered that all the stamps in the first vertical row are perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$; while all the other stamps on the sheet gauge $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$. It will, therefore, be seen that there are only two of type 4 in the rarer perforation.

2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2
2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2
2	2	3	3	1	3	1	3	2	2
2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2
2	2	1	3	3	3	3	3	2	2
2	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	2
2	2	3	1	3	3	3	3	2	2
2	2	1	3	3	3	1	1	2	2
2	2	3	3	3	1	1	1	2	2
2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
3	3	3	1	3	3	3	3	3	3
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	2	3
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	3
4	3	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3
4	4	4	4	3	4	3	3	3	3
3	4	3	3	4	4	4	3	3	3

The next number of the *P.J.G.B.* will be published on December 20th, and will consist as usual, of a grand double number. The Editor will be glad to consider any original articles, also to hear from any correspondents who may have any items of philatelic interest to impart.



November, 1912, Report.

List of Officers and Committee, 1912-13.

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MAJOR J. DE C. LAFFAN. DR. E. F. MARX, M.A.

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WILMOT CORFIELD. J. B. SEYMOUR.

Hon. Sec. & Treasurer: T. H. HINTON,
26, Cromford Road, East Putney, London, S.W.

Hon. Exchange Superintendent: J. E. JOSELIN,
81, Bennerley Road, New Wandsworth, S.W.

Hon. Counterfeit Detector: W. HADLOW,
Grove Park, Lee, Kent.

Hon. Librarian: W. S. KING,
65, Cadogan Street, Chelsea, S.W.

Hon. Solicitors: MESSRS. OLDFIELDS,
13, Walbrook, E.C.

All Officers of the Union are ex-officio Members of the Committee.

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: Captain A. de Stroumillo, Paris, France; proposed by Gny Semple, seconded by T. H. Hinton.

NEW MEMBER.

Lient. H. H. Wright, A.S.C.

NOTICES.

The second meeting of the Season was held at Essex Hall, on Thursday, 14th inst. Present: J. C. Sidebotham (in the chair), W. Schwabacher, L. W. Fulcher, W. Schwarte, Wilmot Corfield, J. E. Joselin, Guy Semple, A. B. Kay, W. E. Lincoln, T. Wagenhauser, J. B. Seymour, H. A. Tanner, F. F. Lamb, C. S. Warbrick, P. L. Pemberton, W. S. King, and the Hon. Sec.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed and in heartily congratulating the President on his success at the recent Exhibition, the Hon. Secretary stated that

two Silver gilt, five Silver and four Bronze Medals had been awarded to members of the Society, including three silver medals gained by the President, and a silver gilt medal being the highest award for journals by Messrs. P. L. Pemberton for the *P.J.G.B.* which has been our official organ from its commencement.

Mr. W. E. Lincoln then briefly referred to the recent meetings held with regard to the new regulations issued by the Board of Inland Revenue concerning the illustration of postage stamps, and moved the following resolution, which was seconded by the Hon. Sec. and carried unanimously:—"That this meeting tender their cordial thanks to L. Upcott Gill, Esq., for initiating the meeting of Philatelists, to take action on the Inland Revenue Circular of October 16th, and warmly support the proceedings taken by them."

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SMOKING CONCERT.

Members and friends are reminded that the Smoking Concert will take place at the Holborn Restaurant, on Monday, Nov. 25th, at 8 p.m. prompt. Tickets 1/-, may be obtained from Mr. P. L. Pemberton or the Hon. Sec. Come and help us to beat all records with the EIGHTH ANNUAL.

EXCHANGE PACKET SECTION.

Members are referred to the notice in last month's report, and Mr. J. E. Joselin, 81, Bennerly Road, New Wandsworth, S.W., will be glad to hear from all interested. Sheets for inclusion should reach him by the 10th of the month.

LIBRARY.

The Hon. Librarian acknowledges with thanks the receipt of *Le Journal des Philatelistes* from Monsieur Lemaire, and the Annual Report of the New Zealand Philatelic Society. Any donations gladly received and duly acknowledged.

Any proposals for membership, subscriptions or donations to the Forgery Collection will receive prompt attention from

THOS. H. HINTON,

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

Nov. 15th, 1912.

The Coming J.P.U. Smoker.

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ON the occasion of the Eighth Annual Smoking Concert of the International Philatelic Union, a huge gathering of philatelists will foregather in the Council Chamber, Holborn Restaurant, at 8 o'clock on the 25th of November. Tickets, at the nominal price of 1/- each, may still be procured from the Hon. Sec., Mr. T. H. Hinton, 26, Cromford Road, East Putney, from Mr. W. E. Lincoln, Holles Street, Oxford Street, W., or from our publishers. Tickets can be supplied to non-members as well as to members. Applications for tickets have been on a much larger scale this year than on any previous occasion, and everything points to a greater success being achieved even than last year.

The change from the Horse Shoe Restaurant, where the last three Concerts have been held, to the Holborn Restaurant, was rendered necessary because the Committee were afraid that the old room would not hold the continually increasing number of regular attendants: for those who come once come every time. This can well be understood because the occasion is unique among philatelic functions. It is a *conversazione* of philatelists without philately—not that "shop" is barred, but that the excellent fare provided by the popular stage manager, W. E. Lincoln, combined with the general atmosphere of the gathering (not necessarily of the room!) causes shades, perforations and watermarks to cease from troubling and makes the difference between a Harrison and a De La Rue an unimportant question. For this reason non-collectors are welcomed—indeed they usually form quite a respectable proportion of the audience (*please* do not misunderstand the adjective).

The room will be filled with little tables, and parties of four or more can have tables reserved for them if they will apply to Mr. P. L. Pemberton, 68, High Holborn, by the morning of the 25th at the latest.

Among the artistes who have been engaged are the following well-known entertainers:—

Miss Florence Bostock (Soprano).
Mr. Albert Carpenter (Baritone).
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One word more: the committee particularly request that you will arrive in good time, The concert begins at 8 o'clock sharp, and the doors will be open at 7.30. Evening dress optional.

The World's Most Interesting Stamps.

BY THE EDITOR.

(Continued from page 189.)

NATAL (Continued.)

The various local overprints on these stamps are confusing, but, at the same time, attractive, and my only suggestion to collectors is, that they should do as I do, namely, take such as come at reasonable prices, from reliable sources, and leave the other varieties.

Strictly speaking, I think that the stamps listed in Gibbons Catalogue, numbers 26 to 49, might well be ignored, leaving numbers 50 to 56 to represent the efforts of the local officials to distinguish between postals and fiscals. Unfortunately the overprinted stamps were succeeded by many surcharges, with the to be expected crop of inverted and double surcharges, and, in one case Natal has the unrivalled honour of presenting to a credulous collecting world the sight of a stamp surcharged no fewer than four times (S.G. 95a). I think that *one* type of each surcharge might be taken, but to pursue broken type varieties and inverted overprints is only an added inducement to those unscrupulous individuals who, by forging surcharges, batten on collectors. Many forgeries of the early varieties of the "Postage" overprint are known, so also are spurious surcharges of the various half-penny overprints on the 1d. De La Rue labels. The varieties of the 1895 halfpenny overprints on the 6d. violet are too ludicrous, especially Gibbons' listing, which makes two varieties of one stamp, i.e., Nos. 114 and 117. The big "Half" overprints of the same year on the 1d. rose is more above board and the variety, long H, I should think, quite unintentional.

If all the sub-varieties of surcharge and overprint were deleted, the stamps of Natal would present a very desirable little group; as it is many collectors fight shy of all the stamps on account of the multiplicity of overprints and the resultant danger of being landed with spurious specimens.

The King's Head stamps form an admirable little group, inasmuch as they point out to collectors the dangers of speculating. Many must have burnt their fingers with some of these stamps.

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The early stamps are extremely interesting and were amongst the first to attract the attention of serious philatelists. To some extent they suffer from this early philatelic piety, for we now find them rather neglected by present day collectors, with the result that the penny denomination at least, can be picked up at a small percentage of catalogue value.

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All three of the "pence" values of New Brunswick, and the four denominations of the sister province, are obtainable in fine condition from practically any of the world's leading dealers; they are a "stock" line and consequently, in my opinion, they lack the interest which is attached to many a more humble label, which is only to be found after much hunting through dealers' stock books.

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NEWFOUNDLAND.

Another North American colony and one which is very popular with all classes of collectors. Personally, I have never collected these stamps, as the rarities of the first issue must ever prove a stumbling block, while I do not value mere differences of shade, marked as they undoubtedly are, to the same extent as variations of design, watermark, or even perforation.

The pence Newfoundlands, with the exception of those valued highly in the catalogue, can be, owing to the Government remainders, easily completed in an unused condition. Postally used copies are, however, more desirable, with the result that the ever obliging faker has obliged and bogus cancellations, sometimes on original (!) covers, are on the market. The cents stamps of 1866 to 1897 form a nice little group, only marred by the inclusion of the re-issues of 1896-7, which ought not, in my opinion, to be listed separately any more than the similar varieties of Gibraltar. The later issues of Newfoundland, with their Royal, and other portraits, go from bad to worse until the limit is almost reached with the abortions of 1910.

NEW HEBRIDES.

These stamps are on a par with the Gilbert and Ellice labels.

NEW REPUBLIC.

Another impossible group of stamps, philatelically on a higher level than some of the much sought after Caymans and Brunei labels, but, nevertheless, quite outside the pale as far as the general collector is concerned.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The stamps of the oldest of the Australian colonies form an admirable group, both for the advanced, and the medium specialist. The collector with unlimited means can let himself go with the knowledge that he will always be able to add to his collection, while those who are limited in their expenditure will yet be able to make a brave show at a moderate cost. The Sydney Views are purely a group for specialists, so I think that if the moderate specialist obtains a fine used copy of each value he will do well. The laureated issues of 1851-1854, however, afford plenty of scope for all classes of collectors, and those who can memorise the various varieties of paper and engraving are likely occasionally to pick up bargains which have been passed over by other collectors who damn all early Australians as being too difficult. The following issue, both perf. and imperf., also the large sized stamps, are full of interest, while for beauty of design they can hardly be excelled.

Unfortunately, although it is almost paradoxical to say so, several of the values of this

grand old set have been retained for postal use down to the present day, so if we take these stamps in their entirety we have to follow certain values through a perplexing maze of intricate varieties, of which those due to perforation are the most troublesome.

Any of my readers who are unable to draw hard and fast lines as to where their collection of N.S.W. stamps is to end (I think that 99% of collectors agree that modern N.S.W. stamps are not worth taking), will find that they have a pleasing display if they take all the early line engraved stamps which have numeral watermarks and leave those values which have wandered on to the *three* types of Crown and N.S.W. watermark. The De la Rue labels with numeral watermarks might also be included if desired, only in this case it is hard to draw a hard and fast line of demarkation as the stamps—or at least some of them—are so mixed up with the Crown and N.S.W. types.

Many collectors who take the two catalogued varieties of Crown and N.S.W. watermark (as in the early surface-printed labels of South Australia, *three* sets can be made), frequently find it difficult to distinguish between the two. It may interest them to know that in most instances the paper is a surer test than the watermark as practically all the early stamps were printed on a harder, thinner, and more transparent paper than were the later issues.

The perforation varieties of the later issues are too troublesome for any but the very advanced specialist, and even he draws the line, or should do, at the 1897 to date issues.

The registration stamps form a grand little group of their own; a rather neglected one, due, I think, to the absurd plan Gibbons has of listing them by themselves at the end of the present-day abortions which prepay postage. They were in use contemporarily with the grand old imperforate issues of the late "fifties" and early "sixties" and should, most emphatically, be grouped with them in the catalogue.

(To be continued).

[Our Publishers wish it to be understood that they do not identify themselves with all the views expressed in this article.]

CONGRATULATIONS to LEON ADUFT, Mayor of Margate. Congratulations also to the merry men of Margate who have made such an excellent choice.

We regret that this month's instalment of Mr. Pemberton's article on the Stamps of Greece has had to be held over. The author promises however a lengthy and interesting chapter for the X'mas number.



NOVEMBER 20, 1912.

Philately at Home.

The October number of the *London Philatelist* contains a capital account of the recent Exhibition, List of Awards, etc. Mr. Charles Lathrop Pack contributes the first instalment of his paper, entitled "Collecting a Single Stamp and its Varieties—the 100 Reis of Brazil, 1894-7." Mr. Pack's researches into the fascinating details of this issue are almost too well known to warrant us making extracts from his article; suffice it for us to say that all collectors interested in Brazilian stamps should read his paper in its entirety. Mr. T. W. Hall contributes a very short instalment of his "Stamps of the Danish West Indies."

The following brief extract will doubtless prove of interest:—

In February of 1903, the 4c. of 1873-79 was allowed to be dissected diagonally and used as 2c. The following is a translation from the *St. Croix Avis* of February 11th, 1903, dealing with the question:—

"Notice to the public.—For the time being the post offices in St. Croix will admit the use of 4 cents postage stamps cut in half diagonally for the prepayment of postage, say in those cases where the amount of postage is covered by the payments of two cents or less.

"The correspondence thus prepaid should be handed over the counter and not dropped in a letter box.

"The use of postage stamps thus cut will be disallowed as soon as 2 cents stamps have been received about which publication will be issued.

"Government, St. Croix, the 10th February, 1903.
"P. G. V. LIMPRICHT."

A capital budget of occasional notes, list of new issues, editorial, etc., etc., complete an excellent number of the Royal Society's journal.

The October number of the *Monthly Journal* devotes a good deal of its space to a first instalment of a lengthy description of the exhibits at the recent London Exhibition. We also find a continuation of M. L. Hanciau's "The Stamps of the Spanish West Indies." Captain G. S. F.

Napier describes some uncatalogued varieties of Brazil, notably the water-marked stamp of 1905 on paper usually used for fiscal stamps, but utilized for postage stamps owing to a shortage of the proper paper.

Captain Napier says:—

Some months ago Mr. F. B. S. Benest wrote to me from Rio de Janeiro to say that he had heard a rumour that the watermarked stamps of 1905 had been found on fiscal paper. Inquiries made at the Mint elicited the information that at the end of the order they ran out of the proper paper, and that some sheets of various values were printed on fiscal paper.

Mr. Benest very kindly secured for me sheets of various fiscals, illustrating the different watermarks in existence, and we found therefrom that the letters were in all cases about the same size as those on the true postal paper, i.e., 14mm. high. The first thing, therefore, was to hunt for stamps bearing a letter, or letters, which do not occur in "CORREIO FEDERAL REPUBLICA DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DO BRAZIL." The first to turn up was a stamp with the letters "IM," and to cut a long story short we eventually found that the paper actually used was that watermarked "REPUBLICA DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DO BRAZIL IMPOSTO DE CONSUMO." All the values have turned up on this paper, except the 1000 reis, i.e., 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, and 300 reis.

It is now up against Mr. Pack.

Two pages of "Topical Notes," dealing entirely with Messrs. Gibbons' stock, and stock book; some interesting "Notes and Queries," list of new issues, correspondence, one of Mr. W. T. Elliot's articles dealing with Papuan minor varieties and a contribution entitled "Despotic Ways of Liberian Post-office Officials" all help to complete a very excellent number.

Mr. E. C. Hendery's paper is very interesting. We trust, for the benefit of our many world travelled readers, that Messrs. Gibbons will not object to our "lifting" it in full.

In January of this year I happened to have the fortune (!) to spend a day in Monrovia, the capital of the Liberian Republic. Our boat, one of Elder, Dempster's comfortable steamers, the s.s. *Benue*, arrived in the early morning, and the doctor informed me, when partaking of our matutinal coffee, that if I cared to take a view of the pride of all Liberians I

could do so by proceeding on deck, and at the same time have an idea of the extent of the Liberian Navy, lying a few cable-lengths from us. We saluted with flag and shot, and after some delay our salute was returned. The navy consisted of one small sloop or glorified gun-boat, looking very much the worse for wear and very much in need of paint. The town is built on the slope of a hill, making quite a picturesque landscape, as viewed from the deck of a steamer, lying a mile or so from shore; but, alas! what a spectacle meets the eye of the unfortunate traveller on landing at the rickety Custom House. Confusion, dirt, and an aroma which some of the back streets of Canton would envy, meet one at every step. I made my way first to the Post Office, having, as usual, my pet hobby uppermost in my thoughts when travelling. I found the Post Office, after some difficulty, wedged in among a lot of other wretched hovels, and by mounting a shaky wooden structure, dignified by the name of "staircase," I finally arrived at the counter where the sale of stamps was being effected; at least, so I read on a placard. All the "guichets" were shut—it was 11 a.m.—and three or four gorgeous officials were in commune behind the wire grating. I politely tapped on the counter, then coughed loudly to attract attention, and finally in despair asked very humbly whether I could be supplied with a set of the very picturesque stamps of their country. One gentleman of ebony hue bawled out that the mail had come in and that they were too busy to attend to me; I could come back in the morning of the next day if I required stamps! I explained that I had to leave by steamer the same evening. This seemed to exasperate my "friend," and he promptly informed me that he had nothing to do with my private arrangements. In despair, I called on the chief collector of Customs, an English gentleman, for whom I carried a letter of introduction. I put my case before him, and he sympathized but did not show any surprise, as he has lived among the Liberians for some years and is well versed in their peculiarities. He advised me to call again in the course of the afternoon, when perhaps the officials had no mails to sort out, or look into, as he rather facetiously added. I went again at 4 p.m., and this time was informed that the sale of stamps had ceased for the day! My friend, the collector of Customs, also told me in confidence not to post anything of value in the actual Post Office, but rather on board steamer, as the chances of the contents of the letter ever getting through the Post Office were slight, to put it mildly.

This incident will give one an idea of the despotic behaviour of the Post Office officials in Monrovia.

The October number of *The Philatelic Record* contains another lengthy instalment of L. W. Fulcher's capital article dealing with the stamps of the Roman States. He writes exhaustively about the perforated issue, also concerning the various reprints. The following will interest many of our readers, some of whom we expect fight shy of Roman States stamps because of the numerous reprints.

A good deal has been written about the reprints of the last two issues of the stamps of the Roman States, and details relating to the shades, paper, perforation, etc., of these reprints have been many times described. Notwithstanding the wealth of description available in philatelic literature, I find that collectors are much troubled to distinguish the reprints from originals, and reprints are very frequently offered for sale as originals. In the case of perforated stamps, of course,

the difficulty practically vanishes, as most of the reprints are perf. 11½ or 12, while the originals are perf. 13, and measurement of the perforation is sufficient to decide the point. It is true, however, that some of the Gelli and Tani's reprints are to be found perf. 13, but these are comparatively rare. By a study of the sheets of the reprints I find, however, that, with the exception of the earliest reprints, viz., those of Usigli, there is a very simple test by which all the later reprints may be distinguished with ease, if the frame lines of the stamp are not cut off. The sheets of the reprints of all values made by Moens, Gelli and Tani or Cohn, show the double lines enclosing the clichés continuous *vertically* down the sheet. As the originals have the double lines continuous *horizontally* across the panes or sheets, this fact provides an easy test whereby the reprints may be distinguished. *If a stamp shows the vertical frame lines on the left and right margins passing the ends of the horizontal lines above and below, then the stamp is a reprint.* In applying this test it must be borne in mind that the marginal lines on the left and right sides of the sheets of the originals are continuous vertically. In the case of a marginal stamp an original will show the vertical lines continuous past the horizontal lines *either* on the left *or* right side *but not on both.* The last remark applies also to stamps from the perforated series of 1868 from those columns on the sheet where the double lines are continuous vertically down the sheet. This simple test will enable the collector, provided he takes only good specimens showing the frame lines, to reject at sight at least three-quarters of the reprints, a proportion which includes all the commoner ones, where the perforation does not help. The early reprints made by Usigli are more troublesome.

Our contemporary also contains a readable resumé of the recent Exhibition happenings, list of awards, reviews, new issues, etc.

The September number of *The Stamp Collector* does not contain very much to interest the general collector.

We find a capital editorial entitled "The Value of a Hobby"; Mr. W. Oakley contributes the first instalment, in the nature of introductory notes, of what promises to be a good article dealing with the stamps of the U.S.A. The following brief extract contains some good advice.

The Postal Issues of the United States of America are by no means in favour—why not, it is hard to understand, for they are straightforward issues, and are not marred by any surcharges whatever. Further, they are, probably without exception, the most artistic series issued by any country, while prices on the whole are not high. Perhaps the chief trouble is because of the special printings, which account for blank spaces in the albums of most collectors of these stamps.

These special printings should be eliminated, for, take the set, S.G. 223-226g, catalogued at £247. Mr. Luff, the greatest authority on U.S.A. Stamps, says—"Very careful comparison with a set known to have been purchased at the period is the only certain way to identify specimens. The stamps are of extreme rarity—only five complete sets and a few odd copies are known to exist." Then what is the use of printing spaces for stamps that not one collector in 100,000 can obtain, for when these stamps come on the market the man with the heaviest purse will get them!

Mr. J. E. Heginbottom, B.A., F.R.P.S. Lond., contributes nearly two pages of what is entitled an article "Australasian Stamps; Victoria."

We learn, what every school-boy knows, or should know, the boundaries of the colony of Victoria and many other items, none of which has the slightest bearing on stamps or stamp collecting. We are told for instance that

"The wages of workmen are very high and Trade Unions have a strong hold on the community."

Further, that

"There were in 1909-10, 2,036 free primary schools, from which there are 40 exhibitions, twenty of which are of the annual value of £40, tenable under certain conditions for three years, at technical schools, or from four to six years at Melbourne University."

How interesting.

Reviews, Notes, etc., complete a not very interesting number.

The October number of the same publication is a much more interesting paper. Mr. Oakley contributes another instalment of his article. Mr. Heginbottom, still writing under the title "Australasian Stamps, Victoria" has, at last, reached the stamps themselves, he does not however, convey any fresh news, of any importance, to his readers.

Mr. C. H. T. Hayman, continuing his article on the 1853-1883 issues of Chili, writes in a most interesting manner concerning the "War" postmarks of Peru and Bolivia. The following extract, relating to Mr. J. R. Burton's article, published a year or so ago in the journal, will interest many of our readers.

Mr. J. R. Burton, most unconsciously I am sure, was guilty of a mistake which has led many collectors and not a few dealers into making a wrong classification. I refer to his explanation of the gradual change from the Peruvian "Principal" to a "rosette" and finally the word "Chili" at the lower part of the postmark. Now this "rosette" is only found on the Pisagua and Iquique postmarks of 1882-3. Both these towns, which were captured at a very early stage of the war, afterwards remained Chilean, and there can be no doubt that Chili introduced into the post offices the cancellation in ordinary use in many Chilean towns at this date. Only a few weeks ago I was asked to look at some Chilean stamps used in Peru, and found that practically all the postmarks bore this "rosette"—the necessary identification mark in the eyes of the owner. Unfortunately for his peace of mind the aforesaid postmarks also bore the names of towns which were, and always were, indisputably Chilean, and he confessed that the "rosette" and a correct date were his guiding stars. Coloured postmarks with correct dates also sometimes cause our friends the dealer to trip when pricing their stock books, and though it is perfectly true that both Bolivia and Peru liked a bit of colour, such genuinely Chilean towns as Molina, Tambo, Cauquenes and Copiapo also sported lilacs and blues. Verily a good atlas is a necessary adjunct to the would-be specialists in these war Provisionals.

A good editorial, budget of notes, etc., complete our brief review.

Our weekly contemporary the *Postage Stamp* is a very erratic visitor, for many months we did not receive a single exchange copy, then, on application to the publisher we were favoured with copies dated Oct. 19th and 26th, since when we have again had to mourn our wee, but entertaining exchange. Since writing we have received the Nov. 16th number.

The two numbers before us both contain that stipulated amount of stamp "chatter" which was such a regular feature in the days when Mr. Nankivell held the reins. The earlier number contains a capital report of the opening of the London Exhibition, while the latter, a full list of awards also a chapter of Mr. Melville's revised "A B C of Stamp Collecting."

The *West-End Philatelist* for October contains a capital description of the copper plate used for printing the 1d. and 2d. Post Office Mauritius stamps and its recent discovery. This unique piece was on view at Mr. Field's stall at the recent Exhibition, the following extract from our contemporary will interest our readers.

The first actual mention of an issue of Postage Stamps of Mauritius is contained in an Ordinance issued in the Colony and dated the 13th January, 1847. This Notice, however, was anticipatory, as no stamps had been actually issued; an estimate had been obtained from Mr. Barnard, a watchmaker of Port Louis, and I think it would be of interest to my readers to reproduce this document.

"Estimate of the expense of the undermentioned blocks and engraving for the use of the Mauritius General Post Office:—

Letter Labels for One Penny and Two Pence	£	s.	d.
(per thousand)	0	10	0
Engraving Plates for ditto	10	0	0
12 Letter Stamps with moveable dates and names of Stations at 24s.	14	8	0
12 Paid Stamps at 6s.	3	12	0
12 Free ditto at 6s.	3	12	0
12 Too Late ditto at 8s.	4	16	0
One Penny Stamp Post.	0	10	0
Stamps 1 to 14 at 3s. each	2	2	0
20 Badges for Postmen at 20s.	20	0	0
Total of estimate			
Fifty-nine Pounds Ten Shillings	£59	10	0

(Signed) W. (?) BARNARD."

Port Louis, November 12th, 1846.

This estimate was accepted, and the stamps were issued on the 21st of September, 1847. The issue was limited, in regard to which the following letter, reproduced from Major E. B. Evvns' well known paper on the stamps of this country is of importance.

To the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, etc.

SIR,—With reference to Articles 9 and 10 of Post Office Ordinance No. 13 of 1846, I have the honour to report for his Excellency the Governor's information, that the necessary postage stamps are now ready for issuing, 700 having been struck off. And as the regulations of the service may

require the supervision of some other Government officer besides myself to attest to the number of stamps furnished to this office, I respectfully await His Excellency's instructions before having any further number of stamps struck off.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) J. S. BROWNRIGG,
Colonial Postmaster.

Apart from these 700 stamps only 300 more were printed, so that the entire issue consisted of 1,000 stamps.

The process of printing these stamps one by one proved far too slow, so that, in May 1848, they were superseded by a new issue; these stamps were lettered POST PAID on the left hand side, and were printed from plates containing twelve varieties of each value.

It is very fascinating to study the history of some of the surviving copies of these rare "POST OFFICE" Mauritius.

The first two specimens known to stamp collectors were purchased, in October, 1865, by the late Mr. J. B. Moens. They were both used together on the same letter, and were postmarked with the word "INLAND," within a long narrow rectangular frame. It is worthy of note that this piece, and also many others of the existing copies of these stamps, came from Bordeaux, where there were considerable business relations with the island of Mauritius.

With regard to the prices of these stamps realised only a few years ago: in 1873, copies of these stamps changed hands at £4 each, i.e. £8 the pair—they are now worth nearly £3000. As late as 1896, a pair was sold for £1680, which was then considered an enormous figure. Specimens of these stamps have very rarely come into the auction rooms, but a few years ago an unused copy of the 2d. blue was bought by our present King, at public auction, for £1450, a price which would doubtless be well surpassed should a similar copy be offered for sale to-day.

Our contemporary also contains a further instalment of Mr. Séfi's "The Postage Stamps of Malta," a short account of the Bisected Pence Stamps of Nova Scotia, and other matter.

The November number of the *Philatelic Circular* is amusing. Mr. Harris, in lighter vein, contributes a brief report of the London Exhibition, Mr. W. B. Edwards can always be relied upon to give his readers some capable advice in his page devoted to "Market Notes," "Reviews," "Chronicle of Georgian Issues," "Auction Jottings," etc., all make excellent reading.

The following item will account for a little of the milk in the Levantine coconut, not, however, for much of the hair on the outside.

USED LEVANTS.

A reader in Constantinople, writes us as follows:—

"Used Levants are very difficult to obtain here, as the Jews get hold of them all and generally are in league with the office-boys. This may seem rather absurd to you, but there is a lot of that kind of thing here. For instance, owing to the cleverness of the innumerable money-changers, there is a scarcity of small change, and you always have to pay ½d. to get a 5 piastre piece changed, unless you are buying something at the same time. On the Chirket-Haire boats (Bosphorus ferries) the fare from Beicos to Galata

Bridge (Constantinople), is 5 piastres (10d). If you tender five separate piastres it is all right, but if you offer a 5 piastre piece they charge five piastres and ten paras (10½d)."

The *Philatelist of To-Day* in the October 12th *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, is Mr. H. H. Harland, well known to philatelists for his researches amongst the stamps of St. Helena. Our blue covered contemporary also contains a lengthy Exhibition programme and several reprinted articles. A fortnight later we find an illustrated interview with Mr. J. Stelfox Gee, the well known Hon. Secretary of the Manchester Philatelic Society, some Exhibition and other notes and the first instalment of what promises to be a truly remarkable article, to wit, Messrs. Bishop and Creeke's "Dictionary of Stamp-Collecting." This work, afterwards to be published in book form is described as a concise cyclopædia of names, terms, and phrases employed by philatelists, including many German and French equivalents as used in Foreign Journals and Catalogues. Nearly three pages of our contemporary are devoted to this compilation, even then the initial letter of the alphabet is far from being exhausted. If anything, the authors of this dictionary, whose names are world known in connection with philately, are straining the meaning of the term "stamp collecting," otherwise we think that such terms as "Ackerbau," the German for "agriculture"; "animal," rendered into both French (!) and German; "Anhängsel," the German for "appendix," etc., would not be necessary.

A fortnight later we find a second instalment of the dictionary which takes us down to the end of the letter A. Mr. W. E. Imeson is the *Philatelist of To-day*. A useful contribution to the literature of Fiscal philately is Mr. Wilmot Corfield's paper dealing with recent Indian fiscals.

Reviews, New Issues, Notes, etc., all make our Chancery Lane exchange a welcome visitor.

WE have received an excellent number of the *Stamp Lover*, and other papers too late for review: we hope to resume in next month's Journal the review of our Continental exchanges, which, we very much regret has been neglected of late.

Philately in the Colonies and Elsewhere.

The September *Australian Stamp Journal* contains the usual budget of interesting items. Amongst other things we learn that Messrs. Burn Philip & Co., Ltd., of Sydney, have invited tenders for 140,000 of the 1d. and 94,000 of the 2d. New Hebrides Inter-Island stamps. The following particulars of these labels, of which doubtless more will be heard in the future, will interest our readers:—

It may not be generally known that the stamps were used for the conveyance of letters on steamers owned by the Australian New Hebrides Company, Ltd., throughout those islands from 1897 until 1900, when the Company, having entered into a contract with the Australian Postal Authorities, agreed to abandon the use of their own stamps.

These stamps are described in certain quarters as for local use only. This is quite correct in so far that they could not be used beyond the Islands, but they did similar postal duty as any international labels.

None of the stamps have ever been sold by the proprietors at less than face value. They are very attractive, and should prove useful for packets and exchange purposes.

They were designed by Mr. F. A. Basset Hull and lithographed by Messrs. John Sands & Co., of this city, for the Australian New Hebrides Company, Ltd.

A lengthy account of some of the treasures in the collection of Mr. Justice Murray, of Adelaide, reveals the fact that he is very keen on the Departmental stamps of his own State, and that he has some exceptionally nice pieces in his collection. The following extract will interest some of our South Australia enthusiasts.

A few words must be said about the ordinary issues, but they really only need a few words, *viz.*, "an almost complete collection in all varieties of shade, watermark and perforation."

The London print 1d. imperf. is represented by 24 used specimens, 20 of them being pairs. Of the local print 1d. imperf. there is a block of four and three pairs. The 1/- imperf. include a pair and two singles. An unused block of eight 2d. in the scarce dull vermilion shade is to be seen. There are two single used copies of the 4d. 11½ x roul. The 10d. on 9d. stamps are represented by 18 specimens, and the 3d. in carmine on 4d. slate-blue by five copies, two of which are unused. There is a block of six unused of the 3d. in black on 4d. perf. 11½, and an unused 9d. grey-lilac perf. 11½ and 12½ compound with roul., likewise an unused pair of the 8d. thin postage, one of which is the error EIGHT. There is also a used copy of this error.

A good review of Stanley Gibbons catalogue, correspondence, list of new issues, etc., complete a good number.

The *Australian Philatelist* contains several capital contributions, notably Mr. Basset Hull's "An Overlooked

Jubilee" where he points out that on the 2nd of April, 1911, the circular five shillings stamp of New South Wales had been in use for fifty years. Mr. Hull gives a condensed history of this stamp, which, owing to the trouble of plastering 1/- stamps on bank mail matter was suggested to the Postmaster by a manager in the Union Bank of Australia.

This bank manager suggested to the Postmaster-General either the issue of a high-value stamp, or prepayment in cash, and the Postmaster-General decided to recommend that a plate be engraved for a 5/- stamp. Mr. Levinge, of the postal staff, who designed the large square series, was commissioned to prepare the design. He produced four—three for a 5/- stamp, and one for a 10/- stamp. The first was described by Mr. Levinge as follows:—"The head of the Queen is crowned, and part of the bust is shown, as on the new coin, the florin. A sceptre is added, and four stars, representing the 'Southern Cross,' with the 'Waratah,' have been introduced as emblematic of Australia."

This design was approved, and Mr. Levinge was requested to prepare a memorandum of directions for the guidance of the Colonial Agent in London, with reference to the steel plate, precautions to be taken against forgery, &c. Mr. Levinge gravely replied that "the best way to prevent forgery is to have the plate engraved by a first-rate artist, whose burin will make imitation hopeless." He then proceeded to recommend the engraving of a single stamp on the plate, and the duplication by lithography, and entered into a learned disquisition on the merits of lithographic printing, "now in general use in the mother country for the printing of bank notes." Excellent designer as he must be admitted to be, he knew very little about the method of printing bank notes.

All Mr. Levinge's instructions and disquisitions were duly transmitted to England, with an order for the required plate. In August, 1859, the Colonial Agents forwarded an order, together with the famous instructions, to Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., for the die of the Five Shillings. The celebrated engravers at once found themselves confronted by difficulties. It was impossible to carry out the instructions and reconcile the result with their practical experience of what was requisite to safeguard a stamp against forgery. They stated their views so clearly to the Colonial Agents that they were advised to do what they considered best. Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., then employed Mr. F. H. Corbould, the drawing master to the Royal Family, to make a drawing from Mr. Levinge's design, and Mr. Frederick A. Heath to engrave the die, following as closely as possible the instructions drawn up by Mr. Levinge, except as regards making it suitable for lithographic transfer. It was, in fact, a master die for transfer to an engraved folio steel plate. When sent out to the colony it was found to be useless, there being no means of reproducing it. The die was, therefore, returned, and a steel plate of 50 multiples, and a supply of water-marked paper ordered.

These articles were duly supplied, and reached Sydney early in 1861. The Government Inspector of postage stamps was thereupon instructed to print a supply of stamps on the paper watermarked 5/-. "in the colour known as mauve." This was done, and the stamp was duly gazetted for issue on the 1st April, 1861.

Our contemporary also contains some interesting Correspondence, Reviews, List of New Issues, etc., etc.

The October number of the *Philatelic*

Gazette contains, as usual, several contributions of note. A lengthy description of Mr. Pack's exhibits at the London Exhibition occupies nearly three pages. Mr. J. Murray Bartels writes about the reprints of New Brunswick. We also find a number of short articles of general interest, one, relating to a recent find of early U.S.A. stamps, we reproduce below.

A GREAT FIND.

For a couple of months Nassau Street, as well as Broadway, has been agog over the wonderful find of old St. Louis, New York, and 5c. and 10c. 1847 issues. From what we can gather, the firm of Townsend and Whelin, of Philadelphia, sold a lot of old paper to a junk firm, who realized that they had a good thing. The correspondence of long ago was addressed to Charnley & Whelin, the predecessors of the present firm.

All the stamps are on the original covers and among the lot are some very wonderful things. We have only seen a few of the St. Louis stamps, which are mostly of the 10c. denomination. Of these there were some forty or fifty, while of the 5c. there were only about half a dozen. However, lo and behold, there are said to have been more twenty cent stamps there than were fives! The lot includes one cover with two 20c. and a 5c., making a 45c. rate for a heavier letter to an Eastern city.

Correspondence.

To the Editor, "P.J. of G.B."

DEAR SIR,

LOCAL POSTAGE STAMPS.

May I ask you to be good enough to make it known that the Committee of the Fiscal Philatelic Society have decided to include the study of Local Postage Stamps in the sphere of their activities.

They feel that these interesting issues have too long been neglected, at all events so far as English collectors are concerned. It is intended to devote alternate monthly meetings entirely to the study of Locals and the compilation of as complete a list of them as the material at hand affords.

The next meeting to be so devoted will be held at 6.30 p.m., on Friday, December 6th next, at 71, Fleet Street, E.C., when the subject for study will be the "Local Issues of the Chinese Treaty Ports."

The Fiscal Philatelic Society will be happy to hear from any philatelists interested in the subject and willing to assist with material or information, or who would be likely to join the Society for the furtherance of the object in question.

Any further details respecting this section of the Society, copies of the Rules, etc., will gladly be furnished to enquirers, by

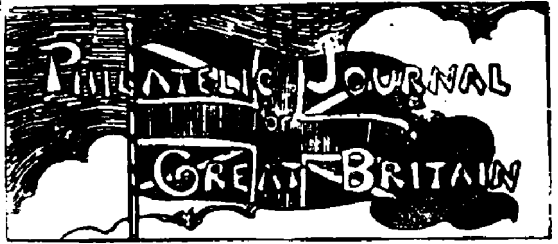
Yours faithfully,

P. J. EVANS

(Hon. Secretary Locals Section).

124, Brownhill Road, Catford, London, S.E.

Nov. 15th, 1912.



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Publisher's Note.

PAID-UP subscribers, and members of the three Societies for which this journal is the official organ, will find that this number of the *P.J.G.B.* is franked with the King George 3d., *Die II*, on multiple watermarked paper. This variety will, we believe, prove to be quite a scarce little stamp.



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

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DECEMBER 20, 1912.

[PRICE 2D.]

♦ ♦ Editorial. ♦ ♦

THE Postmaster-General's annual report always makes interesting reading, and we believe that the following extracts will prove of more general interest to our readers than any panegyric of ours *apropos* collecting, or non-collecting certain stamps.

The only complaint we have to find with the Postmaster-General is that he persists in his archaism of refusing to permit many hundreds of papers and magazines, (including all the philatelic papers) from going through the post for one halfpenny unless they weigh less than two ounces, while weekly and daily papers, if they are registered at the G.P.O. as newspapers, are carried at the uniform sum of $\frac{1}{2}$ d., irrespective of size or weight.

To bring this fact home to our readers (it has already been brought home to our publishers) we would point out that this number of the *P.J.G.B.* weighing less than 4 oz. costs one penny to frank through the post, while the Xmas numbers of the illustrated weeklies, weighing a lb. or more, are carried to the borders of the United Kingdom, for the modest sum of one halfpenny! Ridiculous, is it not?

It is estimated that the number of postal packets delivered in the United Kingdom

during the twelve months reached the huge total of 5,483,000,000. The appended table gives the figures in detail, together with the rates of increase over the previous year, and the proportions per head of the population:

	Number.	Increase per cent.	No. per person.
Letters	3,186,800,000	4.6	70.2
Postcards	905,500,000	3.9	20.0
Halfpenny packets	1,066,700,000	2.2	23.5
Newspapers	198,800,000	1.3	4.4
Parcels	125,200,000	2.8	2.7
Total	5,483,000,000	3.8	120.8

To the abounding prosperity of trade is probably mainly due the increase of 4.6 per cent. in letters, the rise for the previous year having been 3.4 per cent. The metropolis shows the exceptional growth of 6 per cent., attributable in large measure to the Coronation and its effects on the London season.

It will be noted that the number of letters delivered per head now reaches the high figure of 70.2. In 1839, the proportion was only 3 per head, and in 1840, when penny postage came into operation, it was 7.

Postcards delivered through the country have more than doubled in the last decade. In the year under review the increase in London amounted to 4.5 per cent., against an increase of 0.2 per cent. in 1910-11.

As many as 21,325,000 letters, and 1,169,000 parcels were registered. The total number of express services performed was 2,384,547, an increase of 5.6 per cent. Over 120 services, or sets of services, are now carried on by motor mail vans. It is stated that considerable dislocation of the mail service generally resulted from the railway and coal strikes.

Careless and absent-minded correspondents continue to cause the officials no little trouble. For one reason or another no fewer than 32,632,000 packets could not be delivered. The number of packets posted without any address, and of articles found loose in the post, is estimated at 477,000, an increase of 10,000 on the total for the preceding year.

Imperial penny postage now embraces the whole of the Empire, with the sole exception of Pitcairn Island. Following on the reduction to 1d. per half-ounce of the rate on letters, there was an increase of about 33 per cent. in the amount of

correspondence sent by letter post from Australia to this country during the year under review, as compared with an average increase of about 11½ per cent. in the five preceding years. There was also a further big development in the Canadian magazine post, the weight of newspapers, magazines, and trade journals despatched to the Dominion being estimated at 4,747,000lb, against 3,836,000lb sent in the previous year.

The success of penny postage with the United States is shown by the fact that in the three years during which it has been in operation the amount of correspondence has increased by 32 per cent. The total weight of letters and postcards despatched to British possessions and foreign countries in 1911 is estimated at 5,544,000lb, compared with 4,908,000lb in 1910, and of other packets, including parcels, at 36,972,000lb, against 33,840,000lb in the previous year. Parcels sent abroad numbered 3,710,924, an increase of 8.51 per cent.

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.

Great Britain. Our publishers have shown us sheets of the ½d. and 1d. King George stamps, die II., with the multiple G.R. watermark. The former variety has been known in rolls for some months. The controls are B12 in each case.

Adhesives. Cypher watermark. Multiple.
¾d. green.
1d. carmine.

Ceylon. The *London Philatelist* says: "We have seen ten more values of the new Georgian set. The denominations 30c. to 20r. are of the Leeward Islands type, plain tablets, types 7/9 of Gibbons. The three higher values are of large size, large head of the King to left on shield, lined ground. "Ceylon" in band at top, value in figures each side at top. Postage left. Revenue right side and value in words on curved label at foot.

Adhesives. King George. Multiple wmk. Perf. 14.
30c. green; name and value in violet.
50c. black " " red.
1r. purple on yellow.
2r. black on yellow; name and value in red.
5r. black on green.
10r. purple and black on red.
20r. black and red on blue.
50r. dull purple.
100r. black.
500r. dull green.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have shown us the four lowest values.

Cyprus. Another of the new stamps has come to hand from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Adhesive. King George. Multiple wmk.
10 paras. orange and green.

East Africa & Uganda. The *London Philatelist* chronicles another batch of King Georges.

Adhesives. King George. Multiple wmk. Perf. 14.
1c. black.
10c. orange-brown.
25c. carmine and green on yellow.
75c. black on green.
1 rupee, black on green.
2 rupees, black and carmine on blue.
3 " " green and violet.
4 " " green and red on yellow.
5 " " dull purple and blue.
10 " " green and carmine on green.
20 " " purple and black on red.
50 " " green and carmine.

Fiji. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have kindly sent us specimens of the following:

Adhesives. Multiple wmk. King George.
1d. carmine.
1/- black on green.

Leeward Islands. The *London Philatelist* chronicles four more of the George stamps.

The 2d., 3d. and 1/- have plain tablets and the 6d. lined tablet.

Adhesives. King George. Multiple wmk. Perf. 14.
2d. grey.
3d. purple on yellow.
6d. dull and bright purple.
1/- black on green.

New Zealand. The *Australian Philatelist* says "Mr. S. D. Alston has shown us a pair of the current 1d. stamps imperforated vertically, and also imperforated at the bottom. They are portion of the bottom row of the sheet, apparently the whole row has escaped perforation. We were informed that three sheets were found in this condition.

Mr. F. H. Smyth, of Wellington, informs us that he has a specimen of the 4d. value (Lake Taupo), Gibbons No. 319, perforated 11 vertically on one side, as well as $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$, comb, the 11 perforation being well inside of the $13\frac{1}{2}$."

Northern Nigeria. To the values we have already chronicled the *London Philatelist* adds yet seven more. The 5d., 9d., 5/- and £1 have the values on plain tablets, while the 1/-, 2/6, and 10/- are on lined.

Adhesives. King George. Multiple wmk. Perf. 14.
5d. dull purple and olive-green.
9d. " " carmine.
1/- black on green.
2/6 black and carmine on blue.
5/- green and red on yellow.
10/- " " green.
£1 purple and black on red.

Papua. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us the 4d. stamp in one colour. The *Australian Philatelist* also chronicled the 2/6.

Adhesives.
4d. pale olive-green.
2/6 rose-red.

St. Helena. Mr. W. S. Linclon has very kindly shown us specimens of the new 1d. stamps. We are also informed the full set is as follows:

Adhesives. King George. Multiple wmk. Perf. 14.
4d. green and black.
1d. carmine " "
2d. grey " "
24d. ultramarine " "
4d. black and red on yellow.
6d. dull and bright purple.
8d. dull purple and black.
1/- black on green.
2/- blue and black on blue.

Somaliland Protectorate. The *London Philatelist* chronicled the following King George stamps:—

Adhesives. Multiple wmk. Perf. 14.
1 anna, carmine.
2 annas, bright and dull purple.
4 " black and green.
6 " violet " "
1 rupee, green.

Straits Settlements. Johore. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. advise us that they have the following values on multiple wmkd. paper:

Adhesives. Wmkd. multiple Rosettes.
5c. purple and green.
8c. " blue.
25c. " blue-green.

Tasmania. Mr. J. A. Leon has shown us the current 2d. stamp surcharged in red, "One Penny." The *Australian Philatelist* says that

960,000 stamps were so treated, and that both varieties of perforation can be found

Adhesives.
1d. red on 2d. mauve, perf. 11.
1d. " " " " 12½.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Argentine Republic. Mr. A. H. Davis, of Buenos Aires, has very kindly sent us a specimen of the locally printed 12c. (Ploughman type) with a new watermark. This is a network of ovals. The *London Philatelist* chronicled the 1 peso stamp with the new watermark.

Adhesives. Wmkd. multiple Ovals.
12c. blue.
1p. slate-blue and rose.

Chili. To the value chronicled last month Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. now add three more as follows:

Adhesives.
2c. scarlet.
4c. sepia.
8c. grey.

China. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. tell us that they have received the \$5 stamp with the Waterlow overprint in red. They also inform us that they understand that the whole set has been similarly overprinted but that only the ¼c. 1c., and \$5 have been issued up to the present.

Dutch Indies. The *London Philatelist* says: "We have seen the 3 cent stamp with figure of value printed on plain white ground like those of the mother country type 11."

Adhesive. Perf. 12½.
3c. orange.

French Colonies. From the current number of the *Monthly Journal* we extract the following depressing information:—

"A large number of further French Colonial stamps have received the "05" and "10" surcharge already recorded for Guinea, Martinique, New Caledonia, and Réunion. The surcharges are all on the Allegorical Group type, except in the cases of Indo-China and Madagascar, and are in black throughout, except in the following values: 4c., 15c., blue, 15c., grey, 25c., black on rose, 25c., blue, 30c., 45c., 50c., brown on azure; in these cases the surcharge is in red. The list of the values is:

Anjouan.—05 on 2c., 05 on 4c., 05 on 15c., blue, 05 on 20c., 05 on 25c., black on rose, 05 on 30c., 10 on 40c., 10 on 45c., 10 on 50c., carmine, 10 on 75c., 10 on 1fr.

Dahomey.—05 on 2c., 05 on 4c., 05 on 30c., 10 on 40c., 10 on 50c., brown on azure, 10 on 75c.

Gaboon.—05 on 2c., 05 on 4c., 05 on 15c., 05 on 20c., 05 on 25c., 05 on 30c., 10 on 40c., 10 on 45c., 10 on 50c., 10 on 75c., 10 on 50c., brown on azure, 10 on 75c.

Grand Comoro.—05 on 2c., 05 on 4c., 05 on 15c., blue, 05 on 20c., 05 on 25c., black on rose, 05 on 30c., 10 on 40c., 10 on 45c., 10 on 50c., carmine, 10 on 75c.

Guadeloupe.—05 on 4c., 05 on 30c., 10 on 40c.

Guiana.—05 on 2c., 05 on 4c., 05 on 20c., 05 on 25c., black on rose, 05 on 30c., 10 on 40c., 10 on 50c., carmine.

Ivory Coast.—05 on 15c., grey, 05 on 30c., 10 on 40c., 10 on 50c., brown on azure, 10 on 75c.

Indo-China.—Grasset Type: 05 on 4c., 05 (R) on 15c., 05 on 30c., 10 (R) on 40c., 10 (R) on 50c., 10 on 75c.

Madagascar.—Type 1: 05 on 15c., grey, 05 on 20c., 05 on 30c., 10 on 75c. Type 6: 05 (R) on 2c., 05 on 20c., 05 on 30c., 10 (R) on 40c., 10 on 50c., 10 on 75c.

Mayotte.—05 on 2c., 05 on 4c., 05 on 15c., blue, 05 on 20c., 05 on 25c., black on rose, 05 on 30c., 10 on 40c., 10 on 45c., 10 on 50c., carmine, 10 on 75c., 10 on 1fr.

Moheli.—05 on 4c., 05 on 20c., 05 on 30c., 10 on 40c., 10 on 45c., 10 on 50c.

St. Pierre and Miquelon.—05 on 2c., 05 on 4c., 05 on 15c., blue, 05 on 20c., 05 on 25c., black on rose, 05 on 30c., 05 on 35c., 10 on 40c., 10 on 50c., carmine, 10 on 75c., 10 on 1fr.

Senegal.—05 on 15c., blue, 05 on 20c., 05 on 30c., 10 on 40c., 10 on 50c., 10 on 75c.

Greece. The *London Philatelist* prints some interesting, but nevertheless appalling news from Mr. Mertzhanoff:

“1st November, 1912.

“I read in the Greek papers, dated 26th October:—

“Commemorative Postage Stamps.

“The Ministry of Finance has admitted the ancient symbol submitted by the Director of the Numismatic Museum, Mr. F. Svoronos, to represent our present national effort by an Eagle attacking a Dragon, and has charged Mr. Ligueron, the French artist, to make a specimen, which probably will be submitted to-day.

“After this, by a Royal decree, the current stamps will be withdrawn and the new type will be in use (the paper mentions a single type and not different ones).

“The aforesaid postage stamp shall be printed in all values by the establishment of Messrs. Apotis, Corfu, and used during the course of the campaign.

“Commemorative postage stamps of the Islands of *Lemnos* and *Icaria* are also printed in Athens (for speculative purposes, I suppose), but only for local use.”

“5th November, 1912.

“I beg to complete my information of the other day, from later Greek papers, dated Athens, 31st October.

“In addition to the first type of a commemorative postage stamp, Mr. J. Svoronos has submitted a second one representing a white cross in the midst of dark clouds, which bears above the inscription

ΕΝ ΤΟΥΤΩ ΝΙΚΑ

(With this conquer.)

written in Byzantine characters. This was the dream of the Emperor Constantine the Great, and under it he triumphed against the barbarians.”

“At the inferior part there will be a view of the Acropolis and of the seas of Phalerum, Salamis and Aegina.

“Both types shall be printed in Corfu in all the values.

“It is now stated that by a Royal decree these stamps will be used in the offices of the towns and islands freshly occupied by the Greek armies and fleets during the war.

“The quantity ordered is 13 millions of stamps.

“For the moment the General Post Office has sent to Limnos 20,000 stamps of all the values overcharged ΑΗΜΝΟΣ (Lemnos) for the special use of the island.”

“13th November, 1912.

“Confirming my previous notices about new Greek postage stamps, I now read in the Athenian papers that as a certain delay will occur in preparing the new types in Corfu, orders have been given to the Postal Department to surcharge a quantity of actual stamps with the words

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΛΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ

(Greek administration.)

which must be sent to the newly conquered provinces and towns.”

Islands in the Ægean Sea. The *Monthly Journal*, immediately after chronicling a host of French Colonial surcharges, prints the following. We are too busily engaged in planning our new 'bus ticket cabinet to make any comments.

“It was not to be expected that the events of the past six weeks, and, what seems probable at the moment, the total disappearance of Turkey from the European map, would be allowed to go unmarked in philatelic history, but appalling possibilities are opened up by the rumours we hear of wholesale surcharging and overprinting of various stamps, supposedly for use in the innumerable islets and rocklets of the Ægean. With one or two more important exceptions we believe that these doubtless delectable spots are inhabited chiefly by goats, but this fact does not prevent the contemplation by the Italian authorities of a full set of Italian stamps overprinted ‘Isole dell’ Egeo’ for use ‘until such time as overprinted sets can be supplied for each Island!’ This, however, is only the Italian side of the game; there are also the Greek point of view and the Independent Republic point of view! An extract from a despatch from Athens, in *La Patrie* of November 1st, reads: ‘In addition to the Greek stamp commemorative of the war, the National Printing Office is preparing stamps

for the island of Lemnos; these will be Greek stamps overprinted with the word 'Lemnos.' If Lemnos, why not also Thasos, Imbros, Samothrace, and all or any other islets to which it may seem good to a commander of a Greek gunboat to pay a morning call? Even on the surface this seems as bad as can be, but bearing in mind the Cretan 'Hellas' jobbery, what may underlie these proceedings in the way of errors, omissions, and redundancy to the overprints, defies imagination.

"Touching the possibility of Independent Republics, we are persuaded that one island, Icaria, has already constituted itself as such, and that not only has a set of stamps of suitably classical appearance been printed in Athens (?), but that some of these stamps have veritably franked letters to countries under the Postal Union without the addition of any impost. What we should like to know is, in the first place, whether specimens of these 'stamps' were submitted to the Postal Union; if, and if so on what grounds, the Postal Union have recognized them; and if not, why letters franked therewith have been admitted to and delivered in Postal Union countries without supertax. No arrangement for the partition of any part of the Turkish Empire has at this time been entered upon, and until some scheme is agreed to by the parties concerned, issues such as this latter have a very dubious authority. No doubt some such issues will eventually be unavoidable, but with the claims both of Italy and the Balkan allies still unformulated they seem at best to be previous."

Philippine Islands. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*, on the authority of a Continental exchange, chronicles the following:

Adhesive.
26c. dark green.

In the World of Stamps.

DEATH OF MR. A. HOUTZAMER.

IT is with great regret that we have to record the death of Mr. A. Houtzamer, partner in the firm of W. & A. Houtzamer, of the Strand. Mr. Houtzamer's demise was very sudden and he will be greatly missed by his many philatelic friends. We feel sure our readers will join with us in offering his brother, Mr. W. Houtzamer, our sincerest condolences.

* * *

ANOTHER STAMP AUCTIONEER.

Mr. E. M. Gilbert-Lodge, F.S.I., F.A.I., etc., the well-known auctioneer and energetic member of the Junior, and other Philatelic Societies, has decided to enter the field of philatelic auctioneering, and his first public sale will be held at the Salisbury Hotel, Fleet Street, on January 9th and 10th next. Mr. Lodge tells us that he has already had

a very nice lot of stamps sent him from collectors, while he has been able to unearth several lots of old correspondence, etc., which will keep him busy for some months, so that collectors who attend his sales will stand an excellent chance of picking up some bargains.

* * *

THE I.P.U. SMOKER.

A hundred or more stamp men, to say nothing of their friends, gathered at the Holborn Restaurant on Monday evening, November 25th, and spent a most enjoyable evening. The company was most responsive, and the artistes, as was only to be expected, were enthusiastically encored after every turn. Mr. J. C. Sidebotham occupied the chair and made a most successful speech, while the Concert Committee, Messrs. Lincoln, Hinton, Pemberton and Lamb, are to be congratulated on the result of their efforts. Unfortunately, Mr. W. E. Lincoln, the musical director, did not delight his numerous friends with one of his famous recitations, a fact not overlooked by the audience if the calls for Lincoln, Lincoln, were any criterion!

The artistes included such well known names as Mesdames Florence Bostock, Ethel Bucknill, and May Stevens; Messrs. Albert Carpenter, Fred Reynolds, Jock Walker, George Buck, Thomas Noakes, and George Gower, a galaxy of talent which needs no eulogies of ours.

The company was a representative one, amongst them we remember the following well known stamp men and their friends:— J. C. Sidebotham, E. W. Wetherell, H. L. Hayman, J. R. Laing, J. B. Tatham, Dr. Sutton, A. Maslin, Capt. Freeman, D. Field, A. J. Leon, Le Mare, C. Rapkin, L. Loeske, A. B. Creeke, C. Warbrick, A. J. Sefi, C. Nissen, F. B. Smith, H. H. Harland, Fred J. Melville, Guy Semple, H. F. Johnson, Wilmot Corfield, A. H. Harris, W. S. Lincoln, W. B. Kirkpatrick, W. E. Imeson, M. Giwelb, Gilbert Lodge, M. Z. Kuttner, F. Wadham, W. S. King, W. B. Edwards, P. C. Bishop, E. Healey, W. Jacoby, A. J. Waring, J. E. Joselin, O. H. Cecil, O. Dannenberg, W. Schwarte, W. Hadlow, Jr., J. Winstone, R. H. A. Deere, E. Stanjer, F. Irving, J. Makins, the Concert Committee and many more whose names have slipped our memory.

* * *

AN IMPORTANT PURCHASE.

Messrs. Bridger & Kay, the well-known dealers of Fleet Street, tell us that they have purchased Mr. M. P. Castle's famous collections of West Indian and other stamps. Mr. Castle, well-known as a leading philatelic expert and leader in the world of stamps, has always paid attention to condition, with the result that when any of his collections have been sold (and Mr. Castle has been tempted on more than one occasion), the public can rely on having some fine things to pick from. His famous Trinidads, including 214 blue

used lithographs and other trifles, and his equally well-known St. Vincents, which are especially strong in superb copies of the early stamps, both in singles and blocks, are now priced, and collectors of these popular countries will do well to see the albums before they are much picked over.

The Ceylons (rich in superb imperfs. and early Stars) and the Bahamas are, at present, only on offer as entire lots.

Other countries, Tasmania, Barbados, Antigua, St. Lucia, etc., are also strong in desirable items.

* * *

PHILATELY AT SCHOOL.

A Philatelic Society has been formed at St. Paul's School, with the Head Master's approval. The first officers elected are:—President, E. J. Leon; Treasurer, F. G. B. Lucas; Secretary, D. L. Evans. The inaugural meeting was held on Friday, 13th inst., when Mr. W. Buckland Edwards, B.Sc., delivered an address, and gave a display of stamps.

* * *

LINCOLN'S ALBUMS.

Collectors who have not seen Mr. W. S. Lincoln's Xmas price list, should write at once for a copy—it is fully illustrated and bears evidence to the fact, if indeed such were needed, that the Lincoln Albums are, as they have been for many years, the most popular on the market. Visitors to Holles Street, Oxford Street, always go away with one

The I.P.U. "Smoker."

I.

"The great smoke" sees a "Smoker" great
Just once a year, but—there—
It might be held, say, once a month—
Though that's not my affair.
Or "Horseshoe" or "The Holborn" be
The chosen rendezvous,
In "Black and White" I fain would write,
"O.K. is I.P.U."

II.

Collectors, dealers—even *non*
Collectors there abound,
The seal (maybe the "Red Seal") of
Good fellowship is found.
The *watermark's* not high—although
Each glass is well filled there,
The while Sidebotham (with no side)
As fully fills the chair.

III.

We had "Some Scotch"—and then "Mair
(Songs Lauder-ble 'tis true) [Scotch.]"
No "album weeds" were those we smoked
(I pocketed a few).
Stage-stories good—but those told off
The stage "went" just as well,

When 'Patrick (of the Kirk) let go
And made a Bishop yell.

IV.

That Lincoln's found in Holborn is
Surprising—I *don't* think,
He'd never miss the "Smoker" and
Become a missing Linc.
Another name, too, carries weight
(A *ton* of weight i-tem),
But there's no call to weigh him up—
Who's known so well as "Pem."

V.

A Lamb (without a shepherd, too)
Quite frisky here we see,
He'll safe return, though, to the fold—
His brand's *P.J.G.B.*
If fresh as paint in London's smoke
(Which shows what he can bear),
How fresh that South down Lamb must be
In Brighton's bracing air!

VI.

Of "Jubilee" survivors brave
Fred M.'s won his V.C.
We'll ne'er forget the charge they made!
(Although their show was free).
The Johnson, too (who'll "take a walk
Down Fleet Street" now and then)—
To do full justice to his nibs
I'd need a Boswell's pen.

VII.

The old familiar faces there
Would fill a "special list,"
New specimens were welcome made—
The obsolete were missed.
To wish, in short, a parting wish
(A shorthand style will do)—
May I—C—U and U—C me
At next year's I.P.U.

W. E. IMESON.

Philatelic Congress of Great Britain.

EDINBURGH, 1913.

30, Buckingham Terrace,
Edinburgh.

It has now been decided to hold the Congress of 1913 on the 23rd, 24th and 25th April, 1913. At the same time the local Executive Committee think, in the interest of Philately, it would be advisable to hold a small Exhibition mainly confined to Scottish Collectors. By so doing they hope to stimulate Philately in Scotland.

The Exhibition will open on Tuesday, 23rd April and continue until Saturday night the 26th April thus giving Scottish collectors who have only the Saturday afternoon free, a chance of viewing same.

R. D. FINDLATER,
Hon. Sec.

The Stamps of France. 1849-1875.

G. A. HIGLETT.

A Paper read before the City of London Philatelic Society, on December 11th, 1912.

INTRODUCTORY.

At the time of the introduction of penny postage into the United Kingdom, the people of France suffered far more than those of our own country from high postal tariffs, imposed solely with a view to bring in as much revenue as possible, without any consideration of public service or benefit.

The Zonal, or distance, system was in force, and for a letter not exceeding in weight $7\frac{1}{2}$ grammes, or about $\frac{1}{4}$ oz., the postage fee varied from 20 centimes up to 1 franc 20 centimes, according to the distance it had to go. In the case of a letter for which 1 franc was charged, the average cost of transport to the government was $13\frac{3}{4}$ centimes, thus yielding a profit of $86\frac{1}{4}$ centimes, or about eightpence halfpenny per $\frac{1}{4}$ -oz. The charge for letters to England at this time was 2 francs for the minimum weight of $\frac{1}{4}$ -oz.

The privilege of franking mail matter was greatly abused, even going so far as to permit such a thing as a highly placed official being enabled to send all his dirty linen to the wash, and getting it back again when cleaned, as free mail matter; and, of course, if the garments of the female members of his household were also included, as was probably the case, it was certainly a gross abuse of the privilege of having *male* matter carried free.

Postal reform was under consideration when the monarchy was overthrown in February, 1848, and in August, 1848, it was decreed that on and after 1st January, 1849, the rates of postage throughout all France, Corsica, and Algiers, should be reduced to 20 centimes for letters not exceeding $7\frac{1}{2}$ grammes ($\frac{1}{4}$ -oz.); 40 centimes from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 15 grammes, and 1 franc from 15 to 100 grammes ($3\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.), and 1 franc additional for each further 100 grammes or additional part thereof, and double fees for registered letters.

We can better appreciate these rates by a comparison with those of our own country to-day. We can now send 16 ozs. by registered letter post for sixpence. These reduced French rates meant that a similar weight by registered post would have cost 10 francs, or eight shillings, and before this great reduction, the cost might have been anything up to £6, according to distance.

But there was an existing special local rate of 10 centimes for letters circulating within special local limits, and this local rate was still allowed to stand good.

Postage stamps were ordered to be prepared, of the values of 20 centimes, 40 centimes, and 1 franc, and it was decided that they should be manufactured at the Paris Mint. There

was only the very short interval of four months before the stamps were to be issued and in which to carry out all arrangements connected with their production and supply to the public.

It was ordered that the stamps should bear an effigy to represent the Republic, and the design submitted by Monsieur Barre, the engraver to the Mint, was selected. The effigy is of a female head, crowned with corn, grapes, and laurel leaves. The British catalogues describe it as the head of Ceres, the goddess of abundance. The official decree stated that it represented the Republic. Another decree, very shortly afterwards, described it as the head of Liberty. Many years afterwards, the French press ridiculed it as "Marianne." So there it is—you pay your money and you take your choice. But if you have not paid up your subscription to the City of London Philatelic Society—well, not having paid your money, you have no choice in the matter. The Treasurer will inform you that the price of liberty is 3s. 6d. per annum.

M. Barre engraved the design on a steel die, with blank spaces for the values.

Moulds were made from the die of gutta percha. 150 of these moulds were placed in 15 rows of 10 each, to form the matrix of a plate. This was put in the electro-chemical bath, and metal plates obtained therefrom.

The method of manufacture, combined with the fact that the principal parties concerned in the work were all paid by piece-work, led to two errors that may be found in the first issue. If a completed plate was found to contain an error which could either be passed over, or corrected, this was done, as each completed plate meant so much money to be received. The workshops at the Mint were badly lighted, and in putting together the moulds to form a plate, it happened in some instances that one mould was put in upside down, and so was produced the variety known as "Tête-Bêche." Again, in making up the plate for the 40 centimes value, two moulds of the 20 centimes stamp were accidentally included. In this case the figures of value were corrected by hand, and figures of a different shape were made, and so we get what is known as the "wide 4" variety.

PAPER.

The paper was examined on its receipt at the Mint, the sheets were counted, and each sheet was hand-stamped in the upper margin with a small stamp containing the letters C.F. in an oval. This stood for "contrôle franchises", as the stamps were at first

officially known as "franchises". Afterwards with the change of name to "Timbres-Poste", the lettering of the small hand-stamp was altered to "controle T.P." Stamps from the upper row of a sheet may shew a part or all of this mark, and several of such stamps are shewn.

The paper of nearly all the early issues of France was tinted, generally of a pale shade of similar colour to that of the stamps to be printed thereon. It happened that if stock ran short of a particular tint, the paper of the nearest next tint for stamps of another value was taken. Thus in the imperforate issue of 1853-1860, one printing of the 20 centimes, blue, was made on the greenish tinted paper made for the 5 centimes value. This particular variety is catalogued at some shillings, against the usual one penny for the blue tinted paper, but there are other similar errors, of which the catalogues take no notice.

To afford still greater security against forgery, there was adopted a process known as the "fond de sureté", consisting of a lithographic impression of quite colourless varnish.

FOND LIGNE.

A certain process connected with the printing of the early French stamps caused many of the copies to shew either vertical or horizontal lines in what should be the solid background of colour of the central medallion. These are known as the "fond ligné", or lined background variety. In the case of the Empire laureated issue, the 30 centimes value, brown, appears to have this lined background very frequently. This "fond ligné" background is also found in the early stamps of Greece.

COLOURS.

There are many shades of colour to be found in the early French stamps, and this is partly accounted for by the fact that the workmen were supplied weekly with a certain quantity of ink with which to do a certain quantity of work. They might start the week using the ink freely, and so producing fine deep colours, and then, if they saw their supply running short, to avoid being fined for running out, they thinned the ink to make it go further, and so produced the lighter shades.

The changes of colour of certain values present some rather perplexing features, until the system of colours adopted is understood. After the first 20 centimes black stamp of 1849, blue was the colour chosen for the stamp that paid the postage on a simple letter and bistre was the colour for the stamp that paid the lower local postage rate. But these rates were altered several times, sometimes increased, sometimes lowered, and in consequence of this we have the 20c. and 25c. stamps of the Empire both in blue, and the 80c. and the 1fr. both in carmine; the 10c. of the Republic in bistre, and then the 15c. in

bistre, with the 10c. changed to brown on rose, and so on. This colour system was adhered to until 1901, when the universal colours of the Postal Union for certain values were adopted.

ISSUE OF 1849-1850.

In October, 1848, the first issue was officially announced. It was stated that the stamps would bear the head of Liberty, and would be of the values of 20c., 40c., and 1 franc; and the colours would be red, blue, and black. No stamps of the value of 10c. were provided to pay the special local postage, which therefore still had to be paid in cash. The use of the stamps was not obligatory.

Black was chosen for the colour of the 20 centimes stamp, as it was the only colour which could be worked at both day and night, and the time was so very short. It was intended that the 40 centimes stamp should be blue, but as early as February, 1849, a change of colours was under consideration, and for similar reasons to those existing in England, the black was condemned to be replaced by blue, the black colour being reserved for obliterations. The 40 centimes stamp was not prepared until much later, and by then it had been decided to give the blue colour to the 20 centimes stamp for postage on simple letters, and the colour of the 40 centimes stamp was therefore changed to orange.

The stamps were on sale at post offices on and after Christmas Day, 1848, although not available for postage until 1st January, 1849.

The official name for the colour of the 1 franc stamp was red (*rouge*), and as there were only these two stamps issued during the first eleven months, the combination of colour names, *rouge et noir*, seems to possess a certain curious association.

20c. stamp. The paper of the 20c. stamp is generally tinted yellowish, of varying shades, ranging from brownish down to quite white, as may be seen by the specimens shown.

1 franc, red. A very small issue was made of the 1 franc, in vermilion-red, or dull red, of varying shades, on paper tinted yellowish.

Both of these stamps have *tête-bêche* varieties.

40c. stamp. The 40c. stamp was not issued until December, 1849, having probably been withheld in consequence of the colour difficulty, as its red-orange was so much like the red of the 1 franc stamp. Two stamps in the sheet have the "wide 4" variety, one on both sides of the label of value, and the adjoining stamp on one side only.

1 franc, carmine. On 1st December, 1849, the 1 fr. stamp was issued in the new colour, carmine, also found in varying shades, and the whole stock of the first issue in red was called in from the post offices and destroyed.

Altogether there were eight plates of the 20c. stamp, and two plates each of the 40c. and 1 fr. stamps.

Obliterations. Special obliterating stamps were made, but they were not ready until late in January, 1849, and in the meantime the postal officials were authorised and instructed to cancel all stamps by their circular dating stamps, or by a pen-marked cross, until the new lozenge-shaped "grille" stamps were delivered.

1850. INCREASE OF POSTAGE RATES.

In 1850 the rates of postage were increased from 20 centimes to 25 centimes for a simple letter not exceeding $7\frac{1}{2}$ grammes ($\frac{1}{4}$ -oz.), and from 40 centimes to 50 centimes for letters from $7\frac{1}{2}$ grammes to 15 grammes, with the exception of letters for soldiers and sailors on service. At the same time the registration fee was reduced from double postage to 25 centimes.

The local postage rate of 10 centimes, for letters circulating within one Department only, still held good, and the rate for letters within Paris was 15 centimes, so that the people of the capital suffered the curious disadvantage of having to pay 15c. for their town letters, while all other towns paid 10c. only.

The new rates came into force on 1st July, 1850, and the changes necessitated new stamps. The 20 centimes, black, was ordered to be used up, and the current stamps then became:—

- 10c. bistre. For local and town letters, or two stamps required to make the special rate of 20 centimes for soldiers and sailors on service.
- 15c. green. For letters Paris to Paris.
- 20c. black. Still being issued and used up.
- 25c. blue. For ordinary simple letters at the new rate, instead of the old 20c. rate.
- 40c. orange. For foreign letters, for letters of double weight for soldiers and sailors, and for general use.
- 1 fr. carmine. For all letters exceeding 15 grammes ($\frac{1}{4}$ -oz.).

The new 10c., 15c., and 25c. stamps were all issued in July, 1850.

In consequence of these rather remarkable features, special interest attaches to the collection of postmarks and more particularly of entires, and amongst the specimens shown are:—

- 10c. On entire, franking a local letter within the Department of Isère, dated October, 1852, when ordinary postage was 25c.
- 10c. A pair on entire, addressed to a soldier in garrison at Strasbourg, then a French city, in 1853, when the special rate for soldiers and sailors on service was 20 centimes, against 25 centimes for ordinary correspondence.

This envelope also bears the large circular obliterating stamp issued in 1830, and still in use at many small country post offices as late as 1853.

- 15c. The rate of 15c. applied to Paris letters only, and consequently nearly all these

stamps are obliterated with Paris marks. One of the copies exhibited has a star postmark, the mark of the Paris head office, and the others are also probably Paris postmarks.

- 20c. Specimens are shewn with both of the provisional obliterations of the first half of January, 1849, viz.:—

Date Stamp. Two bearing date 1st January, 1849, the first day of issue, and two others dated 9th January.

Pen-marked Cross. A pair on entire and a single copy.

- 25c. A pair on entire from Lyons to Turin, marked also P.D. in red, which was stamped on all letters for abroad.

A cover marked O.R. (Origine rurale).

All rural postmen were supplied with this stamp, and when used, it was ordered to be struck twice upon the stamp.

Among the 25c. stamps exhibited are several copies on yellowish paper, instead of the usual blue tinted paper. M. Maury raises a query whether these may not be yellowed by age, but an examination of the backs of the stamps, which are not subjected to the same influences as the face, rather leads one to suppose that it was a different paper, and that some of the yellowish tinted paper intended for other values was used, either by mistake, or else knowingly when stocks of blue tinted paper ran out.

JOURNAL STAMPS.

On 1st August, 1850, an old tax on journals and periodicals was re-introduced, which also included postage, and stamps were called into existence to denote both newspaper tax and postage. It is a complicated matter, beyond the compass of the present paper, but it may be mentioned that later on ordinary postage stamps were used to denote both this newspaper tax and postage, and many specimens are shewn covered with printing matter and so used.

OBLITERATIONS.

In 1852, a new series of obliterating stamps was introduced. For general use, there was a lozenge of spots or points, having in the centre the distinctive number of the post office using it, except in the case of Paris offices, travelling post offices, etc., which had distinctive obliterations. There were also introduced shortly afterwards roller obliterators giving endless obliterations.

20C. IN BLUE.

Before leaving the 1849 issue, it is well to note that the 20c. black was not printed after February 1849. From then until May 1849, some $23\frac{1}{2}$ millions of these were printed in blue. These were never issued for use, because increase of postage rates required 25 centimes stamps for simple letters, and these new 25 centimes stamps were printed in blue, but attempts were made to utilise them, and about two millions were surcharged in red "25c." This was the first surcharge applied

to postage stamps. The officials were paid by piece-work, new stamps meant more money and more profit for the heads of departments, and nearly all the printing was destroyed.

USE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

It is worth noting that during the first year

of issue, 1849, the total number of letters carried was 158,000,000, and the total number of postage stamps sold was only 21,000,000, so that only about 10% of the letters were stamped.

(To be continued.)

The Stamps of Greece.

By P. L. PEMBERTON.

(Continued from page 193.)

ATHENS PRINT, 1889-1900.

Owing to the superior attractions of the stamps of the first type, this issue has always been sadly neglected. I have never seen a highly specialized collection of them, nor even a collection in which any attempt has been made to arrange the shades and varieties of paper chronologically. There may, however, be collectors who have mastered the issue by the aid of dated copies, and if so I will say at once that they must know a great deal more about these stamps than I can claim to do, for my own collection of dated copies is very incomplete. However, with the aid of the new issue chronicles in the contemporary periodicals, and that of my own small collection, I am able to classify the issue into several subdivisions on rather broad lines. This arrangement, though rather sketchy, should serve as a basis for further study, and I am quite sure that the issue would well repay anyone who has the leisure to go into it thoroughly.

As first printed in Athens the sheets were the same size as the Belgian issue, and consisted of 100 stamps in two panes side by side, each pane being made up of ten horizontal rows of five stamps. Sheets issued in this form were without watermark. After only a few weeks the sheets were enlarged and were issued with six panes of fifty arranged in two rows of three. The sheets issued in this form shewed (at first) a watermark consisting of a Greek inscription in very narrow double-lined characters, measuring 37mm. in height, and signifying "Paper for the Public Service."

This occurs twice across each entire sheet of six panes, so that portions of the watermark fell only on a comparatively small number of the stamps and this small number was frequently lessened when the major portion of the watermark fell on the margins between the panes.

About midway between the two lines of watermark occurred the letters E.X. which stand for two Greek words meaning Greek paper manufactory. These letters are also double-lined but only measure 14mm. in height.

The watermark may be found reading vertically up or down but the usual position is horizontal. In a single stamp even if the watermark is clearly impressed (which is rarely the case) it is generally impossible to

decipher it, as only a section of one or two characters is visible. The paper with watermark appears to have been used until 1883 at about which time the watermark was abolished.

The first reference to Athens printed stamps from the Belgian plates is to be found in the *Philatelic Record* of July, 1889, where the 20 lep. carmine, and 25 lep. indigo are chronicled. We are there told that the 20 lep. was first issued in March on thin paper of a very poor quality, that at the end of April the same stamp was issued in a darker shade on watermarked paper and that, on the 10th of May, it appeared on watermarked paper of a light straw colour. Here we have a record of three printings in three months, and by the aid of dated postmarks I have been able to identify, to my own satisfaction, all three varieties. The first is, as described, on very thin paper which, though apparently of very coarse texture, has quite a polished surface. The colour is more rose than carmine. The April printing is a distinct carmine and is on yellowish toned paper which is slightly thicker than the last but still has a good surface. The May printing is on watermarked paper of ordinary thickness, still more strongly tinted yellow, while the colour varies from dull to fairly deep carmine. Of these the first two are very rare, even used, while the third is common, for there must have been a fairly large printing of it as it lasted for three years. There was, however, a fourth printing in 1889, which is much commoner than the March and April but still quite scarce; I refer to the aniline rose on fairly thin, highly surfaced, watermarked paper. This is a distinctive printing and easily recognized when found. It must be borne in mind that the watermark is not often seen as only a few stamps on the sheet bear it, so the absence of a watermark proves nothing.

The 25 lep., Athens print, was also chronicled in the same number of the *Philatelic Record* as having appeared on the 10th of May, in indigo, on watermarked paper, and on the 18th in sky-blue. Now it has always been assumed that the first Athens 25 lep. was the ultramarine, and I think there can be no doubt that this colour was meant by "sky-blue" in the above reference. But granting this, how

are we going to explain an earlier printing in indigo, which only lasted for eight days? The *Record's* statement is so circumstantial and its information with regard to the 20 lepta so exact, that I should be surprised to learn that it was wrong in this instance, however extraordinary it may seem. Unfortunately I have been unable to find any dated copies that would help, but I have three copies in indigo which are on thin shiny paper similar to that of the April 20 lep., which I think might easily be from this printing, as they are so different from the common indigo on ordinary paper which admittedly appeared later.

The other values printed in Athens were issued in the following order: 10 lep., 1 lep., 5 lep., in 1889; 2 lep. in March, 1891; 40 lep. in 1892; and 1 dr. in 1895. The 50 lepta was never printed in Athens at all, as the stock of Belgian prints lasted until the end of the issue.

The first official Greek perforating machine was brought into use in May, 1889; this gave a gauge of 13½. But after only a few sheets of the Athens printed 20 lep. had been operated upon the machine broke down and was not used again until nearly two years later. The *Philatelic Record* for July, 1889, states that the few sheets so perforated were all sent to Syra and there issued on the 18th of May, 1889.

Early in 1891 this machine was got into working order again and was used for perforating the whole lot of the first Athens-printed 2 lepta, all of which were on water-marked paper. These were issued at Athens on March 18th, 1891 (*vide P.J.G.B.*, May, 1891). On the same day were issued from the Athens post-office all the other denominations, perforated 11½, from a new machine which had been purchased from a Leipzig firm, and from that date all stamps issued in Athens were perforated, while those issued at provincial offices remained imperforate. Of the stamps issued perforated 11½ on the date mentioned, the 40, 50 lep. and 1 dr. were Belgian prints, while the 1, 5, 10 and 20 lep. were Athens. When the 40 lepta, Athens print, was issued in the middle of 1881, a number of sheets appeared perforated 13½, but they only lasted a very short time. At some date, which I am unable to determine, the 1 lepton was issued, perf. 13½, but I doubt if any of the other values, viz., 5, 10 and 25 lep. and 1 dr., still less the later 25 lep. purple and 40 lep. blue, which are known with the 13½ perforation, were ever actually issued over the post-office counter.

The 25 lep. ultramarine was superseded in May, 1890, by the dull blue colour and consequently we should not expect to find it perforated, as the machines were not used until early in the following year. But I recently found a pair in the ultramarine colour, perforated 11½, obliterated with a postmark which appears to be Athens (date illegible). It is, of course, quite possible that

a few sheets were returned to the chief office at Athens some time after they became obsolete, in which case they would doubtless be perforated and issued in the ordinary way. This seems to be a very feasible way of accounting for the existence of this exceedingly rare variety.

I will now leave the question of the perforations, after reminding my readers that with the exception of the very first printings of the 1, 5, 10, 20 and 25 lep., which are only found imperf., all the other varieties of the Athens prints occur both imperf. and perforated 11½.

Broadly speaking, the issue may be divided into four sets, which differ in the paper and the clearness or otherwise of the printing.

The first series comprises stamps printed on very thin paper, frequently having a decidedly yellowish tone which is accentuated in the case of some unused specimens by the quantity of yellowish gum on the backs. Generally speaking the impressions in this set are very fair.

The second division, which comprises the stamps issued between 1890 and 1894, is marked by thicker paper, but varying in texture, and still more strongly tinted yellowish. This paper invariably shows the watermark in some portion of the sheet. The impressions are generally rather coarse.

The third division, which may be made, comprises the stamps used between the dates 1894 and 1898. These are on fairly white paper, from moderately thin to very thick, coarse and woolly. Sometimes the paper is watermarked, but more often not. The impressions during this period were indifferent to very poor. The majority of specimens one meets with belong to this class.

The fourth set consists of the stamps issued from 1898 to 1900. These are easy to distinguish, as they are smooth printings on moderate to very thin, dead white paper, of good texture. It is obvious that at the beginning of 1898, the Greeks made an effort to improve the printing of their stamps, and they not only printed them very carefully after cleaning the plates, but also endeavoured to match the colours in which they were first printed in Belgium. The result was that though they did not equal the original printings, they produced stamps which, in many cases, might be mistaken, at first sight, for Belgian prints. Especially is this noticeable in the case of the 20 lepta, some specimens of which are identical in shade with those of 1886. As the paper is such a dead white, and is not quite so glossy as the Belgian, and as the printing is not quite so smooth, they can be detected with a little practice. The excellent printing did not last very long, and by the year 1900 the worst impressions of the whole series were being turned out. This division, therefore, comprises impressions from the finest to the coarsest.

The following is a synopsis, by the aid of which collectors may arrange their stamps.

I.—*Printed on very thin, shiny paper, white to yellowish, without watermark, fair impressions. Imperf.*

- 1 lep., dark purple-brown.
- 5 " yellow-green.
- 10 " orange-yellow.
- 20 " rose to deep rose.
- 25 " deep indigo.

II.—*Printed on paper of medium thickness with more or less pronounced buff or greyish tone, watermarked in the sheet (only occasionally showing on the stamps. Imperf. and Perf.*

- 1 lep., deep purple-brown.
- 1 " brown.
- 5 " yellow-green.
- 5 " deep yellow-green.
- 5 " pale green.
- 10 " orange-yellow.
- 10 " yellow-orange, pale to deep.
- 20 " aniline-rose (paper not always toned).
- 20 " carmine.
- 20 " deep carmine.
- 20 " scarlet.
- 25 " indigo.
- 25 " dull blue.
- 40 " purple.

III.—*Printed on ordinary paper of varying thickness, sometimes with watermark, impression indifferent to very poor. Imperf. and Perf.*

- 1 lep., olive-brown.
- 1 " black-brown.
- 1 " pale brown.
- 2 " bistre-grey (1892).
- 2 " bistre.
- 2 " yellow-bistre.
- 5 " pale green.
- 5 " green.
- 5 " deep green.
- 10 " orange.
- 10 " ochre-yellow.
- 20 " pale rose.
- 20 " deep rose.
- 25 " ultramarine (1889).
- 25 " pale blue.
- 25 " dull blue.
- 25 " purple.
- 40 " purple.
- 40 " blue.
- 1 dr. grey.

IV.—*Printed on dead-white paper, varying in thickness from medium to thin, no watermark, impression fine at first but deteriorating very much towards the end. Imperf. and Perf.*

- 1 lep., yellow-brown.
- 1 " deep yellow-brown.
- 5 " pale bright green (clear impression).
- 5 " emerald green.
- 5 " bright yellow-green.
- 10 " pale ochre-yellow (clear impression).
- 10 " pale orange-yellow.
- 20 " rose (very clear impression).
- 20 " dull rose (very woolly impression).

20 lep., pink.

20 " bright rose.

25 " pale purple (clear impression).

(To be continued).

Mexico, 1874 Issue.

R. W. WILKINSON.

IN "Gibbons Stamp Weekly" for July 10th, 1909, Vol X., Number 2, page 36, there appeared an article by Mr. E. W. Wetherell dealing with the 25c. stamp of Mexico issued in 1874 and used until 1883.* The author put forward evidence to show that three plates had been used, and gave the following signs by which the printings could be separated.

"PLATE I.—A blue dot very well marked, in the second '1' of 'VEINTICINCO.' This plate was in use alone for 1874, 1875, 1876 and 1877."

"PLATE II.—There is a small semi-lunar blue curve added to each stamp separately just under the bottom of '2' (in N.W. corner) in the white frame below tablet. This plate was in use in 1878, 1879, 1880, and 1881."

"PLATE III.—No dot, no semi-lunar curve, but a series of guide lines which appear at the top and sides of the stamps outside the design, and cutting each other at the N.W. corner of the stamps. This plate was in use in 1881, 1882 and 1883."

"The second plate came on at the time that the change in overprint was made, so all specimens with number and date wide apart are Plate I."

"The thin paper came on in 1881 (end) so all copies dated 1882 and 1883 are on thin paper and must be Plate III."

An examination of a large number of these 25c. stamps—including several entire sheets—with the intention of arranging them according to these three plates, leads me to dissent from Mr. Wetherell's classification on the following grounds. The "blue dot" of Plate I., and the "semi-lunar curve" of Plate II., were discovered together on an entire sheet of stamps dated 1883, on the thin paper of Plate III., but without guide lines; the "dot" occurs on every stamp, and the "curve" on only 21 of the 100 composing the sheet.

This, of course, destroyed the usefulness of Mr. Wetherell's guides to separation, and a new basis of arranging the stamps had to be sought for. It is certain that at least two plates were used, one of which had a marginal line at a distance of 12mm. from the edges of the sheet; this plate was in use until 1883, appearing then on thin paper as already mentioned. The semi-lunar curves are found at the left side only, and no guide lines were drawn at the top left corner. The other plate,

*Mr. Wetherell's article appeared in the *Philatelic Journal of India*, probably prior to its publication in *G.S.W.*

so far known with the dates 1881-3 on thick and thin paper, has guide lines as Mr. Wetherell describes, but has semi-lunar curves, but at the *right side* only.

In examining the oft-alluded-to "semi-lunar curves" a discovery was made which I believe to be (if not unique) at any rate of a most interesting character. It was early apparent that the curves were due to a re-entry, but of what? No portion of the design of the 25c. would produce such a curve, but stamp No. 40 on the thin paper sheets settled the matter, by showing a very clear impression of the figures "10" below the curve!! This is at the top right hand corner and the figure "0" just cuts into the "C" of centavos.

Comparison with a 10c. stamp of the same issue showed that by some means the transfer roller (carrying upon it several different values) had been rocked too far, or carelessly placed so that the design next to the 25c. was impressed on the space adjoining that upon which the transferer was busy.

Sufficient has been said to show that if Mr. Wetherell's Plates I. and II. are "amalgamated," his description will hold good, except that the "curve" is not found on "each stamp."

A Legal Problem for Great Britain Specialists.

BY LAW STUDENT.

THE latest vagary of Somerset House, in restricting the publication of illustrations of postage stamps, has caused some outcry in the Philatelic Press, and the October *British Philatelist* contains some observations on the legal aspect of this action of the authorities.

These remarks have suggested to me certain reflections as to the legality of another piece of officialism—the order to officers of the Post Office to refuse demands for "Controls."

It requires no very extensive knowledge of law to know that an offer cannot be revoked after acceptance without the risk of an action for breach of contract. It may be argued that the existence of a Post Office at a particular place is a standing offer to any member of the public to sell at face value during business hours any stamp or stamps in stock. That, among other things, is what a Post Office is for. I submit that I am perfectly entitled to accept that offer in respect of any particular stamp I choose, and that a refusal to supply it is a revocation of the offer after acceptance. If I go into a confectioner's and see a pile of buns marked "1d. each," can it be contended that I am not entitled, if I like, to pick the one with most currants, but must take the top one? Surely not: yet that is what this order is trying to force on us with regard to a sheet of stamps.

Unless there is some statutory authority for this proceeding, I suggest that the order is

ultra vires and illegal, and that a party aggrieved must have some remedy in law.

The question then arises, what remedy? To sue the Postmaster-General would seem the obvious course, but could he set up that he contracts solely as agent for a disclosed principal—the Crown? If so, the remedy would presumably be by a Petition of Right addressed to His Majesty, which in the end would have the same result.

Without the expense of legal proceedings there is a simple method of evading the order if the scarcity of the particular variety is worth the trouble, by buying the whole sheet, taking what is required, and selling the remainder back to the Post Office at 5% discount, under the Regulations in the Post Office Guide.

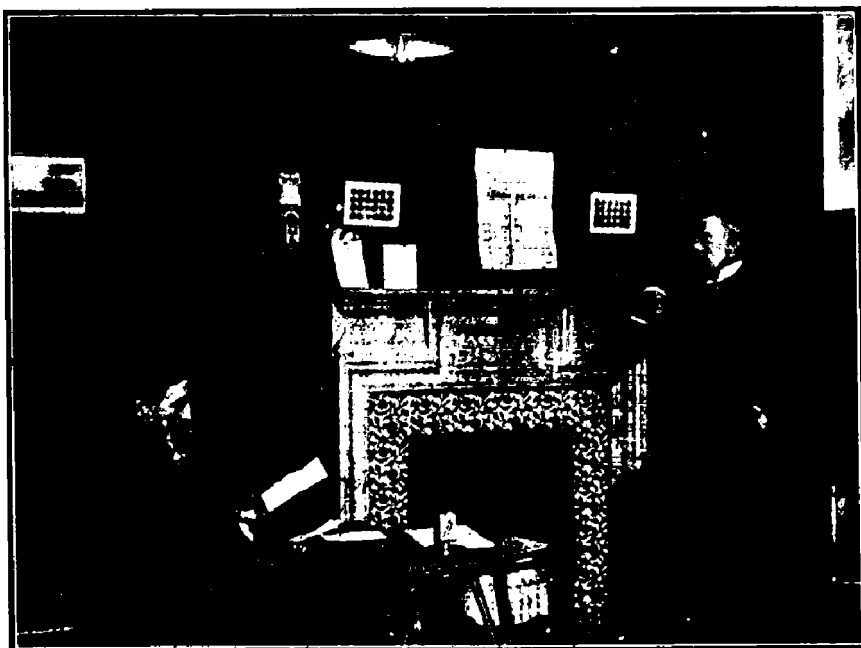
Personally, I manage without that. I know a branch office (whose locality I will not divulge, lest my friend behind the counter should get into trouble), where the order is treated with the contempt it deserved. The Postmistress "believed she remembered something of the sort, but hadn't read it carefully, and had lost it." A new stock of stamps comes in about once a fortnight, and I take my collection down, and the Postmistress hands me over the whole lot, and I go through them in her presence with my album, picking out a new shade of this value, and a new marginal variety of that, to the considerable benefit of the Revenue, as I have sometimes spent twelve to fifteen shillings at a time, without requiring in return any of the postal services to which I am entitled.

Indeed, it is hard to see what use the order can have, except to drive away profitable business. Stamps sold to collectors are clear profit to the Post Office, and if they cannot get the ones they want, they will buy nothing. It is amazing how many Post Office officials, if you ask for a 10d. stamp, will try to sell you two 5d. ones, and look pained at your refusal!

With regard to the legal problem raised, I am, as my non-de-plume implies, a solicitor's articulated clerk, and express my views with corresponding diffidence, but should be very glad to see the views of more experienced lawyer-philatelists on the point, and still more glad if someone who can afford it would bring a test case.

THE Publishers and the Editor of the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* have much pleasure in wishing their subscribers and readers a very Happy Xmas and Prosperous New Year. Those of our subscribers whose subscriptions expire with this number will receive the usual pink renewal form attached to the wrapper; if they intend renewing—as we trust they do, we shall esteem it a favour if they will forward their subscriptions at an early date, by so doing they will considerably lighten the clerical duties of our staff.

The London Philatelic Club.



MR. F. H. VALLANCEY AND MR. F. A. WICKHART, PROPRIETORS OF THE L.P.C.



A CORNER OF ONE OF THE CLUB ROOMS.

LAST month we published some particulars of the enterprise projected by Messrs. Wickhart and Vallancey, at 41 and 42, Temple Chambers (off Fleet Street, E.C.),

where they have established the London Philatelic Club, and on this page we are able to reproduce a couple of photographs of the Club Rooms. Already this idea for a Stamp

Collectors' Rendezvous has "caught on" and members are being enrolled almost daily. The originators are well known as capable organisers, and it will not be their fault if the Club does not grow into quite a big thing. Mr. Wickhart will be remembered by most of our readers as the founder of the Northern Stamp Exchange Club, the packets of which often reached the huge total of £4,000 per month, while Mr. F. H. Vallancey is the Hon. Sec. of the Stamp Exchange Protection Society, and until recently Secretary of the "One and All" and "Ideal" Exchange Clubs. One of the features of the London Philatelic Club is an "Open Night" every other Friday, to which all collectors are invited. The next of these gatherings will be on Friday evening, December 27th, and will afford an opportunity for non-members to inspect the cosy Club Rooms and meet a number of fellow collectors. No introduction is necessary, as a warm welcome will be accorded to all *P.J. of G.B.* readers who drop in at 41 and 42, Temple Chambers.

January will witness the introduction of Exchange Packets—one for London members which will be retained in the Club Rooms for inspection by visiting members, and the other packet for circulation through the post to country members. The subscription to the London Philatelic Club is ten shillings and sixpence per annum (from date of entrance), which includes the right to see either of the Exchange Packets and contribute to them. No commission on sales will be charged, so that members will be able quickly to cover the amount of the Club subscription in lieu of the sales commission.

Other attractions are being arranged for, in order that the L.P.C. shall become the most popular meeting place for collectors in the Kingdom.

New Leaves to Cut.

CAYMAN ISLANDS.*

BY FRED J. MELVILLE.

ALTHOUGH we are always pleased to welcome fresh additions to the literature of stamp collecting, we regret that Mr. Melville should have devoted one of his series of stamp books to such an unprofitable study. Had not the stamps of these insignificant islands been already fully written about, we should not have minded. Mr. Melville is, naturally enough, able to add very little to what has already appeared in Mr. D. B. Armstrong's, "The Cayman Islands: their Stamps and Post Offices," published a year or so ago.

As it is, readers of the seventeenth volume in this series of miniature guides, have to wade through the usual history of the uninteresting labels which did, and still do, postal

duty in an out of the way Dependency, which ought never to have had postal issues of its own.

Mr. Melville takes his readers through all the issues, including the debated 1d. on 4d. which he classes, as of course he has to, as a fiscal. We are told that this abortion came into existence through an American resident in the group "demanding" a sheet of 1d. stamps for receipt purposes!

We trust that the next volume of the Stamp Books will deal with the stamps of a country of more general interest.

CHECK LIST OF TWENTIETH CENTURY BRITISH COLONIALS.

JAN., 1901, TO OCT., 1912.*

We have duly received a copy of this useful catalogue and find it, for the present at least, an extremely useful little reference guide. Concerning this book, the compilers say:

"This Check List has been produced with infinite care and has been checked by all standard lists, and again re-checked by three people, comparing it with our own stock. The prices quoted therein are, we believe, the true value of the specimen. Never before in the history of philately has there been such a demand for modern issues. This firm has been obliged to buy entire stocks of dealers in order to cope with the demand. We have just bought the biggest stock of 20th Century Colonials in Europe, and added it to our own."

Without knowing the extent of "the biggest stock of 20th Century Colonials in Europe," we feel sure that the New York Stanley Gibbons carries a big stock of recent issues and their quotations must be taken as being standard for these difficult to value goods.

The following are a few random extracts:

Canada, King Edward, 2c., imperf., pair	...	...	...	25c.
Dominica, Pictorial 6d. on chalky paper, multiple wmk.	...	...	...	\$4.00
Falkland Islands, King Edward, 1d., wmk. sideways	...	...	...	\$3.00
Jamaica, 1905-9, multiple wmk.	...	...	...
1d.	...	...	...	\$1.00
4d. red-brown	...	...	...	\$1.75
2/-	...	...	...	\$4.00
Queensland, 1908, 4d. yellow, Crown and A.	...	...	...	62c.
Trinidad, 1904-5, multiple wmk., chalk-surfaced paper.	...	...	...
½d. green	...	...	...	25c.
1d. black on red	...	...	...	12c.
2½d. purple and blue on blue	...	...	...	\$1.00
6d. dull purple and black	...	...	...	50c.
1/- black and blue on yellow	...	...	...	\$1.00
1/- brown and blue on yellow	...	...	...	\$1.50

*Published by Stanley Gibbons Inc., 198, Broadway, New York City. Price 25 cents.

*Melville Stamp Books, 47, Strand, W.C. Price 6d. nett.

All the above quotations are for unused specimens; there is no truth in the report that our Mr. W. H. Peckitt is thinking of emigrating to New York with his little lot of Falkland sideways watermarks.

STAMP COLLECTORS' ANNUAL.*

D. B. ARMSTRONG.

The tenth edition of this useful little hand-book is before us and we find it, as we have in previous years, an interesting work to read and a valuable aid, in after-months, for reference purposes.

Many of last year's excellent features, notably the "Philatelic Literary Index," are again to the fore, while we find plenty of fresh matter likely to prove of general interest.

Some of the following articles are all too short, but a perusal of a list of the principal contents will prove to our readers that the "Stamp Annual" has a strong claim on cosmopolitan collectors.

The principal items have, we believe, been written expressly for the "Annual." Mr. Armstrong contributes "The Story of the Year"; Mr. L. W. Crouch, "Georgian Stamps of the British Empire"; while Mr. R. E. R. Dalwigk writes entertainingly about the "Postal Establishments of the German Colonies." Other articles of note are Mr. Armstrong's "British Contract Letters and Numbers," Mr. H. Clark's review of the stamp books of the year; together with papers dealing with the following subjects: "Greek Stamps Used Abroad," "Early American Posts," "The Army Post Office Corps," "Celebrities of the Stamp World," and a lengthy and valuable contribution, entitled "The World's Postage Stamp Printers," wherein we find a short history of nearly forty of the world's most famous stamp printers.

Those of our readers who have not already invested in a copy of this year's "Annual" should embrace an early opportunity of rectifying their oversight.

UNITED STATES STAMP AUCTION REVIEW.†

BY C. G. FERRIS.

We have received from Eugene Klein Inc., of Philadelphia, a very useful addition to the literature of Philately. It takes the shape of a very elaborate priced catalogue of all the United States stamps, envelopes, etc., which have been sold in the U.S.A. during the past two years, and collectors of these stamps will find a wealth of material from a study of which they will be able approximately to value their

collections. The book contains nearly two hundred pages, each one giving, especially among the early issues, tempting lists of singles, pairs, blocks, etc., of each stamp and the prices realized together with catalogue number and quotation.

Needless to say in reviewing auction realizations one has always to consider the various reasons which influence buyers, but if we average several of the sale prices for any one stamp we are bound to arrive at a very true valuation.

For instance, we note the following prices for horizontal strips of 4 of the 5c. red-brown, of 1847. No. 1 was knocked down for \$26.00. No. 2, with the addition of being described as "very fine," only realized \$17.00. No. 3, with one stamp creased, fetched \$12.00, while a strip of five was sold for \$12.75c.

The same stamp, in a single, on original cover, fetched from \$1.2c. to \$4.10.

Not only are all the regular issues quoted, but we find a quantity of minor varieties listed as well, both on and off covers, and in pairs, blocks, strips, etc. Reprints, the varieties of the grille, imperforates, experimental papers, etc., etc., are all fully listed with the prices they have realized.

Lack of space prevents our making extracts, but a glance at the prices, especially where the Departmental, Revenue, Envelope Stamps and Proofs are concerned, makes us realize how keen U.S.A. collectors are on buying their own issues.

Mr. Carleton G. Ferris is to be highly commended for his painstaking work and the price asked by the publishers, namely, \$1.00 should result in good sales as the work is one invaluable to all U.S.A. specialists.

Why the book is called an "Auction Review for 1912-13," we know not. Unless our Yankee friends are exactly one year ahead of the old country.

Current Chatter.

BY ANGUS MCTAVISH.

MR. B. W. H. POOLE, advertising a rare stamp in his new little paper says:

"Mint and fairly well centered with small red ink line. A very fine looking specimen."

My most handsome stamps are those which have been fairly well centered with a small carpet cleaner.

Cornelius Wrinkle evidently went to the I.P.U. Smoker, for in a recent number of the *Postage Stamp*, I read:

"I came away early without bringing my programme, so must trust to memory for my few comments on this very successful gathering, which has now become one of the social events of the philatelic season. Among those whose genial presence I recall were Messrs. Wetherbotham, Fortissimo Lamb, Angus

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†Published by Eugene Klein Inc., Empire Buildings, Walnut Street, Philadelphia, U.S.A.

McTavish, Buck and Edwards, M. C. C. Harris Wilnot Care, Dak, the Manager of the Spltz Hotel, Levinsky, and a waiter."

I shall have to have a quiet little talk with Cornelius re his signing the pledge.

Propos the Concert I am quite sure that neither Lamb nor Wetherbotham were present. Probably M. C. C. Harris was, but then he never misses anything.

They say in taxi-land that the Cattle Show, the Brewer's Exhibish, and the I.P.U. Smoker, are the three most looked forward to annual events.

One festive collector, on leaving the Holborn Restaurant fell down the Holborn tube shaft, at least he says he did, but I doubt it because I hear that he was put to sleep in a non stop Hampstead train and grumbled because the ticket inspector pulled the bed clothes off at the other end.

Others went West, instead of North, and two young "bobbies" on duty in Rupert Street, said they thought it was Boat Race night.

London's well known hunter of A. I I's, and kindred fry, finding time hang heavily, and London postal officials not quite so polite as they were a few months ago, conceived the idea of writing to way back Irish Post Offices for samples. The P.M. of Ballydooley, in obliging the Nimrod of, shall we say Westbourne Grove? writes as follows:

"I enclose stamps as requested, it seems strange to me that you could not procure these stamps at—(shall we say) Westbourne Grove."

It also seems strange to me.

The *Philadelphia Stamp News* believes in letting its readers have all the latest news; in the October 26th number I read "was the first to show us the new *THRUPENCE* (3d.) with profile head of King George."

No wonder the Berne postal people suggest that the value should also be expressed in numerals.

The same paper, in its editorial says, that:

"*Prosperity* is evident in all works and walks of life (philatelic) and it is because Teddy Roosevelt will be our next President."

After such a bad guess I should advise the editor of the P.S.A. to drop politics and stick to stamps. Anyway *my* money is on Dr. Woodrow Wilson.

"A.B.C." in the November 23rd *S.C.F.*, tackled the difficult matter of telling his readers how to distinguish between De La Rue, Somerset House, and Harrison Printings of Edwardian stamps. He gets along very smoothly until he comes to the tricky little sevenpenny; the following shews how he jibbed at the last moment.

"SEVENPENCE.—Apart from the quality of the print, the Somerset House ink is a little greyer than that of Somerset House."

Exactly. Anyhow, "A.B.C." and I know, if you don't.

The same writer also states that "the government colours (of the 6d.) are given as dull violet, and deep and bright blue."

Probably the bright blue, Sixpenny stamps, which "the government" (down with it) recognizes, are those which fell off a heavy letter when the suffragettes had finished with it.

Referring to the 2s. 6d. value, "A.B.C." says: "De La Rue's prints are colder (as a rule) than those of Somerset House." Regular 'aughty those two bob and a tanner touches must be.

"A.B.C." is also on familiar terms with one pound stamps, for he says: "there should be no difficulty over this value." My difficulty is twenty shillings.

Once upon a time there was a well-known London dealer who grumbled because he had a big sack of 1d. lilac English, done up into bundles of 100 or so, and he couldn't sell it. Once upon a time there was also a provincial dealer who wanted 1d. lilacs, and when he heard that the London dealer had a sack full, he came up to town and fell on the seller's neck, and wept. In fact, he wept so much that the London dealer mentioned a price nearly double what he valued the sack at. When the visiting dealer left, the resident ditto shook hands with himself, with his staff, and then went out and had a good time. The visiting dealer had his sack taken into the country, and set several of his staff to undo the bundles. Now he is chuckling to himself, because, out of the various bundles, he found many dozens of the high values of the 1884 set, including a dozen or so superb ninepennies, a lot of common and scarce officials, and a whole host of other desirable stamps. Lucky Bill.

The "new issues" of the *Australian Philatelist* come under two headings, namely, "Australasia" and "Other Countries." Papua, once the beloved, now comes under the second heading. How are the mighty fallen! Perhaps it is that the Port Moresby Postal Officials returned friend Hagen's half-crown and wouldn't let him have the corner blocks he wanted. But what an awful revenge.

MR. J. H. SMYTH, of the *Australian Stamp Journal*, recently paid a visit to the Commonwealth Stamp Printing Department at Melbourne, and learnt that the new Commonwealth stamps (Kangaroo design) will probably be issued on January 1st, 1913. The denominations will be as follows: ¼d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 9d., 1/-, 2/-, 5/-, 10/-, 20/- and £2. The higher values (2/- upwards) will most likely be printed in two colours.

A Stamp Collecting Idyll.

SEATED at the breakfast table, the Minister remarks:

"Mrs. Gosong had a letter from her husband yesterday morning."

"Where was he?"

"Mozambique, I think."

"Did you not ask the stamp?"

"I never took thought, but I am going over to visit at the Quay in the beginning of the week, and will see her then."

The above conversation took place in the Manse of Nithside close to the Solway. The company consisted of the Minister and his wife, their seven olive branches, the Minister's father, and the Stamp Collector; altogether an eleven which, in their own estimation at least, was unequalled in the parish.

Stamp collecting is a fascinating pursuit and draws its votaries from all classes. It brings into play two virtues—one positive, the other negative. The positive virtue is called *push* in America, but in Scotland it very often receives another name. The negative virtue is *patience*. A very large number of the promises to collectors are of the piecrust order—made to be broken. A considerable percentage of men and women are liars.

Monday dawned, but was not a day for visiting. Tuesday afternoon, however, saw the Minister mount his cycle and start for the Quay. On his return he informs you that he called for Mrs. Gosong, but she was out. He states, however, that he and his wife are going on Thursday evening "down to Johnston's," and he will be visiting on the road, and will call again. The guid-wife also assures you of her help and sympathy, and altogether you feel that it is a good thing to have patience on Tuesday.

Thursday afternoon sees the worthy couple start on their visiting, carrying your hopes with them. Johnston's is a late call, and as early to bed is your holiday motto, you are in the land of Nod an hour and a half before the return. Down betimes next morning, and having made yourself comfortable in your corner, you are greeted with the news: "Well, James, I saw Mrs. Gosong, and she 'has got two years' stamps. She will look 'them out and bring them over to Church on Sabbath." This is very satisfactory, all except the bringing them over to Church. Your Free Kirk upbringing comes out here. You would like, if possible, to prevent her from doing any unnecessary labour on the Sabbath day. A few minutes later the Minister comes in and tell you that he has made you all right in the stamp business, and so you express your gratitude and begin to dream of what the future may contain in the way of specimens.

An early dinner is the order, for there is a marriage in the afternoon and you expect the

carriage about one o'clock. You lay in a pocketful of rice to give the bridegroom a warm welcome, and with the assistance of the Minister's wife you pepper him well.

The marriage party dispatched, you are now free to consider ways and means. The day is not very dry looking, and the Quay is a mile and a half over the hill. You think you will risk it, and so you remark to your faithful manservant: "Wiffie, we will take a turn and see Mrs. Gosong on the stamp question."

Three-quarters of a mile and you are at the top of the hill with the Nith lying in the valley before you, and Criffel towering on the other side; the white clouds rolling round his base and telling you that it is raining over there. Will the rain or you reach the village first? There is absolutely no shelter, and if you are caught in it—? Onward you push, and here come the first drops—not heavy, but developing into a slight drizzle. As you journey on you meet one or two passengers, and have cause to reflect on the uneven distribution of property in this world when you pass a young man seated on the roadside with two girls and two umbrellas. Soon you are past the Free Church, and, turning the corner, you pause at what you believe to be Mrs. Gosong's domicile.

"Gi'e a guid chap, Wiffie," is your advice to your fellow-pilgrim. He knocks in vain, the lady is from home.

All doors are not shut, and so you make your way to Auntie Lover's, where you receive a welcome, and your assistant a supply of gooseberry tart. You sit and crack to Auntie about various matters—she has a nephew, a Lawyer, and knows about Conveyancing and Court work. Quickly the hour passes, and with it the three o'clock wagonette from the town. In bidding goodbye you inform Auntie of your disappointment. She cheers you up at once by remarking that the lady had gone to town, but would now be home; and off you go to try again.

Wiffie's "chap" is crowned with immediate success. The door opens, the "angel of the house" appears and bids you welcome, and soon she is preparing afternoon tea and ransacking her repositories for stamps, while your chum is inspecting the gooseberry bush in the garden.

Later, two happy hearts breast the hill homewards, one rejoicing in his stamps, the other in his gooseberries.

Sic Vita!

J.I.F.



The World's Most Interesting Stamps.

BY THE EDITOR.

(Continued from page 218.)

NEW ZEALAND.

The stamps of this country are very popular with both philatelists and collectors; the former take all issues up to 1872, and the latter start in about 1898. For beauty of design it would be very difficult to improve upon the line-engraved type, while, the rainification of perforation, watermark and colour make the stamps issued so fascinating to all collectors of early issues.

With the exception of some of the rouletted copies, all of the stamps of the first type are extremely easy to classify, excepting, of course, the London printed 2d., of 1855, which is, to collectors and dealers alike, an extremely puzzling stamp. In fact, I think I may safely say that nine out of ten so-called London prints would turn out to be the common variety of 1862. Ignoring the sub-varieties of perforation (roulettes, etc.) we have an extremely interesting group of stamps, about which I hope yet fresh information will be forthcoming. The two machines, the perf. 13 and the perf. 12½, have given cause for a good deal of controversy in the philatelic press, and the existence of compound perforations, the work of both machines, is still believed in by a good many collectors. Such compounds (?) certainly exist, but I very much doubt if they have not come into existence many, many years after they were sold over the Post Office counter.

The stamps of the 1862-66 issue were perforated in the early days of perforating machines, consequently we find the usual percentage of stamps with a blind edge which, under the ministrations of the skilful faker, become, if he uses a "13" gauge, compound perforated stamps! This theory may perhaps be a little far fetched, be that as it may, I know for certain that early New Zealand stamps with abnormally big margins, or blind edges, are not so common in the auction rooms as they were half a dozen years ago, a shortage not reflected in the quantity of perforated-all-round copies of the common varieties which always turn up.

The retouched 2d. stamps of 1863-1872 are an interesting sideline—especially those copies which show traces of "repair" to a marked extent. Judging from Gibbons' catalogue, readers would infer, did they not refer to the footnote at the bottom of the page, that No. 91a was the only retouched stamp worth collecting. Surely if the 2d. blue, in a retouched state, is worth a separate catalogue number (and presumably space in the Gibbons album), so is the 2d. vermilion.

Unused copies of the perf. 13 stamps of the 1863/68 issue are considerably rarer than

the 12½ specimens; in some instances, of course, certain shades are only found in one of the two perforations.

The stamps with the "10" perforation, compound with the 12½, should be carefully examined, for the same reason as should so-called "12½" and "13" compounds.

The middle issues of New Zealand from 1872 to 1898 have been rather neglected by collectors, the reason not being far to seek, as their appearance is not very inviting.

These stamps, however, offer a good opening for any collector brave, or foolhardy enough, to spend time and money on their study; they contain, apart from their vexsome perforations, one or two unsolved problems.

The pictorials of 1898 to date are, pictorially, a handsome set and were it not for the mixed and compound perforation varieties, would be a credit to any album. The difficulty of elimination is always with us in modern stamps, but I think the pictorials would be within the pale were four main sets collected, namely, the unwatermarked set of 1898 with the small perforations, the Colonial set with the large perforations, and both lots on watermarked paper.

The various bastards which crop up every now and again, intermingled with these sets, can, in my opinion, well be relegated to the uncollectible. The only exception to this rule might be made in favour of the ½d. and 1d. values which in 1901 and 1902 vied with each other in causing fresh trouble to the peaceful stamp collector.

The King's Head set is not very troublesome, neither are the Christchurch labels, which, although outside the pale, are decidedly scarce. The postal fiscals, which, with one or two exceptions, are usually found with false cancellations, are on a par with the Queensland and all such similar varieties; the postage due stamps, officials, and Insurance labels might well be classed with the Penrhyn and Niue unnecessarys.

NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE.

Few stamps have been more abused than the poor unfortunate labels which were imported into the Oil Rivers district in 1892. The six overprinted values of July, 1892, are above board, and form a perfectly legitimate little group; the trouble begins, however, when the officials started messing about with rubber stamps, and, under the so-called stress of a shortage of halfpenny stamps, printed off all kinds of abortions, which must have amused, and, at the same time, been a profitable pastime for them. Once started, they did not stop at such a low value, with the result that 1/-, 5/-, 10/- and 20/- surcharges

were soon on the market. Of these, one is unique, for we are told only *one* was printed! The three sets of big stamps, 1893-98, are very handsome and straightforward, only marred by the inclusion of a few surcharges which can well be ignored. Owing to their decidedly attractive design, the stamps of these three sets were excessively speculated in, with the result that all values are still quite common, especially in an unused condition.

Any specialist in Niger Coast stamps would find a very interesting side line in the English stamps, without overprint of any kind, which were extensively used in the Royal Niger Company's territory.

NORTH BORNEO.

Writing from memory, without back numbers of this journal to hand, I should think that my remarks concerning the stamps of Labuan might well apply to the labels of North Borneo. The only difference that I can think of is that the Borneo stamps, at least the 1889 issue, have been cleverly and extensively forged.

NORTHERN NIGERIA.

These stamps are on a par with Leeward Island and other groups of De la Rue key plate issues.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Again my remarks can be made retrospective and my readers, if indeed I have any left, will find that by referring back to New Brunswick they will learn my opinions concerning these stamps. Practically the only difference is that the cents stamps of Nova Scotia are far more attractive than the cents issue which emanated from across the Bay of Fundy, while Gibbons causes confusion by listing them on two varieties of paper.

NYASALAND PROTECTORATE.

These stamps, certainly more attractive than the usual De la Rue King's heads, are not worth troubling about, especially when it is remembered that the authorities have considered it necessary to include a label with the face value of £10.

ORANGE RIVER COLONY.

The Stamps of the Orange Free State are a very pleasing group, and, until 1896 when the speculative fever of unnecessary surcharging set in, are in my opinion a highly interesting study. The lack of watermark, and perforation varieties, makes them popular with collectors who are tired of death of minute differences while the surcharges, although undoubtedly intricate, are, with one or two exceptions, easily classified. Unfortunately some of the illustrations in Gibbons' catalogue are hard to differentiate between, notably types a and b, of the October 1888, 2d. on 3d.; any collector who trusted to these illustrations to distinguish between the two types would

stand a very good chance of qualifying for a Sanatorium. The unsurcharged set of 1868 is only notable for its wealth of shades, and, for those interested, postmarks. The various numerous surcharges were evidently needed, at least prior to the abortions of 1896, while the highest value, 5/-, could not be called unnecessarily high.

The V.R.I. overprints of 1900, and the subsequent makeshifts are beneath any serious collector's attention, especially when he remembers, as at times he has cause to, that these stamps were very extensively speculated in, and moreover have received the careful attention of the forger.

The King's Head set is attractive in appearance, and that is the kindest remark I can make in its favour.

PAPUA.

No country, I think, shows more clearly to what lengths of absurdity stamp collectors will go in their craze for adding varieties to an already overburdened collection; and, at the same time, demonstrates how cleverly catalogue compilers cater to the wishes of their patrons. If a third *casus belli* were needed it is, in my opinion afforded by the action of the Papuan postal officials themselves who have entered merrily into the game of seeing how many shakels they can lure out of the pockets of stamp collectors.

The absurdity of collecting horizontal and vertical varieties of watermark is too ludicrous for words and in my opinion no more sensible than taking a stamp simply because the vendor says it is the sixth, or the seventh, as the case may be, stamp from the top left hand corner of the sheet! The only time when inverted, or sideways watermarks become of interest, is when they were, like the Lagos C.C. 4d. carmine, evidently issued in error, or, at any rate are of sufficient rarity to be classed in this category.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Under this heading we find stamps which are amongst the few left which still afford plenty of scope for research.

Several philatelists, notably Messrs. Goodfellow, Oliver, and Pemberton, have found out a good deal relating to them, but yeoman work still remains to be done.

Both the pence, and the cents, issues afford scope, while the only warning necessary on my part is to impress the fact on my readers that a number of stamps on entires, with bogus cancellations, are on the market.

QUEENSLAND.

At one time the early stamps of this colony were in my opinion second to none, time however has worked changes, and, while still admiring the classic beauty of the line engraved stamps I now admit that Queensland stamps have been deposed from their one time position.

The varieties of watermark are all straightforward, so also are the perforations once their intricacies are mastered, in this respect Messrs. Bright's catalogue is away and ahead of Gibbons. The three imperforate stamps are frequently found represented by cut down copies of the next issue, but this is common to all imperf. stamps which also exist in a perforated condition.

The "large star" set is not overpriced in the catalogue, neither are the two varieties found with the Somerset House perforation (S.G. No. 12 and 13). The lithographed stamps of 1866, are of special interest and afford scope for any collector who can gather together enough material to plate them.

Other compound perforations than those listed in the catalogue exist and might possibly fall to the share of some collector who does not, merely because they are not listed in the catalogue, say they *can* not exist.

The high value stamps of 1881 are frequently met with, at least the lower values are, in an unused condition, many collectors think that they have been bank cancelled and cleaned, this, however, is not always the case as many thousands, although stuck on bills, drafts, etc., were never cancelled, or penmarked, so that when they are carefully soaked off, still retain their rights to be considered as mint (?) stamps. This remark applies to all issues from 1881 to 1890 and possibly might be extended beyond these dates.

The stamps of the second type (1879-80) with the exception of the two types of watermark, which ought never to have crept into the catalogue are full of interest, as indeed are all Queensland issues.

Recent varieties of perforation, especially the weird compounds of roulette, might well be ignored, together with the varied assortment of postal fiscals which closes the list of Queensland stamps.

RHODESIA.

(See British South Africa.)

ST. CHRISTOPHER.

These West Indian stamps form a compact and pleasing little group, only marred by the usual surcharges which were so universal in this part of the world in the late 'eighties.

Unfortunately, there are no line-engraved stamps, but the De La Rue labels are amongst the most attractive of that firm's productions, so that there should be no lack of material with which to form a small specialized collection of Gibbons Nos. 1 to 21. The surcharged stamps, if one neglects the abortions with "stop omitted," "double surcharge," etc., boil down to seven varieties, only one of which is rare. A scarce variety, but one likely to be picked up for a few pence, is the line-engraved 1d. of Antigua, which was used as a provisional in St. Christopher; these stamps can, of course, only be told by their postmark, which should be "A12." The two Antigua postmarks

likely to be found at this date being "A02" and "A18."

ST. HELENA.

The stamps of this outpost in the Atlantic are favourites of mine and form, I think, with their numerous specialist's varieties a splendid study for any collector in search of a small, but at the same time capable of expansion, group of attractive stamps. All the line-engraved issues should be taken; this being so there is no need for me to tire my readers by merely repeating Gibbons' Catalogue. No. 18a, listed as imperforate, is a scarce stamp, a few more I think would, however, come on the market were all the copies of this stamp properly classified, one of the last copies I saw had been priced at a few shillings as an imperf. of 1863 on an exchange packet!

The 1d. of 1883 can be found with the overprint in *deep blue*, similar to the "O.H.M.S." stamps of India of the same period. This is a marked variety which, once seen, will be always remembered and not to be confused with faintly inked impressions of the normal.

Mr. H. H. Harland, well known for his researches, has fully described the various re-entries and varieties of broken type which can be found on these stamps. The most noticeable of these is perhaps the $\frac{1}{4}$ d. of 1884, with a wide space between the second "N" and the "Y." The $\frac{2}{4}$ d. stamp has also been chronicled without the bar obliterating the original value, this, I believe, occurs on stamps with the overprint in the normal position.

Occasionally stamps without surcharge and stamps with double surcharges, which have previously been unchronicled are found, but these "comets" need not bother the ordinary collector as they invariably find their way, and that speedily, into the collection of one of the Great Moguls.

The set of 1884-94 was, as all my readers know, sold in quantities cancelled to order; unfortunately the obliteration used can be fairly easily, and quite successfully, cleaned off, consequently these stamps, re-gummed, are sometimes met with masquerading as mint.

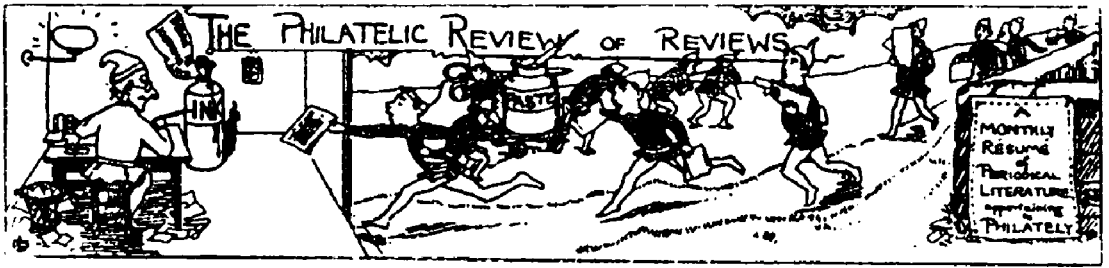
One more "tip" before I pass on to the stamps of another Colony, and that is, keep an eye open for varieties of the middle issues, and possibly others, which show only portions of the overprint. I have seen two copies of the 1/-, I have forgotten which variety, which lacked nearly a third of the words "ONE SHILLING"; in each case it was the bottom portion of the overprint which had failed to register.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

These stamps are on a par with the resurrected Montserrat labels, and neither add, nor detract from the pleasures of stamp collecting.

(To be continued.)

[Our Publishers wish it to be understood that they do not identify themselves with all the views expressed in this article.]



DECEMBER 20, 1912.

Philately at Home.

THE November number of the *London Philatelist* contains a monumental article in the shape of Mr. Charles Lathrop Pack's contribution dealing with the 100 reis stamp of Brazil, 1894-7. Mr. Pack's researches are well known and those of our readers who are interested in specialism run riot, will find his study of minute difference of paper, flaws, etc., of great interest. The general collector, and even the moderate specialist will, however, wonder what on earth all the pother is about. We have enjoyed reading Mr. Pack's discoveries and credit him with an immense amount of philatelic energy, at the same time we think that he has over-estimated the infinitesimal.

Mr. T. W. Hall is responsible for a short instalment of his paper dealing with the stamps of the Danish West Indies; he writes mostly about the various flaws which are to be found on the middle issues. Our contemporary also contains its usual complement of Occasional Notes, Reviews, Societies' Reports, Correspondence, New Issues, etc. One of the "Notes" in the nature of a letter from Dr. Omar Weber is of exceptional value. As our readers will observe it deals in an interesting fashion, with Swiss postal matters.

"In the last issue (Sept., No. 249) of your esteemed paper you speak about the decision of the Swiss postal authorities to sell the stamps they use on documents for the benefit of the Swiss Federal postal employées. By the wording of this article quite wrong impressions about our Swiss postal service may be raised. It is about three years ago that as an agreeable innovation for large business-houses sending off circulars or people sending any printed announcements in great numbers—consisting of at least over a hundred letters—it was decided to alter the system of prepayment. People were no longer compelled to lick hundreds of stamps and to stick them on covers, but they could give up the letters without stamps at the Post Offices and pay the whole sum due for postage in cash—what we call 'Barfrankierung' (cash postage) and the letters were then sent off without any stamp but

cancelled by a postmark (such as I enclose) with PP (port paye—postage paid). On an official form, the postal employée then fastened stamps of higher value equalling the sum paid by the sender of the letters and cancelled them with the postmark used for ordinary letters. These forms are collected from time to time by the General Post Office in Berne from all the different bureaux in Switzerland, and instead of being destroyed as they used to be, the stamps are now sold for the benefit of old pensioners or for the widows' fund of the postal employées. In view of the benevolent aim the officials are instructed to cancel these stamps carefully and lightly, but they have passed real postal service and the postmarks are those of the common letters and therefore not spurious. In my letter you will see such a form by which you perceive that the person who gave up his letters had to pay frs. 57.50 cts. which means that he gave up 1150 letters at 5 cts. (½d.) postage each, but instead of 1150 stamps of 5 cts.—to be cancelled on all the letters—only 58 stamps were cancelled on one form. This means the saving of much time and trouble, and time is money.

"Our stamps were never sold under face value, with two exceptions, in our postal history. The old stock of the stamps of 1881-82 on granite paper (Gibbon's Nos. 105 to 113) were disposed of and are therefore of very little value unused. Beyond this, about 1900, dealers or private people, taking a minimum of 50 francs of unpaid letter stamps of one kind, got them cancelled in the General Post Office at a much cheaper price than face value. This proceeding, of course, has also lowered the price of the unpaid letter stamps of that period. This has, however, now been given up and our present unpaid letter stamps can only be obtained at nominal value used or unused.

"Our Swiss stamps since 1882 can still be used for postage and have never been demonetised. The unused stamps will always keep their value as no old stock will ever be sold under face value, but they will rather rise in price. As very few of our used Swiss stamps for the last seventy years have any high value (some rarer perforations or retouches excepted), the selling of the stamps by the Post Office on their forms will not sensibly lower the prices of our Swiss stamps as they are already cheap enough.

"From these explanations you will see that we shall never come down to the standard of the Servian or Central American stamps, but we shall keep our escutcheon clean from a philatelic point of view. You would greatly oblige us by publishing this information in order to destroy any erroneous ideas which may have sprung up concerning our Swiss stamps."

The November *Monthly Journal* is, as usual, full of good reading matter. M. L. Hanciau contributes a further instalment of his article dealing with the stamps of the Spanish West Indies, 1855-76. Another, and more interesting article, is a

further long chapter of Dr. Marco del Pont's paper dealing with the later Rivadavia stamps of the Argentine Republic. The Dr. describes the various methods of the Argentine Post Office in Paraguay at the time of the war, we venture to make the following extract in the hope that it will whet our readers' appetites:—

As soon as war broke out with Paraguay the Postal Authorities took immediate steps for the establishment of postal services by land and by river, for the purpose of conveying correspondence to and from the army; they made contracts for this service, established two head offices, one at Concordia, on the Uruguay, and the other at Goya, on the Paraná; they made regulations for the new and extraordinary services, and took all the necessary steps to ensure this correspondence, which travelled free by post, being conveyed with the utmost frequency, rapidity, and safety.

This army, however, consisting of 40,000 to 50,000 men, with the multitude of followers, and the fleet, of considerable number also, consumed a huge quantity of stores, which, as a natural consequence, led to a very considerable amount of traffic. Whilst the army was still on Argentine territory, the merchants were able to make use of the various post offices established there for the conveyance of their letters and packages; but when the famous passage of the river Paraná had taken place, they could only send them by private means, which, for the requirements of this traffic, were continually being set in motion. The permanent establishment of the allied army on the Paraguayan territory led to a still greater increase of this trade, because the country occupied consisted almost exclusively of salt marshes and pools, which produced nothing, and it was therefore necessary to bring everything from the Argentine Republic; another cause of this great increase of traffic was the fact that the progress of the army was, and had to be, extremely slow, owing to the great difficulty presented by the nature of the country.

The commerce was concentrated at the spot which afterwards became the Fort of Itapirú, which performed so brilliant a part in the days immediately preceding the passage of the Paraná, referred to above, and which fell into the hands of the allies on the 18th April, 1866. It was situated on the Upper Paraná, a short distance from its junction with the river Paraguay, and less than forty kilometres from the city of Corrientes.

The need of maintaining a regular service for the transmission of correspondence was making itself felt more and more, and as the Argentine Post Office took no steps to provide it, private enterprise undertook to do so. A certain Señor Pedro Casartelli, a merchant of Itapirú and agent for the steamer *Pingo*, established a post for correspondence to and from Corrientes, which he advertised to the public by means of the Notice published in the *Esperanza*, of Corrientes, of the 17th of October, 1867.

Our contemporary also contains its usual capital list of "New Issues," "Tropical Notes," etc., etc.; we also find a continuation of Mr. C. J. Phillips' "Exhibition Notes," and a paper contributed by Mr. Stanley Phillips, entitled the "Ideal Postage Stamp Designs."

The *Philatelic Record* for November, contains a further instalment of Mr. L. W. Fulcher's exhaustive paper, dealing with the stamps of the Roman States.

We also find a further chapter of the "Sveriges Filatelist-Förenings," "Postage Stamps of Sweden, 1855, 1905," dealing with the envelopes and post-cards of this country. The usual budget of "Notes and News," "Correspondence," "New Issues," etc., complete our brief review. One of the items referred to in the "Notes and News" pages is a report of the October meeting of the Manchester Philatelic Society when Mr. Dorning Beckton read a paper on the "Stamps of Fiji." The following extract, although containing little that is new will be of interest, as Mr. Beckton deals with the middle issues of Fiji, which are such a strong feature in Mr. C. J. Phillips' recently published handbook and which only need to be better known, to be better appreciated.

The next issue, known as the V.R. monogram issue, was printed in Sydney at the Government Printing Office on two kinds of paper, wove and laid. Of the stamps on wove paper, 60,000 of the 1d. and 30,000 each of the 2d. on 3d. and of the 6d. were issued January 31st, 1876; on laid paper were issued, on January 5th, 1877, 120,000 of the 1d. and 30,000 of the 2d. on 3d.; on October 12th, 1877, 50,000 of the 4d. on 3d.; and on January 5th, 1877, 120,000 of the 6d.

The V.R. monogram was engraved by Mr. William Bell, at a cost of 10s.; from this lithographic transfers were taken, and the V.R. printed on plain paper at a cost of 30s. per 1,200 sheets. The stamps were then printed over the V.R. lithograph, and the jet black of the V.R. is so strong that it shows through the colours of the stamps. In this issue also several varieties occur, and Mr. Beckton showed an imperf. pair of the 1d., the error of omission of the two pence in the surcharge on the 3d. green, and the variety known as the damaged corner; and on the laid paper a double print, imperforate pairs of the 1d., 2d. on 3d. and 6d., and 3d. and 6d. without the monogram, also 3d. green imperforate without monogram.

The next issue (1878-90) is known as the V.R. engraved, and the original die of 1871 was used. The die was engraved on very hard wood, and a hole drilled and a piece of wood with the letter V engraved by hand upon it plugged in where the letter C had been, and the lines of the background made to join as far as possible. In the 1d. the circle formed by the junction of the plug with the old die is very visible, the extreme left curve of the letter R had to be re-engraved on the plug, and is a little thicker than in the original die. The 3d. shows slightly the junction of the plug and die and re-engraving of the part of the R, and the 6d. shows the circle very distinctly.

The 1871 stamps had an inner hexagonal design consisting of a thick and a thin line inside the circle, and in removing the C portions of these lines were cut away, and the engraver omitted to re-engage them upon his new plug. A portion of the old die of the 3d. of 1871 was also cut out to make a new stamp of 2d., and in so doing the fine curved lines above and below the word "three" were damaged, and the word "two" being shorter than the word "three," the spacing is irregular in the lower label. About 1891 this old wooden die, which had seen so much service, was resuscitated, the plug with the word "two" upon it was removed, and a new plug with "four" upon it was inserted in its place, and the fine lines above and below "four" were still further damaged, almost disappearing. These alterations to original dies and

manufacture of new plates during nearly 20 years are probably unique.

Griebert's Philatelic Notes and Offers for November contains a well written (first instalment), account of the recent Exhibition. We also find the completion of Mr. A. B. Creeke's "The 'Native' Issues of British Guiana," he deals with the issue of January, 1882, and his readers will find that a study of these stamps affords a great deal of interest.

Under the heading "Facts Worth Noting," Mr. Griebert gives his readers some capital advice. We think that many of our readers could not do better than to collect on the following lines:—

To return to the preceding remarks regarding old European stamps, there are thousands of collectors who would be unwilling to pay double catalogue-price for a Three Pfennigs of Saxony, or any of the early Oldenburg, and are longing to find another field upon which they can work, and in which they can just as safely invest the capital at their disposal! I can only remind these collectors of the various hints which I published in our "Notes" three years ago, and advise them to go in for South America and Mexico for a change. There is not a single stamp up to 1880 inclusive that has suffered any fall in price, by far the greater number having increased to double and even treble the value during the three years, and yet these old issues have by no means attained their highest point as regards value.

Old Brazilians, Argentines, and Uruguayans have always been sought after; but whoever thought of buying Peru, Bolivia, or Mexico? The few Specialists of early days are now laughing in their sleeve, as their collections have now a threefold value, and dealers who formerly handled old German or old European stamps only are now advertising extensively for old South Americans. Even for countries like Costa Rica, Guatemala, Salvador, and Nicaragua, there is already considerable demand, but I am afraid it will be a long time before a general interest in the collection of these countries will be awakened.

The November number of the *Stamp Lover* is almost entirely devoted to an account of the Horticultural Hall Stamp Exhibition.

We find some interesting illustrations relating to the banquet, exhibits, photos of stamp notables, etc., together with a series illustrating the paper-making, printing, and perforating machines. The article entitled "The Making of the Ideal Stamp" will be appreciated by those collectors who like to take an intelligent interest in the manufacture of their stamps.

Apropos the Exhibition we are glad to note that nearly 180 new members joined the Junior Philatelic Society during the week.

The *West-End Philatelist* for the same month is also almost entirely devoted to Exhibition items.

The November number of the *Stamp*

Collector contains further instalments of the three articles now running through its pages, namely, Mr. C. H. T. Hayman's paper dealing with the 1853-1883 issues of Chili. Mr. W. Oakley's Postal Issues of the U.S.A., and Mr. Heginbottom's list of the stamps of Victoria. The first mentioned article deals with the "War" issues of Chili, while from the second we make the following extract relating to the well known grille found on certain of the early U.S.A. stamps.

In 1867-8, the Postmaster-General adopted a system of embossing the paper by means of a *grille*, with the intention of preventing stamps which had their cancellations cleaned off being used again. The object of this embossing was to break the fibres of the paper, so that when the postmark was applied, the ink would penetrate right into the paper and render it impervious to cleaning.

The *grille* system was invented and patented by Charles F. Steel, of Brooklyn, New York, and the stamps were embossed after they were printed and gummed. Then they were perforated, and the surface of the paper subjected to hydraulic pressure, which, while leaving the breaks in the paper, smoothed out the surface again. The embossing was applied by a steel roller covered with bosses passing over the sheet of stamps, which was laid in a bed of sheet lead.

The stamps were first embossed, and issued by the National Bank Note Co., about August 8th, 1867. At first the grille covered the whole stamp, but this so weakened the paper, the stamps tore in the course of use, as the perforations did not act satisfactorily, so a smaller grille was used. The precise dates on which these stamps were issued with the various grilles are not known, but the 3c. rose appeared about August 8th, 1867, and the remainder up to the 12c. had appeared before May, 1868. The 24c. and 30c. appeared later, in 1868, and the 90c. in the beginning of 1869.

Our Birmingham exchange also contains its usual budget of readable "Notes," etc., etc.

The December number of the *Philatelic Circular* contains the first instalment of Mr. H. S. Hodson's article dealing with the corner lettering on the early line-engraved stamps of Great Britain. We also find the usual up-to-date list of Georgian issues, Correspondence, etc., etc. "The Limit's" column of Auction chatter is well written, amusing and instructive as the following extract will shew:—

In Messrs. Ventom's 365th Sale a nice horizontal strip of six Gt. Britain 2d. blue, no lines, made 75/-.

Some blocks of four British East Africa, 1895, provisionals, surcharged in MS. TECR, made 12/- a block. Gibbons' catalogue price, 60/-. A chance here for the merchant who advertises all stamps at 3rd Gibbons. There seems to be an endless supply of these East Africans. I suppose they will be absorbed some day, but at present cat. values are a bit above the mark.

A Transvaal CSAR set, mint, made £3 10s. Gibbons only refers to these stamps in a footnote, though they are priced very high, used, by Yvert.

Messrs. Glendining's had some Brazil, 1900, 100 Reis with the wrong head, in their sale of 23rd Oct. These stamps have been written up lately in several journals, by Mr. Lathrop Pack, and presumably a good many people are after them now, judging by the prices realized. The 100R. with Head of 200R. fetched 26/-, the 100R. with Head of 500R., 27/-, and 100R. with Head of 700R., 24/-, quite nice prices for anyone who has bought these stamps wholesale at 2/- a hundred. At the same sale, South Australians made some good prices; a 10d. on 9d. yellow, surcharge inverted, Gibbons No. 40, fine used copy, ran up to £18, and a 2d. pale vermilion, Gibbons No. 55, with dated postmark, Jan. 22.68, fetched £12; another, 10d. on 9d., with the error of watermark, Cr. SA, made £12. This, I think, was cheap, as it is a stamp rarely met with.

A 2d. vermilion, Gibbons No. 70, with dated postmark, made £17.

New South Wales, 8d. orange-yellow, horizontal pair with margins, was described in the Sale Catalogue as "rare in pairs," and evidently others at the sale thought so, too, as the bidding quickly ran up to £24, notwithstanding the postmark, which was not very light, and shows up very much on this orange colour.

A 5/- St. Vincent, *not* fine, made £10 10s.

The *Monthly Report* of the Herts Philatelic Society always contains a good deal of enjoyable reading matter. Perhaps the strongest features in the December number are a number of capable book reviews and a couple of pages of "Philatelic Crumbs."

Recent numbers of the *Postage Stamp* have all contained articles and paragraphs likely to interest stamp collectors. The Nov. 23rd copy contains a draft of the rules drawn up for the Paris Exhibition which will we believe be held in June next.

A week later we find a very interesting article entitled "The Evolution of Penny Postage in N.Z."

Another chapter of Mr. Melville's revised "A.B.C. of Stamp Collecting" and other matter.

From Mr. Jolliffe's article we make the following extract:—

The first official reference to postage stamps in New Zealand is contained in a Proclamation by the Governor-in-Chief (Sir George Grey), dated the 31st December, 1850, in which it is proclaimed as follows:—"All letters and papers having a postage stamp or stamps affixed thereto or enclosed in covers having a postage stamp or stamps affixed thereto of such form as may be prescribed by the local Government, which shall not have been used before, and which shall be of the value or amount of the postage to which such letters or papers would be respectively liable, according to the scale hereinafter provided, shall pass by the post free of postage."

The scale of postage rates referred to in the Proclamation was 2d. for every 3oz.; newspapers went post free, and price lists not exceeding 20zs. in weight were similarly privileged.

A form of stamp was not prescribed by the Local Government, as promised by the Proclamation, until the month of July, 1855, four and a half years after the Proclamation. In a notice published in the *Gazette* of the 18th of that month, it is stated that the stamps

referred to in the Proclamation of the values of 1d., 2d. and 1s. had been received and were available for public use.

The 1d. stamp was at first available only for letters written by or to non-commissioned officers and soldiers and sailors in Her Majesty's Service, a concession which was subject to the condition that the name of the writer and his rank should be written on the outside of the letter, and that it should be countersigned by the officer under whom the privileged person was serving. In the following year, however, its scope or usefulness was increased, as in that year a rate of 1d. was imposed on newspapers to Great Britain, or through Great Britain to any British possession, while on newspapers to the Mediterranean or India via Marseilles the rate was 3d.

The fact that at the date of issue of these stamps (falling as it did between the two Maori Wars) there was no considerable number of soldiers in New Zealand, while a visit from man-o'-war was of rare occurrence, will probably account for the scarcity of the London print of the 1d. stamp. It is suggested, too, that the condition requiring the signature of the writer's superior officer further conduced to the scarcity of the stamp. Tommy Atkins and Jack would in many cases sooner pay the full rate than bother the captain for the sake of a penny.

The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* for November 23rd, contains a lengthy instalment of Messrs. Bishop and Creeke's "Dictionary of Stamp-Collecting." They ramble pleasantly through the B's.

Another capable, and, at the present time topical article is A.B.C.'s "British Edwardians" of De La Rue, Somerset House, and Harrison Printings; "Hints on How to Distinguish Them." The following extract will be appreciated by our readers:—

When the De La Rue contract was terminated at the end of 1910, there were seventeen denominations of British postage-stamps in current use—½d., 1d., 1½d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 7d., 9d., 10d., 1s., 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s. and £1, all bearing the profile of King Edward.

Although the Georgian ½d. and 1d. were issued in June, 1911, the old stamps of these two values were still being produced until late in the autumn; and even now, a year later, the highest value of the new series is the 3d.

All the Edwardian stamps have, during the greater part of the last two years, been printed either by the new contractors (Messrs. Harrison & Sons) or by the Government printers at Somerset House: the ½d., 1d., 2½d., 3d. and 4d. by the former; the other values by the latter.

The problem is how to distinguish Harrison and Somerset House prints—in which there was no overlapping—from the productions of Bunhill Row; and this can be partly accomplished by a process of elimination.

It is possible to deal satisfactorily only with unused stamps, which have their full gum; with used copies, a certain amount of discretion—a dangerous thing—must be used, in estimating to what extent the tests which existed in the mint copies have survived the ordeal of going through the post.

In the first place, we can allocate all "chalkies" to De La Rue, and all compound perforations to Harrison & Sons. This leaves only the copies printed on ordinary paper, and perforated 14 all round: for sorting out these, the following tests will be found useful.

With regard to the IMPRESSION of the different values, that of those printed by De La Rue leaves nothing to be desired: the impression is firm, with just sufficient ink, which neither fills the uncoloured spaces nor shows heavier and darker along the edges of all the coloured portions. Harrison and Somerset House prints are not so fine, and shew to some extent the characteristics mentioned as being absent from the De La Rue work.

The Gum used by De La Rue is generally, if not always, of a yellowish-white, the tint being often so faint that a comparison with a colourless gum is necessary to enable it to be distinguished, it is slightly opaque, and is evenly and smoothly applied. This colourless gum, thinly and not so well applied, allows the mottled grain of the wove paper to show clearly through, and is one of the principal characteristics of Harrison and Somerset House. So first look at the gum, taking an undoubted De La Rue—say, the bi-coloured 4d., or any late Victorian stamp—and an undoubted Harrison or Somerset House—say, any of the Georgian set—and use them as the standards of comparison.

Now as to the Colour. If you have a fair number—and this is a prohibitive handicap in the case of high values—you will at once notice differences, apart from those already mentioned, and which are far easier to see than to describe. Used and dated (if prior to 1911) copies, if in really good condition, are most useful as standards, seeing that they must be De La Rue.

Our contemporary also contains a report of Mr. Dorning Beckton's paper on Fiji stamps, read before the Manchester Society, Notes on New Issues, and other matter.

A fortnight later we have a grand Xmas number, and the dear old *S.C.F.* does itself, and its readers "proud." We find an illustrated interview with Mr. P. J. Evans, a long chapter of Messrs. Bishop's and Creeke's Dictionary, the first instalment of Mr. F. G. Warwick's "Adhesive Surface Printed Fiscal Postal Stamps of Great Britain," and a number of reviews, etc., etc.

The *British Philatelist* contains, as is usual, a good deal to interest collectors of and specialists in, the stamps of Great Britain. In the October number we find a capital list of Georgian varieties, contributed by Mr. C. Nissen, also a further chapter of the "Edwardian Stamps of Great Britain"; this deals with the one penny value. Some Editorial Notes, from which we extract the following, complete an excellent number.

No one who heard the World's Great Stamp-distributor at the opening ceremony of the recent Exhibition, would have believed that the Rt. Hon. gentleman had, with the assistance of the Inland Revenue officials, got a "thunderbolt up his sleeve"! The metaphor, we admit, is somewhat mixed, but we think it describes the situation.

Briefly, Somerset House is again on the warpath over the old question of illustration. Publisher and printer must each give a Bond in £100 to secure their proper dealing with a few half-tone blocks, prints from which would deceive only a postal officer; and—this is where the sting is—no die must be made without permission previously obtained!

As it takes from one to two weeks to obtain a definite reply from Somerset House, the value of an illustration of a new stamp will hardly be commensurate with the trouble of getting the necessary permit.

Anyhow, it will assist Free Trade, as there is nothing to stop free importation through the post of fully illustrated journals, &c., which have been printed abroad.

We think that, as the Law now stands the authorities can object to illustrations of those stamps only, which have not been withdrawn or demonetised and are capable of pre-paying postage. A stamp, after demonetisation, becomes a label, quite worthless except from a philatelic point.

An illustration, even in the proper colour, of any British stamp issued prior to, say 1881—save the two values accidentally omitted from the list of demonetised stamps—would not, we should say, be sufficient to ensure a conviction. Nor would, we think, the illustration of an obliterated copy, or even one cancelled by a thin bar across it, be sufficient to sustain a prosecution.

Philately in the Colonies and Elsewhere.

The October number of the *Australian Philatelist* contains an excellent editorial, wherein the writer, commenting on an article which appeared in one of the English papers says

We quite agree with Mr. Harris that the historic attraction of stamps lies in their being postmarked, but half the value of this disappears, if they are taken off their envelopes. Without this there is no guarantee of their genuineness; in fact, one of the blots in philately is the large number of "postmarked to order" stamps on the markets, and we regret to say that the greatest delinquents in this respect have been the post office officials in British Colonies and Protectorates.

The best lower plane of investment in historic stamps is to be found in the South American republics. Speaking of them as a whole, they are within the reach of most collectors, and they provide any amount of history, and plenty of art. They may not, all of them, be obtainable in a postmarked condition, but even if only one or two values of a set show the date of their issue it is not of great importance that all the denominations should be in an unused state. To our mind the great mistake collectors make is in striving to possess some of the stamps of too many countries. A complete collection of two or three countries will provide a good deal of attraction and occupation. Very few countries but possess varieties from the authorised issues, and strange as it may appear, we have not yet come across a printer of stamps that was a philatelist also.

True to its title our contemporary contains, besides Correspondence, New Issues, etc., three typically Australian articles, namely the first instalment of Mr. D. B. Armstrong's "Australian Stamps Used Abroad," "Vandemonians" paper dealing with early pencancelled Tasmanian stamps, and Mr. J. H. Welfare's article entitled "Two South Australian Varieties." As so many of our readers are interested in Australian

stamps, we venture to reproduce Mr. Welfare's paper in full.

I should be glad to know whether any readers of your journal have met with the two gd. grey-lilac S.A. stamps I enclose for your examination.

The first stamp is $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, and would be No. 73a in Gibbons. Its bona fides established (and of that there seems no question) it follows that the same stamp, perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$, also exists or did exist. This would be No. 58a in Gibbons, and it will be interesting to see if the future brings it to light. The stamp is post-marked G.P.O., Adelaide, 18th June, 1872. One naturally thinks of Gibbons' Nos. 135-7, in connection with the gd. stamps of June, 1872, but there is not the slightest trace of any rouletted marks upon the stamp. The catalogue does not now give the variety—gd. grey-lilac, $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, and rouletted as well—although I believe it did some twelve or thirteen years ago. The dropping of that variety suggests that its inclusion therein was not warranted by specimens that could be sighted—in any case this stamp has no roulettes.

The other stamp is equally interesting, and should, perhaps, follow 135 in the catalogue as " $12\frac{1}{2}$, and rouletted as well." Although it is dated G.P.O., Adelaide, March 1, 1872. It is difficult to describe the stamp in a line. It is perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$ at the top, rouletted on the two sides, and rouletted at the bottom, but perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$ as well. The arrangement at the foot of course makes it unique. Were the rouletting not there it would be simply No. 136.

Presumably the original state of all these stamps (Nos. 135-7) was either (a) rouletted all round, or (b) rouletted at the sides and perforated top and bottom. Then because the rouletting was unsatisfactory on all, or some, of its lines, the single line machine was run over the defective parts. If this theory is correct, then the following combinations are possibilities:—

1. Roul. and pf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ as well, all round.
2. " " $12\frac{1}{2}$ " " "
3. " " $11\frac{1}{2}$ " " one side only.
4. " " $11\frac{1}{2}$ " " two sides only.
5. " " $11\frac{1}{2}$ " " three sides only.
6. " " $12\frac{1}{2}$ " " one side only.
7. " " $12\frac{1}{2}$ " " two sides only.
8. " " $12\frac{1}{2}$ " " three sides only.
9. " " $11\frac{1}{2}$ three sides, $12\frac{1}{2}$ one side as well.
10. " " $11\frac{1}{2}$ two sides, $12\frac{1}{2}$ two sides as well.
11. " " $11\frac{1}{2}$ one side, $12\frac{1}{2}$ three sides as well.

This stamp is No. 6 in above list. It is not, of course, probable that even if all these eleven (11) varieties existed, that they will all be discovered after this lapse of time, although it is quite likely that an examination of the stamps of different collectors would reveal an unsuspected number of them.

As the perforation was added to the roulettes, I should prefer to say, "rouletted and perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$ as well," instead of the way the catalogue has it.

If you think this enquiry of sufficient general interest to publish, I shall be glad if you will do so, as I am desirous of gathering any information possible on the subject.

We hardly agree with the contention that the gd. grey-lilac, perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ should follow 73 in Gibbons' Catalogue, and would be more inclined to place it after 137, under a separate heading. Although no rouletting is to be seen, it is evidently one of these stamps. We need only remember how badly these stamps were rouletted, and it is quite possible that the rouletting was wide apart when they perforated the stamps, then the rouletting would only appear on the other stamps surrounding it. The single line perforation machine used in those days gauged $11\frac{1}{2}$ for the greater part of the distance, then $12\frac{1}{2}$.

Congratulations to the publishers and editor of the *Australian Philatelist* for such

an excellent number as is the October issue.

The *Australian Stamp Journal* for October, contains the usual complement of "Items of Interest," and very little else. These items are, however, all readable, and subscribers to the *A.S.J.*, especially those residing in Australasia certainly get very good value for their money. It is a far cry to Sydney to obtain interesting news of Vienna happenings, but the following extract is certainly new to us:—

AUSTRIAN STAMP PRINTING METHODS.

A correspondent sends us some very interesting information re stamp production, which he has received from the Austrian Government Printing Office at Vienna. Twenty new types of stamp presses have been installed; they print off a roll on chalked art paper. The stamps are printed on a strip of paper in two rows, which are then automatically slit into two strips and wound on spools. The one machine prints, perforates, counts, numbers and rolls the stamps on spools, all being perfectly automatic. It prints and perforates four stamps at one stroke and the work is splendid.

The machine was originally installed in order to supply endless bands of stamps for the "automat stamp selling machine." The machine produced more than the "automat" required, and the spools of stamps were sent to the post office for usual sale. Some of the spools contain 500 stamps and others 1,000, and they became at once very popular, being easy to handle from specially constructed stands. A great demand arose for them by business firms. More stamp presses were installed, and now the 5 heller and 10 heller stamps are exclusively printed and sold in rolls. I am told it is the intention of the authorities to do the same with all other denominations, and it looks like the exit of the old system. One youth attends to five machines. He has nothing else to do than to replace an empty paper spool by a full one. One machinist looks after the whole installation. The handling and control is reduced to a minimum, the rolls being supplied from the mills already gummed.

We have received No. 2 of Mr. B. W. H. Poole's new paper, entitled *Philatelic Opinion*. Unfortunately No. 1 has not reached us, doubtless it has gone astray in the post, possibly some militant American suffragette dropped a bottle of ink on the envelope. The copy before us is tastefully "gotten up" and is a great credit to Mr. Poole, we hope he will continue to publish his "opinions" for many years, if only for the reason that we lack, with one or two exceptions, U.S.A. papers from which we can scissor extracts. We find several pages devoted to "The Story of the Month," a continuation of Mr. Poole's article dealing with the Stamps of Bolivar, and half-a-dozen or more pages devoted to odd information relating to various stamps.

Any of our American subscribers who have not already seen a copy should write to Box 231, Altadena, California.

Correspondence.

To the Editor, "P.J. of G.B."

Blackheath, S.E.

NEW ZEALAND 3d. IMPERFORATE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

In reference to the article by Mr. W. D. Ulph in your October number, on the 3d. deep mauve, imperf., of New Zealand, I find that my collection, so far as it goes, endorses the theory of the writer, and is accordingly opposed to that of Mr. Faris. My single copy of the stamp in question is cancelled with heavy bars with the letter C in centre, the postmark is very heavy, but the stamp has fine margins, which I consider of more importance with stamps subsequently issued perforated without change of colour. No other stamp of this issue, or of the 1864 wmk. N.Z. issue, has a similar cancellation, 43 copies in all. It occurs, however, on two copies of the 2d., Plate II., and on one copy each of the 3d. lilac and 6d. red-brown, all wmk. Star and perforated; also on the 1d. brown, both perf. 12½ and compound, the 2d. vermilion, no wmk., and the 6d. blue. It is evident then that this particular postmark was in use towards the end of the "sixties," but not *before* 1866, in my opinion.

Yours truly,

W. BUCKLAND EDWARDS.

To the Editor, "P.J. of G.B."

Highgate Ponds, N.,

Dec. 3rd.

ART IN PHILATELY.

DEAR SIR,

The Junior Philatelic Society is supposed by many to have inaugurated its artistic crusade at the International Philatelic Exhibition held in London in October, 1912, when it produced its "Ideal" stamp, with a view to educate philatelists in Art (spelt with a capital A), and to create in the minds of all collectors a proper appreciation of the truly beautiful. But this was by no means the commencement of its artistic mission, its aesthetic message to the philatelic world, as a consideration of its pictorial badge will clearly prove. The great interest aroused by the production of the Ideal stamp may cause to be overlooked the exceeding merit and artistic beauty of this earlier essay, but a brief contemplation of this picture and its symbolic teaching will speedily convince the sceptical that the Junior Philatelic Society has always had a great Artistic Aim (with two capital A's).

The central figure of this allegorical design is a winged angel bearing a letter addressed to the Society. It will be seen that this angel has the wings of a butterfly. The orthodox

angel is always supposed to possess feathered wings. When first they appeared on earth, they were often mistaken for ordinary men, and this fact proves incontestably that they are correctly represented as female figures with immense feathered wings. But the author of this charming work of art has availed himself of the license allowed to all artists, and has given the angel the wings of a butterfly, making it thereby symbolical of Psyche, the soul.

It will be seen that the angel is pirouetting on one toe, in the approved manner of a première danseuse, on the top of a cumulus cloud in the azure firmament of heaven. At her feet lies a little dead sparrow, also upon the surface of this cumulus cloud, as is the well-known custom of sparrows? This is not meant for the big sparrow that lives in Wales, but is the identical little sparrow that in its terrestrial lifetime killed the inoffensive Cock Robin. A true work of art should always convey some appeal to our inner feelings and instincts, and the artist here conveys a solemn message of warning as to the ultimate untimely end of the wrongdoer, be he stamp-faker or little dicky bird.

"This hardened wrongdoer lies dead

Upon an ever moving cumulus,

Instead of reposing in peace

Within his proper earthly tumulus."

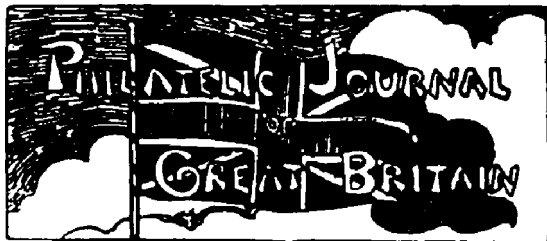
It will also be observed that the angelic messenger bears in her hand a letter addressed to the Society, the postage on which is prepaid by a 2½d. blue stamp, being the postage rate for letters to a foreign country, whereby the artist conveys the idea that the paradise it comes from is a foreign clime to the Junior Philatelic Society.

Trip on, angelic messenger, and proclaim to all the world the high mission of the Junior Philatelic Society to create a proper appreciation of Art (with a capital A)! Only don't trip off that cloud, because those frail butterfly wings will not support your weight, and down you'll come to earth, kerflop! And thou, poor little victim of an unholy passion, who, in a moment of unrighteous anger didst smite unto death the more worthy Cock Robin, long may the example of thy lack of decent sepulture continue to strike terror into the hearts and minds of the naughty ones of earth, till at length in death thou hast so taught the much needed lesson of the hard fate of the transgressor that some atonement shall be made for the sins of thy terrestrial life.

Magna est Ars Melvillei et praevalebit.

McPuzzleus.





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**City of London Philatelic
Society.**

THE 84th monthly meeting was held at 14, Broad Street Place, E.C., on Wednesday, December 11th.

The President, Mr. Westcott, occupied the chair. Mr. Westcott announced the name of

Mr. J. P. Smart, as the winner of the competition "Ten Minute Papers." Mr. D. Thomson was elected a member, and Mr. A. J. Séfi kindly presented the library with a copy of his new work "Stamps of Edward the VII. Land."

The first part of the meeting was occupied by Mr. F. C. Graham, who showed his collection of triangular Cape of Good Hope stamps. The stamps shown were a very fine lot, and included several copies of the rare "Wood Block" printings in the finest possible condition. Another special item of note was a large block of penny on blue paper showing white ivory lines on the back, similar to the Great Britain, 1841, penny with ivory head. The display was very much appreciated by those present, and a hearty vote of thanks was passed.

The second part of the evening was occupied by Mr. G. A. Higlett's "Display and Notes—France." This display was comprised chiefly of the earlier issues, and many of the rare stamps were shown in pairs, strips and blocks, and also some very scarce postmarks. Mr. Higlett has studied the stamps of France for some years, and several of the varieties shown were his own discoveries. His notes were delivered in his usual masterly manner, and included several of his own original and humorous remarks. The members evidently appreciated the display, and examined the stamps very carefully, if the time the sheets took to go round the room was anything to go by. Mr. Higlett afterwards showed round his collection of "French Stamps Used Abroad," which also contained some very fine stamps, and a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Higlett.

I am pleased to say that there was a record attendance, 44 visitors and members being present, and, better still, during the evening eight of the visitors sent in forms of application for membership. I am quite certain that those present were well repaid for their visit, it was one of the finest and most enjoyable evenings possible, and will long live in the memory of those present.

Next month January 8th, we have a "Display and Notes of the Stamps of Levant," by Mr. H. L. Hayman, who needs no introduction from me, as his name is quite sufficient to guarantee that the display will be an excellent one. I hope there will be another record attendance, and that each member present will bring a friend with him. I shall be pleased to hear from any collectors who are not members, and send them full particulars of the above Society. They will be heartily welcomed at any of our meetings, and I shall be most pleased if they will introduce themselves to me. As this was a record meeting, below will be found a list of those present, and no doubt many readers of this journal who are not members will recognise amongst the names

some of their friends, which will induce them to pay us a visit.

DUNCAN PRINGLE, *Hon. Secretary*,
38, Grasmere Road, Muswell Hill, N.

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December, 1912, Report.

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MEMBERSHIP.

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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: Alexander J. Séfi; proposed by P. L. Pemberton, seconded by F. F. Lamb. C. J. Dietrich, Liverpool; proposed by P. L. Pemberton, seconded by T. H. Hinton. Arthur E. Beach, London, S.W.; proposed by W. S. King, seconded by T. H. Hinton.

NEW MEMBER.

Captain A. de Stroumillo, Paris, France.

NOTICES.

The Eighth Annual Smoking Concert took place at the Holborn Restaurant, on Monday, Nov. 25th, as reported in another column, when a most enjoyable and pleasant evening was spent by members and friends present.

The third meeting of the Season was held at Essex Hall, on Thursday 12th inst. Present: J. C. Sidebotham (chair), W. Schwabacher, W. Schwarte, L. W. Fulcher, P. L. Pemberton, J. B. Seymour, F. F. Lamb, A. B. Kay, Wilmot Corfield, E. W. Wetherell, C. S. Warbrick and Major E. B. Evans, S. J. Stromgrist, A. J. Séfi, visitors, and the Hon. Sec.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. E. W. Wetherell gave a display of the Stamps of Cochin and Travancore, including with his own collection that of Major Evans and accompanied by very interesting notes and comments on the production and history of the stamps. Mr. Corfield voiced the satisfaction of all present in a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Wetherell and Major Evans, which was seconded by the Hon. Sec., supported by the President and carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be held at Essex Hall, on Thursday, Jan. 9th, 1913, at 7.30 p.m. (Committee 7 p.m.), when Mr. H. Ahrens will give a display of his specialized collection of the stamps of Nicaragua. All members and any visitors cordially welcome.

LIBRARY.

The Hon. Librarian acknowledges with thanks *Le Journal des Philatelistes* from Mousieur Lemaire, Paris. Handbooks on Grenada and King Edward VII. Land from Mr. A. J. Séfi.

EXCHANGE SECTION.

All members are invited to communicate on this subject with the Exchange Superintendent, Mr. J. E. Joselin, 81, Bennerley Road, New Wandsworth, S.W.

The Hon. Sec. wishes all members the Compliments of the Season, and is at all times at their service and ready to acknowledge Subscriptions (due January, 1st), Donations to the Forgery Collection and nominations for membership.

THOS. H. HINTON,

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

December 13th, 1912.

The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain

AND

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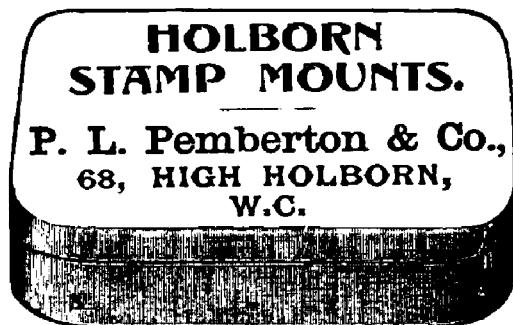
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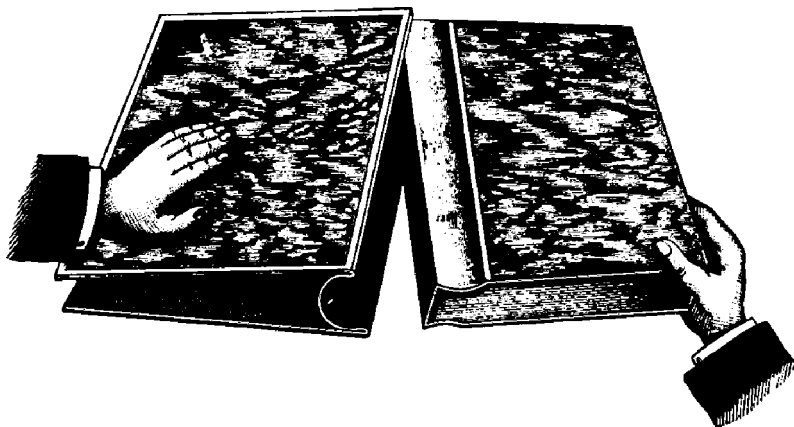
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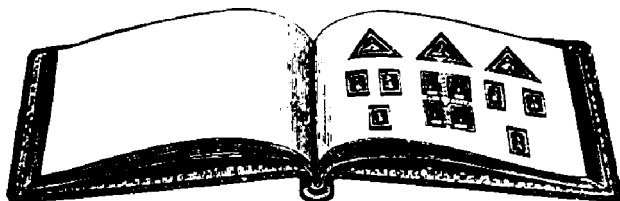
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CHILI.—Early Issues Wanted, cash or exchange, also Proofs, etc., anything good.—**G. HERBERT DANNATT** (Secretary Otterdale Exchange Club), "Lyndale," Blackheath, S.E. [266]

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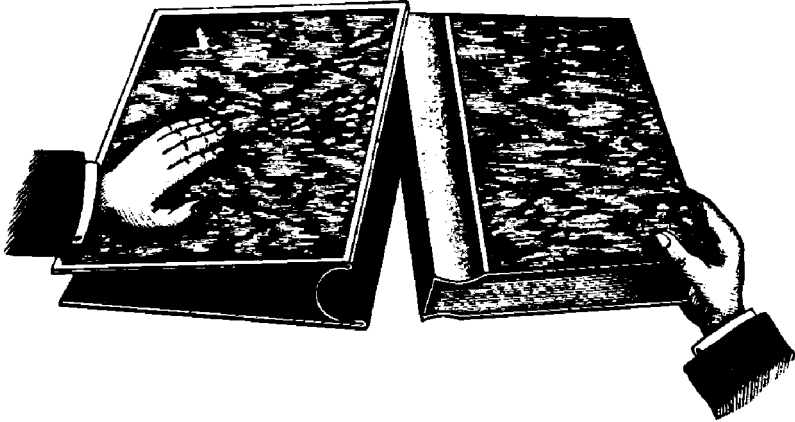
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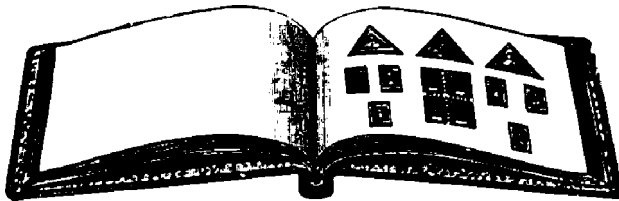
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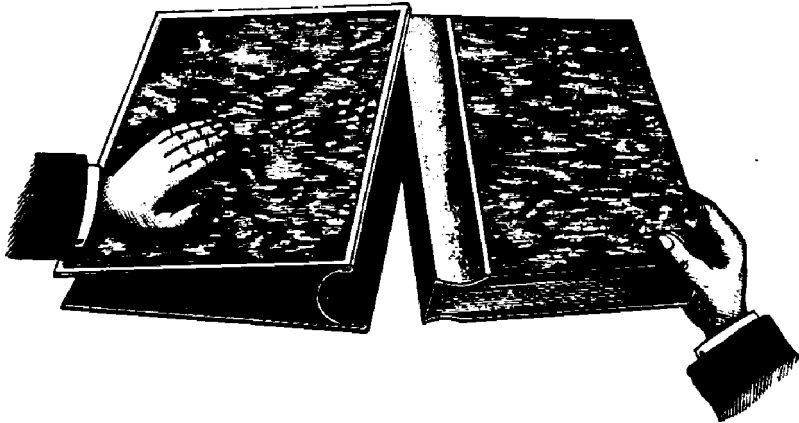
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1881, British Guiana, 1c. on 48c. carmine;	3/0	* " " 1/- black	2/5
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" " 2a. black on white	6/0		

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The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain

AND

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EDITED BY F. F. LAMB.

PUBLISHED BY P. L. PEMBERTON & CO., 68, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.

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No. 258. Vol. XXII.

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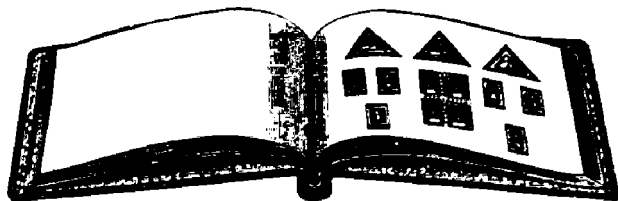
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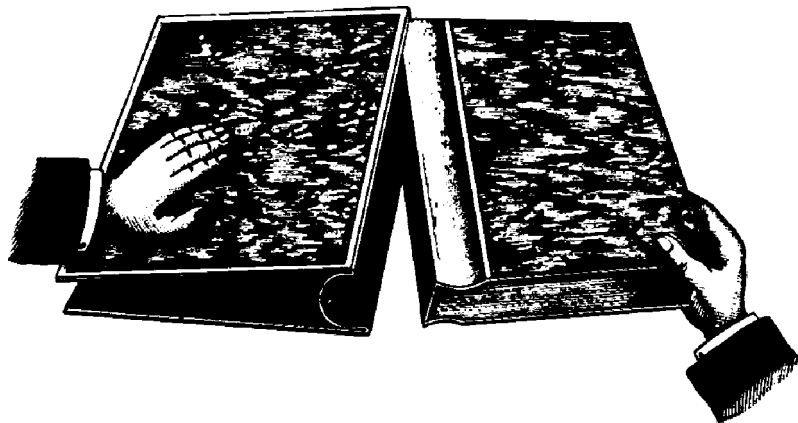
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*1911, Açores, Vasco, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 50r. ...	2/0	*French Cote des Somalis, 1902, 0.75 on 5 fcs. ...	14/10
*1897-99, Angra, 80r. lilac ...	10d.	1871, Denmark, Service, 16s. green, our No. 3	2/10
* " " 150 bistre ...	1/3	*1910, Gaboon, 50c. blue-green and grey...	1/5
* " " 180 grey and rose ...	1/1	* " " 1 fc. dark brown and brown ...	3/3
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" " 10k. ...	4/0	*1902, Portuguese Guinea, 65r. on 50r. blue ...	1/0
1911, Bayern, 1, 2, 3, 5 mk. ...	6/5	1903, Nyassa, 25r. on 80r., small surcharge ...	4/0
" " Jubilee, 40, 50, 80p., 1 and 2 mk. ...	1/0	* " " 25r., small surcharge ...	3/10
*1897, China, \$5 green and carmine, without gum	40/0	*1904-5, Lagos, 6d. violet ...	1/0
*1908 " Express ...	3/0	* " " 1/- green and black ...	2/10
*1904-5, French China, 1 fc. olive, Grasset type	32/0	1895, Madagascar, 5 fcs. lilac ...	3/0
*1902-3, Colombia, 100 pesos blue on rose ...	14/0	*1910, Colombia, $\frac{1}{2}$ cc., inverted centre ...	30/0

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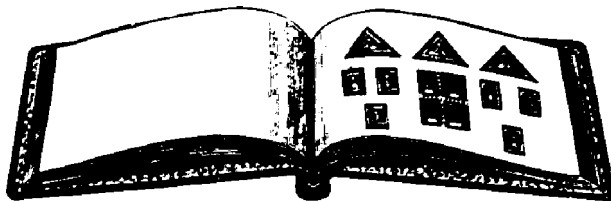
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MEXICO.—Wanted to buy, any of the stamps of the issues from 1856 to 1872, in singles, pairs, or blocks, used or unused; the commoner varieties in large or small quantities.—P. L. PEMBERTON & Co., 68, High Holborn, London, W.C.

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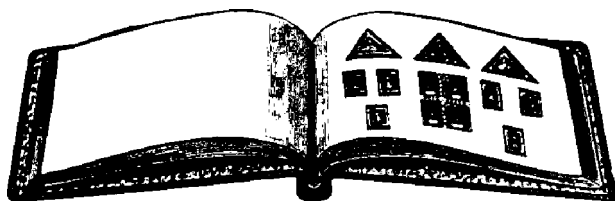
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AND

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WANTED 2/- blue English for plating, 2/9 each offered. Any quantity. Also Costa Rica, Salvador, Nicaragua, 1st type, used.—44, Lonsdale Road, Hammersmith Bridge.

WANTED—Early issues of Colombia, Bolivia, U.S.A., and Uruguay. Even the commonest stamps wanted if issued before 1880.—P. L. PEMBERTON & Co., 68, High Holborn, W.C. [258]

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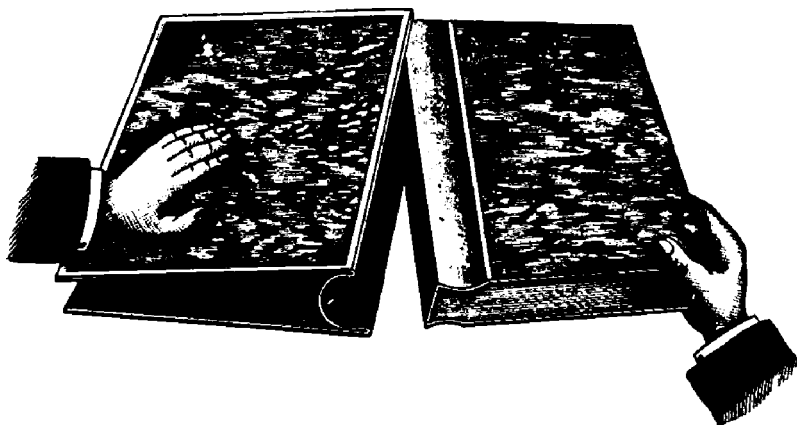
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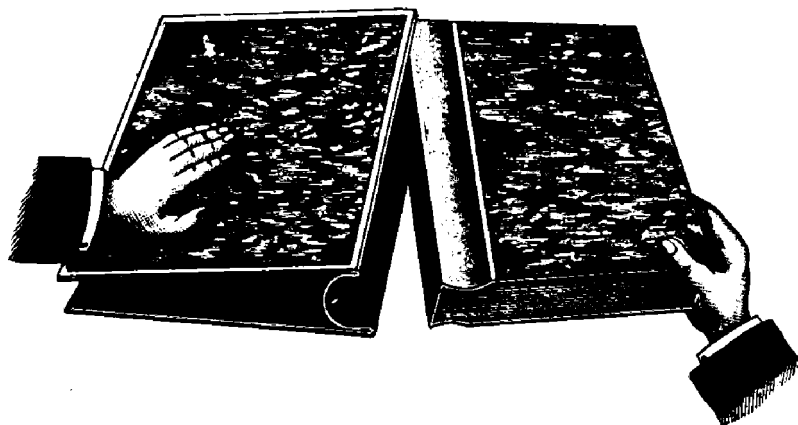
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AND

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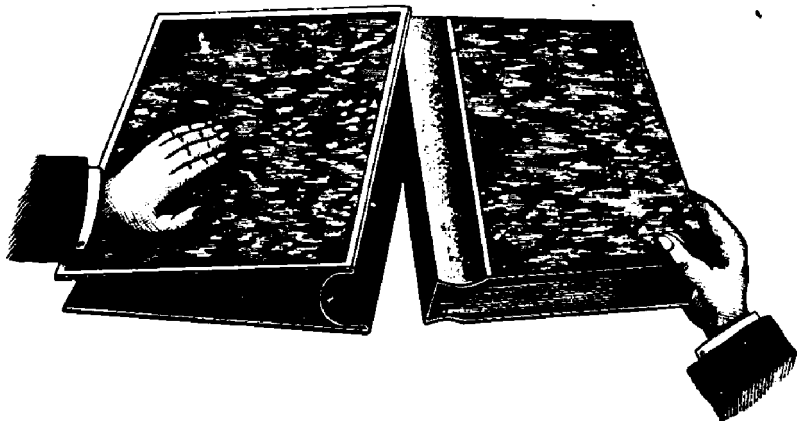
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1907, 1, 2, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 35 et 50 paras. 1k., 2k. et 5k., the series neuve	3/3
1910, 1, 2, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 35, 50p., 1, 2, 5 perp., the series (88 à 99), used	5/8
1910, 5 perpers. bleu clair (No. 99), used	2/6

MONTENEGRO—continued.

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1902, Ditto, 5, 10, 25, 50h. et 1k., the series (Nos. 9 à 13, neuve	1/-

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1903, 1p. lie de vin et noir (No. 60), used	7d.
.. 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 50p. et 1d., the series, nve.	2/6
.. 3 et 5 dinar, la paire, neuve	3/3
.. 1p. on 5d. br. et noir (No. 70), used	6d.
1904, 1d. vert et noir dent. 11½ (No. 73), mint	7d.
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1912, 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25p., the series (Nos. 105 à 110), neuve	1/3
.. 30, 50p., 1, 3 et 5 dinar, the series (Nos. 111 à 115), used	16/7

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.. 25 .. vert (No. 96), mint	5/9
.. 50 .. pie (No. 97) used	15/9

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May 1 & 2, 15 & 16, 29 & 30; June 12 and 13.

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- " 82. Later " "
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- " 86. Tasmania.
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A fine unused Colonial collection, the property of a well-known London collector.

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All Mint.

1½d purple and green	9d
2d green and carmine	9d
2½d blue	1/3
4d brown-orange	1/6
4d pale orange	1/3
6d dull purple	1/9
7d slate	9d
9d purple and blue	2/3
10d ,, and carmine	3/9

Chalky Paper.

10d purple and scarlet	2/0
1/- green and red	3/0

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½d green	1d
1d rose-red	4d
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3d dull purple on yellow	1/3
4d bright orange	1/3

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½d, die I., wmk. G v R repeated	1d
1d ,, ,, ,, ,,	2d
½d, die II. ,, ,, ,,	2d
1d ,, ,, ,, ,,	2d
½d ,, ,, ,, multiple	2d
1d ,, ,, ,, ,,	2d

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" " " " 8c violet*	..	1/6
" " " " 10c purple*	..	2/0
" " " " 15c indigo*	..	1/9
" King George, 50c sepia, used	..	1/0
Hawaii, 1893, "Provisional Govt."		
" 5c deep indigo, used	1/6
" 6c green, unused	8d
" 12c claret, unused	6/0
" 1894, 12c blue, used or unused	..	9d
" " " 25c blue, used	9d
Greece, 1906, 11 to 25 lep, set of seven	..	4d
" 1911, 11 to 10 lep, set of five	..	3d
" " 30 lep, carmine, used	3d
" " 40 lep, blue, used	5d
" " 50 lep, purple, used	5d

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This Collection is at present only for sale entire.

BAHAMAS.—Imperf.: 1d., strip of 3 used. Rough Perfs.: 4d. unused (6), 6d. unused (4). P. 11½—12: 4d. (2) unused, 6d. unused. P. 13: 4d. unused (4), 6d. (3), and superb lot of later issues.

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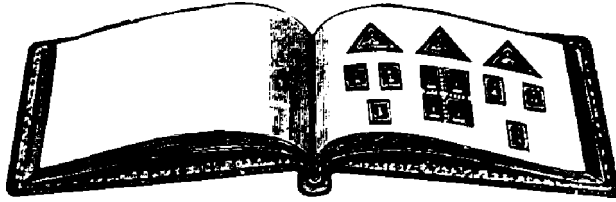
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½d. and 1d., King George

(Die II.)

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Repeated	Horizontal Pair.	Block of 4.	Block of 6 with Control B 12
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Mult. „ ½d.	4d.	8d.	2/-
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