

The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain

AND

PHILATELIC REVIEW OF REVIEWS.

EDITED BY F. F. LAMB.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Editorial	1
New Issues and Varieties	2
A Legal Problem for Great Britain Specialists	5
The Stamps of Greece	6
New Leaves to Cut	8
City of London Philatelic Society	10
Current Chatter	11
The Stamps of France, 1849-1875	12
The Fifth Philatelic Congress of Great Britain	14
South African Stamp Exhibition	15
International Philatelic Union	15
Correspondence	16
Recent Find of Rare Stamps	18
Review of Reviews	19

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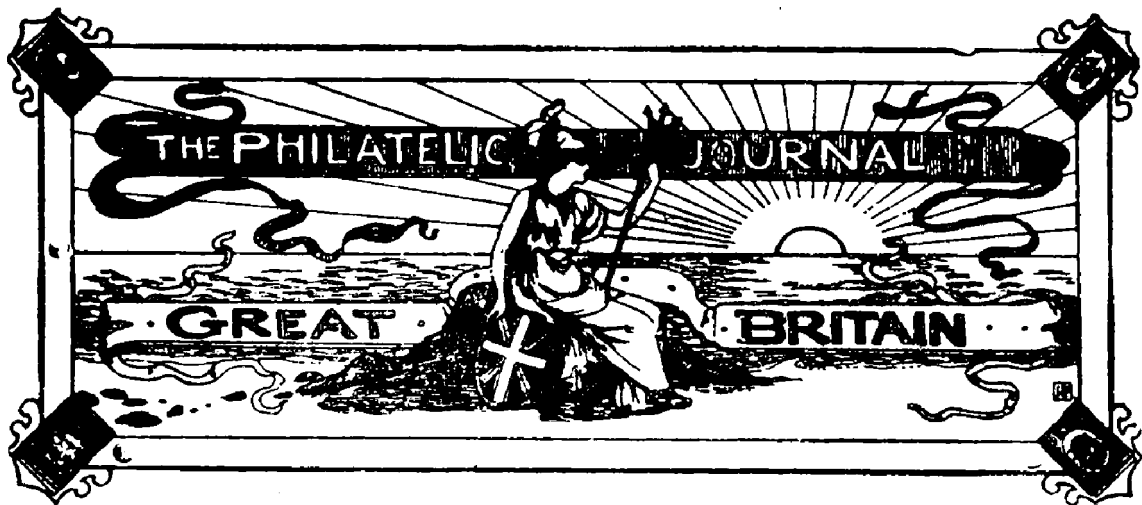
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♦ ♦ Editorial. ♦ ♦

A GROWING knowledge of stamp collectors leads us to express the fear that the majority regard stamp collecting in far too serious a light. The days are gone, or else are passing rapidly when Englishmen regard their pleasures sadly, surely then there is no need to look upon the hobby of indoor hobbies as a funeral rite which has to be persecuted to the bitter end. A visit to practically any of the monthly meetings of the London Philatelic Societies would, we are sure, have a dampening effect on any non-collector, not altogether due to the fact that he was uninterested in the stamps, but because each member present would seem to convey, by his attitude, the knowledge that stamp collecting was a very serious matter and not lightly to be referred to by any philistine, philatelic or otherwise.

The smile-if-you-dare attitude is also strongly evinced by practically all the stamp papers; their publishers and editors assure their readers, if by any chance their contemporaries contain any reference that might be considered approximately humorous, that "it may be funny, but it is not philately!"

The philatelic press is very small fry in the world of journalism, and we think it would be a very good thing for stamp collectors if the worthy gentlemen who control the destinies of a dozen of the best

known stamp journals would condescend to unbend and regard their subscribers as probably gifted with some slight appreciation of humour. Stamp collecting is, or should be, a pastime but we regret to note that many collectors are becoming imbued with such a sense of their own importance that they are influencing collectors in general, while the stamp nights of several well known societies seem merely preparatory to the initiation rites of some monastery. We are not surprised that many non-collectors regard their collecting friends as cranks and prigs, not merely because they attend a certain number of meetings, and staidly sit in solemn conclave, but because they treat their hobby as a fetish which has to be propitiated by some horrible sacrifice, were they, the devotees, forgetful enough to smile while discussing the sacred terminology of their "hobby."

Stamp collecting, to those who invest a certain amount of capital in doubtful investments is, until their hopes are realized, a fearful pleasure, but to the thousands who collect merely for the love of collecting, apart from financial gain, philately should be a joy and not the sad function it appears to be to the uninitiated.

One well-known Society, all credit to it, demonstrates once a year in music, mirth,

and song that stamp collectors are not all creatures clothed in sack cloth and ashes, but we should like to see the monthly meetings of the London Societies less funereal and the habitués less weighed down by a sense of their own greatness.

Wake up England. Up ye potential mutes who do penance by attending regularly and stolidly the monthly palavers

of the mighty. Methinks it would infuse a little animation into the hobby if a few of the gentlemen who always-have-pleasure-in-seconding-Mr. Bloggins, were to put philately in the background just for once and seize the opportunity of going to see the latest Revue, "Nicely Thanks," or some other mirth-raising farce, on one evening during the year.

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. With the recent appearance of the ½d., Die II., in sheet form, with the cypher watermark repeated, the set of three watermarks on both ½d. and 1d., Die II., is completed. It would be as well now to recapitulate the history of these stamps to date and add a reference list. The first varieties to appear other than the normal Crown watermark were the ½d. and 1d., Die I., watermarked G v R and Crown repeated. These have so far only been found in the booklets and consequently exist with the watermark inverted as well as normal. Early in October last the ½d. and 1d., Die II., were issued in rolls, for use in automatic machines; some of these rolls, each of which consist of 500 stamps, had the cypher watermark "repeated," and others the same watermark arranged in a different way and termed "multiple." The difference between these two watermarks is not always easy to see in single stamps, but it must be remembered that in the "repeated" the watermarks appear one below the other in vertical lines, whereas in the "multiple" the cyphers are arranged in much the same way as the multiple Crown CA watermarks in the Colonial stamps. There is, moreover, a considerable difference in the shapes of the watermarks.

For several weeks the ½d. and 1d., Die II. with these watermarks were only known in the form of rolls, but in November a few sheets of the 1d. repeated, with B12 control, turned up at various post offices and as quickly disappeared. During December both the ½d. and 1d., appeared in sheets with the multiple watermark and they can still be procured at many post offices. The control is B12 on each. Within the past two or three weeks sheets of the ½d. with the repeated watermark have been found, so that now all the varieties are known in this form.

All these varieties are known with inverted watermarks, some again with watermark reversed, i.e., reading from the back, and others again reversed and inverted. Now we learn, on the authority of *Oswald Marsh's Weekly Circular* that the 1d. is known with the multiple watermark sideways. From the same source we learn that some sheets of the ½d., Die II., watermark Crown, have been found without the control.

Of these two values, therefore, exist the following main varieties:—

		Die I.
½d.	wmk.	Crown.
1d.	"	"
½d.	"	G v R repeated.
1d.	"	" "
		Die II.
½d.	wmk.	Crown.
1d.	"	"
½d.	"	G v R repeated.
1d.	"	" "
½d.	"	G v R multiple.
1d.	"	" "

The announcement that the high values of the Georgian series are being printed by the line engraved process by Messrs. Waterlow and Layton, and are shortly to be issued is of considerable interest. It may confidently be expected that these new stamps will be a great improvement on any which have been issued in Great Britain since the original Perkins Bacon designs were abandoned.

Mr. A. J. Leon has shewn us the ½d. King George in a new design, and the 4d. King George, which were issued on the 16th inst. The ½d. is a slightly different shade of green, with the profile portrait, and the 4d. in slate.

Bahamas Several of our American contemporaries have chronicled the King George 6d. and 1/- stamps in new colours.

Adhesives.

6d. lilac.
1/- black on green.

Bechuanaland Protectorate. The *Monthly Journal* says: "We have received

the 1s. King Edward with the same overprint as that used on the 1d. We find this is in thinner and smaller type than before."

Adhesive.

1s., deep green and scarlet.

Hong Kong. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us specimens of the new King George 1c. and 4c. stamps. The value is also expressed in numerals in each lower corner. The *London Philatelist* chronicles the other values.

Adhesives. King George.

- 1c. brown.
- 2c. green.
- 4c. carmine.
- 6c. orange.
- 8c. grey-green.
- 10c. ultramarine.
- 12c. purple on yell.w.
- 20c. olive-green and purple.
- 30c. orange and purple.
- 50c. grey-black on green.
- £1 bright blue and purple on pale blue.
- £2 black and carmine.
- £3 purple and green.
- £5 carmine and green on pale green.
- £10 black and purple on red.

We are told that the 12c. and higher values are on chalky paper.

India. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have shewn us the current 8 annas stamp overprinted for official use. The *Monthly Journal* chronicles the 12 annas; also says that the 1 anna exists with double overprint.

King George Official.

- 8 annas, mauve.
- 12 annas, dull claret.

Gwalior. Mr. W. T. Wilson, of Birmingham, has very kindly shewn us the following values of the new "Georgian" stamps overprinted for service in this State.

Adhesives.

Current Indian Stamps Overprinted.

- 3 pies, grey.
- ½ anna, green.
- 1 anna, carmine.
- 2a. purple.
- 3a. orange.

Patiala. We have also been shewn the same values, together with the 6 annas, bistre, overprinted for use in the State of Patiala.

Jamaica. The *Monthly Journal* chronicles yet another of the Georgian stamps, while *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* lists, in addition, the 1d., 2½d. and 4d. values.

Adhesives. Multiple wmk. King George.

- 1d. red.
- 2½d. ultramarine.
- 4d. red and black on yellow.
- 6d. dull and bright purple.

Seychelles. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*, on the authority of a Continental exchange, chronicles the following King Georges:—

Adhesives. Multiple Crown C.A. wmk.

- 12c. brown-olive and green.
- 18c. olive-green and red.
- 30c. violet and green.
- 45c. dark brown and carmine.
- 75c. yellow and violet.
- R1.50 black and carmine.
- R2.50 red-violet and green.

Sierra Leone. We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. a surprise in the nature of a large sized label from this colony, with the head of King George in a small medallion above a fat, but angry looking elephant, who is trumpeting under the shade of a sheltering palm tree. There is a good deal of ornamental scroll work on this St. Helena-like plaster.

Adhesive. Multiple wmk.

3d. purple on yellow.

Turks and Caicos Islands. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* says: "We learn that specimens of the Georgian set up to the 4d. value have been seen. The design is the same as hitherto, but with head of King George in the centre.

Adhesives. Multiple wmk.

- ½d. green.
- 1d. rose.
- 2d. grey.
- 2½d. ultramarine.
- 3d. lilac and yellow.
- 4d. red on yellow.

Western Australia. Our publishers have shewn us specimens of the current 2d. stamps overprinted "ONE PENNY" in black.

Provisional.

1d. on 2d. yellow.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Argentine Republic. The *Monthly Journal* adds another value to the two we listed last month, namely, the 5c., with the new honey-comb watermark.

Adhesive.

5c. red.

China. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write as follows:—

"We are sending you only the low value of each set of the new commemorative stamps, the values and colours in each set are as follows: 1c. orange, 2c. green, 3c. blue-green, 5c. magenta, 8c. sepia, 10c. blue, 16c. sage-green, 20c. lake, 50c. green, \$1 carmine, \$2 brown, and \$5 slate. The portrait on the 'Revolution' stamp is that of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, and on the other the President, Yuan Shi Kai."

Egypt. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* says, on the authority of the *Egyptian Mail*, that a new series of postage stamps has been ordered. The following subjects have been chosen as designs: The Assouan Reservoir, the Citadel, the Sphinx, the Temple of Luxor, a Boat on the Nile, a View of the Fayoum, and two Statues of the Kings Hatour and Amon.

Greece. A large crop of overprints in consequence of the war was reasonably to be expected, and, sure enough many varieties are already coming to hand. When the Greeks first occupied the important town of Salonika they overprinted the Turkish stamps found in the Post Office with the large post-mark of Salonika with the Greek crown. We have not yet seen any of these stamps and so cannot describe them. The provisionals only last for a few days and were followed by stamps of the current issue of Greece overprinted ELLINIKI DIOIKHSIS in Greek characters, the meaning of which is Greek Administration, in two lines, reading upwards. These appeared early in November, and all values from 1 lepta to 25 drachmæ were overprinted. There were two printings, at any rate on the lower values, the first of which was in much sharper character than the second. In each printing there are specific errors, due to missing letters, and there are in addition, other errors of a similar character which do not appear on each sheet. We will give full particulars of these next month.

Holland. Dutch Indies. The *Monthly Journal*, on the authority of a Continental exchange, chronicles the current 1g. and 2½g. on coloured paper.

Adhesives. Perf. 11½ × 11.

1g. dull lilac on greenish.

2½g. slate " "

The *Stamp Lover* chronicles the following:—
"Figure of value on white, instead of dotted, background. White wove paper. Perforated 12½. Surface-printed by Johannes Enschedé and Sons, Haarlem, Holland.

October, 1912. 1 cent, olive-green.
2 cents, brown.
4 " ultramarine.
5 " rose.

Liberia. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have shewn us the 3 cents and 10 cents provisional triangular stamps perforated instead of rouletted; also overprinted "OS" in red.

Portuguese India. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write as follows:—

"The complete set of eight values of the Vasco da Gama issue have been overprinted with the word 'Republica.' The issue was a very limited one, and two values were sold out on the day of issue."

Siam. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have very kindly sent us six values of the new Siamese stamps. The design for the five satang values is the same in each case. One third of the stamp, at the left, is occupied with a screen of fanciful decorative work; on the right, in the centre, a full-face portrait of the new King, with the value expressed above and "Siam" below.

The 1 baht value, a large-sized label, bears in the centre a nearly full-length portrait of the King.

Adhesives.

2 satang.	brown.
6 satangs.	rose.
12 ..	yellow-brown and black.
14 ..	pale blue.
28 ..	sepia.
1 baht.	blue and black.

Ewen's Weekly Stamp News also chronicles the following additional values:—

3 satang.	green.
2 baht.	rose and brown.
3 ..	green and black.
5 ..	violet and black.
10 ..	olive and purple.
20 ..	dull green and brown.

Sweden. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us some more additions to our list of May last, namely, the 3 and 20 öre Official stamps on Crown watermarked paper and the 10 and 35 öre on wavy lines paper.

United States of America. The *Philatelic Gazette* for December devotes a good deal of space to a description of the new parcel post stamps which were promised for the New Year. Mr. J. M. Bartels writes as follows:—

"Promptly on Jan. 1st, 1913, the parcel post service will go into effect, and as early as Dec. 9th large consignments of the new special series of stamps were forwarded from Washington to the more distant post offices. For many months elaborate preparations have been in progress for the inauguration of the new service which will be a great benefit to a large part of the population.

It is with some surprise that we learn of the adoption of a uniform color for the entire series, officially termed red, but in reality carmine, the same ink in use for the ordinary 2c. stamp. The set, consisting of twelve values, is beautifully engraved, each one showing a different design. Most of the subjects selected have some specific connection with the postal service, while all of them in some way relate to the parcel post, though the connection in some cases may be remote.

The parcel post stamps are not exactly the size of any preceding issue, but resemble the Hudson-Fulton and Omaha series.

There will be only 45 stamps to the sheet, which have straight edges on two sides. Each sheet has two plate numbers, but no other marginal imprint. The size of the stamp is 1¼ × 1 inch. In a curved panel across the top, supported by a panelled perpendicular column at each end, appear the words in very plain Roman letters, "U.S. Parcel Post." Triangular ornaments occupy both upper corners. The denomination in large numerals is at each lower corner with the title of the subject and the word "Cents" (or "Dollar") between.

It was the writer's privilege to see die proofs of the entire series on the 9th inst. All had been finally approved by Postmaster General Hitchcock, except the 3c. 50c. and \$1. Possibly these values may not all be on sale

as promptly as the others. If there is any choice in the beauty of the different values we would select the 10c. and 50c. Needless to say the engraving is fully up to the standard of Bureau work.

The following quantities have been requisitioned to date:—

1c. ... 50,000,000	15c. ... 5,000,000
2c. ... 35,000,000	20c. ... 5,000,000
3c. ... 13,000,000	25c. ... 11,000,000
4c. ... 11,000,000	50c. ... 2,000,000
5c. ... 50,000,000	75c. ... 1,000,000
10c. ... 8,000,000	\$1 ... 1,000,000

PARCEL POST POSTAGE DUE STAMPS.

This in philately so far unique series has also been completed and the stamps are ready for delivery. They are the same size as the other series, but the colour is dark green. In a horizontal panel across the top are the words "U.S. PARCEL POST" in Roman capitals, and a similar panel at the bottom, "POSTAGE DUE." In the centre surrounded by a double circle upon a background of geometric lathework is a large numeral expressing the denomination. The upper half of the circular frame carries the denomination in words which are repeated in the lower half, except that the words appear only once on the 25c. Small numerals of denominations are on both sides of the large central numeral. The set will consist of five values, 1, 2, 5, 10 and 25c. These are also issued in sheets of 45. The design was approved Nov. 19th. A proof exists without the numerals.

The first requisition calls for the following quantities:

1c. ... 8,000,000	10c. ... 2,000,000
2c. ... 4,000,000	25c. ... 1,000,000
5c. ... 8,000,000	

Messrs J. M. Bartels & Co., 99. Nassau Street, New York, have shewn us the 1, 5 and 10c. new Panama Exhibition stamps. The remaining value, the 2c., will probably be issued in February. These new "Commemoratives" are of attractive design.

COLLECTORS of recent British have lately experienced the joys of stamp collecting in New Zealand, Nicaragua and other countries noted as prolific philatelic purveyors. You may go into a large London post-office and get three different varieties of penny stamps at the same counter; you may, indeed, get something else which may prove to be unique. The only thing certain is that you cannot tell what you will get. The 4d. with portrait of King George has appeared just as we go to press. The colour is described officially as pearl green, but in effect it is grey, with only the faintest suspicion of green. The orange of the former 4d. was abandoned on account of its leading to confusion with the 2d., and naturally the new stamp has been made to resemble the 7d. as nearly as possible.

A Legal Problem for Great Britain Specialists.

BY LAW STUDENT.

"LAW STUDENT'S" brief exposition of the rules of English law governing offer and acceptance in relation to a contract is, on the whole, quite correct, but in my opinion he has failed to appreciate the exact nature of the offer to the public which is implied by the existence of a Post Office.

"The existence of a Post Office at a particular place," he writes, "is a standing offer to any member of the public to sell at face value during business hours any stamp or stamps in stock." Omit the word "any" which governs "stamp or stamps" and I entirely concur.

The Post Office merely offers, inter alia, to sell stamps, and accordingly if I walk into a Post Office and demand the middle stamp of a complete sheet this amounts to a counter-offer on my part which (prior to the Postmaster-General's order to his servants that they are to refuse demands for particular stamps) they were at liberty either to accept or refuse; now of course they have no option but to refuse.

In the case of "controls" the position is even less favourable to stamp-collectors, for the "control" constitutes no portion of a stamp at all, being merely part of the margin surrounding a sheet of stamps, and, be it noted, the Post Office offers to sell stamps, not margins.

If, however, I demand a sheet of stamps and tender money for the same, in this case I am entitled to expect the sheet complete with margins, because it is an established "custom of the trade" that when stamps are sold in sheets the margins shall be supplied with them, just as if I go to a tobacconist and ask for a box of Corona cigars I should expect to get not only the cigars but also the box containing them; but if I asked for ten cigars I should be entitled to nothing else than the cigars; and to carry the analogy further, if I were to ask for one Corona cigar I should not be entitled to rummage in the box and select one from the bottom, all that I could legally demand would be a good sound specimen of that particular brand.

The Post Office officials are the servants of the P.M.G., who acts as Agent for the Crown, and the order which he has issued is not ultra vires since it is one merely forbidding his servants to accept offers which it is no part of their duty to accept.

In the circumstances I should strongly advise any would-be litigants to refrain from bringing a test case.

BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

Under the above heading "Law Student" attempts to make out a case against the post-office for refusing to comply with requests by

purchasers to be allowed to make an inspection of the stock of stamps on hand, before buying.

But I fear it isn't any good. Taking first the legal aspect upon which "Law Student" bases his case, the post office is not like his bun shop. All the postmaster offers to sell are labels of various denominations for the prepayment of postage, etc., and provided the labels supplied do so prepay postage, no purchaser has any right to ask for more. The bun shop analogy is not on all fours with the case before us, because in that case particular articles were displayed for sale. That is where a stamp-dealer and the post-office differ. For the same reason it must be quite evident that the postmaster has a perfect right at any time to give orders that all marginal paper should be removed from sheets of stamps before sale, and no member of the public would be entitled to protest.

Turning for the moment from the legal aspect, only just imagine the effect of allowing

the public generally to peruse the stock of any post-office before purchasing! The post-offices would at best then resemble a stamp auctioneer's room prior to a sale, and, judging from the way I have noticed some people treat auction lots, I should imagine a good deal of the stock would be far from mint after a few days of this kind of thing.

And what are purchasers to do while "Law Student" and his confrères are running through all the available stock, and what if all the penny stamps and half-penny ones at the post office being inspected, turned out to be Georgian Die II. with inverted crown watermark? I don't think there would be many left for the poor deluded folk who wanted stamps only for the mundane purpose of sending letters. But then of course the postmaster might be induced to allow bisected two-penny stamps to be used as provisionals in such a case!

KENNETH M. BEAUMONT.

The Stamps of Greece.

By P. L. PEMBERTON.

(Continued from page 236.)

THE LARGE PERFORATION.

The stamps with the large perforation, gauging from $8\frac{1}{2}$ — $9\frac{1}{2}$, have until lately been regarded, at the best, as of a semi-official character. M. Nicolaidès, however, in his article in *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, a year or so ago, states that he wrote to the Director-General of the Greek Post Office for information on this point, and was informed that the stamps bearing that perforation were used only in the department of Achaïnanie and Etolie, and that the machine was sent out by the Central Administration, and its use officially authorized. If this information be correct, and there appears no reason to doubt it, this perforation is quite as well worthy of catalogue rank as are any of the others. They are quite as good, for instance, as the Suisse perforation of France.

The $8\frac{1}{2}$ — $9\frac{1}{2}$ perforation first appeared in 1898, and specimens are found used from that date until 1901. The machine was single-lined and very frequently whole vertical and horizontal rows were left out, so that pairs imperforate between are quite usual. This fault, by the way, was also common to the $11\frac{1}{2}$ machine used at Athens, especially in later years.

The stamps perforated $8\frac{1}{2}$ — $9\frac{1}{2}$ are usually found bearing the postmark either of Vonitza or Astakos, two of the principal towns in the Department, but they may, of course, bear a variety of other postmarks, and Athens is not uncommon.

All values are found with this perforation, though I have not actually seen the Athens-printed 40 lep. and 1 dr., yet I have a pair of the latter in the Belgian print. The 20, 10 and 5 lep. are the commonest, in the order named, but the other values are not easy to find.

VARIOUS PERFORATIONS.

Another perforation which is occasionally met with is a rough pin-perf. gauging 14.

This was used at Amfissa in the years 1894-95. It is sometimes, though rarely, found with other postmarks. As in the case of the last, pairs are sometimes without the perforation between the stamps. I have the 5, 10 and 20 lep. with this perforation, and I believe other values exist. I have no information with regard to the status of this variety, but as most 5, 10 and 20 lep. stamps used at Amfissa in 1895 were perforated in this way it is probable that the generally accepted theory that the postmaster of Amfissa had a perforating machine which he used for facilitating his own work is correct. In any case I consider that the stamps pin perf. 14 are worthy the attention of specialists.

There is another rough perforation which at first sight might be mistaken for the Amfissa variety, but which on close examination is evidently an ordinary machine perforations with round holes gauging 13. I have seen two or three specimens of the 5 lep. with this perforation, but have never been able to decipher the postmark, though one bore the date—1896—clearly enough.

There are, in addition, several more varieties of perforation which may, or may not, have a semi-official character. One which gauges $9\frac{1}{2}$, small holes, is sufficiently plentiful to give rise to the belief that its origin might be similar to that of Amfissa, but the fact that all the specimens I have seen are unused is not in its favour.

Before leaving this issue I should mention the 5 lepta, printed in the colour of the 20 lepta (carmine), which one sometimes sees offered as an error of colour. As these stamps are generally found with genuine gum, it is possible that they were actually printed in error, but there is no doubt that none were issued, as no used copy is known, whereas it is not particularly rare unused. They must have leaked out from the printing office in the same way as the 5 lep. green with double impression, which is quite plentiful unused but unknown used.

Another curiosity which occasionally turns up is the 2 lep. with each of the numerals in the lower corners overprinted "10" in purple. It would be interesting to know whether this is an essay for a projected provisional or whether it is entirely bogus.

THE FIRST OLYMPIC GAMES ISSUE, 1896.

To commemorate the Olympic Games which were held in Athens in 1896 a pictorial set of stamps was issued in April of that year and used concurrently with the ordinary stamps. The set consisted of twelve denominations, the new values being the 60 lepta, 2, 5 and 10 drachmæ.

The 1 and 2 lepta have for central design two ancient wrestlers (with muscles of Olympian proportions) between two Corinthian columns.

The 5 and 10 lepta provide a reproduction of Myron's statue, "Discobolus" (quoit or discus thrower) with an Ionic column on either side.

The 20 and 40 lepta are much larger upright rectangular stamps. The design represents a vase beneath an arch supported by Corinthian columns.

The 25 and 60 lepta are the same size as the last but the shape is a transverse rectangle. The design represents a quadriga or four-horse chariot.

The 1 drachma has in the foreground a reconstruction of the stadium or race-course in which the ancient Olympian Games were held, and in the background a distant view of the Acropolis as it is to day.

The 2 dr. bears a representation of the famous statue of Hermes (Mercury) of Praxiteles, between Ionic columns.

The 5 dr. shews the Nike (Victory) between Corinthian columns.

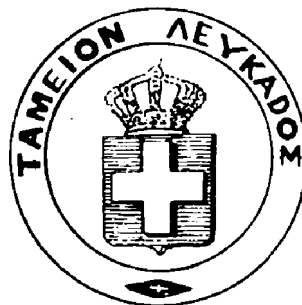
The 10 dr. bears another view of the Acropolis.

These stamps were printed in Paris from designs by M. E. Mouchon, the well-known French artist. His name appears on each

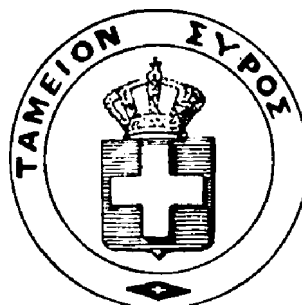
stamp in small letters beneath the design, the only exception being the 2 lepta, in which value there was one stamp in each sheet with the name missing.

THE THESSALY CONTROL MARKS.

In the following year, 1879, during the Greco-Turkish war, the province of Thessaly fell into the hands of the Turks who looted a large number of stamps. The Greeks made a half-hearted attempt to render such stamps valueless by surcharging those issued in the towns nearest to the seat of war with a large circular handstamp bearing the device of the Greek Treasury (see accompanying illustration). As this control mark measured 35 mm.



USED AT LEUKAS.



USED AT SYRA.

in diameter it was generally struck once on each block of four of the small sized stamps and on each pair of the larger size. Consequently only a section appears on each stamp, and the uninitiated might mistake it for a portion of a postmark. It is, however, a genuine official surcharge, and as specimens are scarce it is well worth looking for. The first word in the handstamp means seal, or *cachet*, while the second is the name of the town (in the genitive case). There are consequently many varieties according to the districts in which they were used. The *cachet* is found struck variously in black, blue, green and purple, and is found not only on the ordinary and the Olympic Games issues then current, but sometimes also on the stamps of the first type, principally the 1, 2 and 40 lepta (buff) as some of the smaller offices doubtless still had some of these old stamps in stock. Stamps bearing this overprint were used only during March, April, May and June, 1897. After the latter date

the futility of the idea seems to have struck home and the stamps were issued once more without the overprint, as they had been all along in other parts of Greece. Nevertheless the Turks would seem to have had a pretty good haul, especially of the Olympic Games issue, as the high values of that set were offered in various quarters for some time afterwards at less than face value.

To be continued.

New Leaves to Cut.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF HOLLAND (NINTH CENTURY), BY JOSEPH B. LEAVY.

Published by P. Mc G. Mann, 1708, North 18th Street, Philadelphia, U.S.A., price 50 cents (paper bound), or \$1.50 (cloth bound).

This publication is a reprint in book form of the articles on Dutch stamps, by Mr. Leavy, which appeared during 1912 in *The Philadelphia Stamp News*. The book is attractively got up, and the price seems moderate for a well illustrated volume of fifty pages.

The chief interest to most collectors will probably be found in the first twenty-five pages, which deal with the first issue.

It is to be regretted that the work was not revised by the author before publication in book form, as there are several corrections and improvements which might have been made.

For instance, Mr. Wilkinson's writings on the first issue are ignored at the commencement, where Mr. Leavy says "a number of articles have been written about the stamps of Holland, beginning with M. Moens' . . . and ending with Mr. B. W. H. Poole's in "Stanley Gibbons' Weekly" for October 8th, 1910." The only reference to Mr. Wilkinson's articles is on p. 17 where Mr. Leavy takes a different view from him as to the dates of issue of the soft porous paper printings of the first 5c. and 10c. stamps. This is the more regrettable as, to say the least, it appears likely, from the terminology used and other internal evidence, that Mr. Leavy was indebted to Mr. Wilkinson's articles to a considerable extent, even if allowance be made for the simultaneous and independent discovery of some points by Mr. Leavy. Attention was pointedly called to this by Mr. A. J. Warren while the articles were being published serially.

It is the opinion of collectors well qualified to judge about the first issue of Holland from special study of Dutch stamps that in the cases where Mr. Leavy differs from Mr. Wilkinson it is Mr. Leavy who is wrong.

It is beyond all doubt from the evidence afforded by many copies used on dated original letters that the soft paper printings of the 5c.

and 10c. stamps were the last of all, and were made from the last plates in use—most probably plate VI. in the former case and plate X. in the latter. Thus Mr. Leavy's hypothetical arguments on this point are completely upset by the evidence of the stamps themselves. (In passing it may be noted that—p. 32—Mr. Leavy omits from his list some of the perforation varieties of the 25c. stamp of the 1867 issue simply because *he* has never seen them).

The fact that Mr. Leavy takes a different view as to the soft paper printings leads him into confusion and wrong classification of plates IV., V., and VI. of the 5c. and of several of the plates of the 10c. stamp.

There are, too, some minor errors in regard to the first issue. For instance it is certain that the real steel blue 5c. stamp was printed only from plate I. (not plate II.), for several copies are known used on the original letter at various dates some months before plate II. was even put to press in September, 1853.

It is also beyond all doubt that the indigo 5c. stamp, which was the first to be printed from plate III., was in use long before 1856, Mr. Leavy's date of issue. The writer of this review has a specimen on the original letter dated 13th January, 1855, and other early dates in 1855.

Again, it is thought by a good many collectors that it was plate IV. of the 10c. from which the Moesian reprints were made in 1895, not plate III., as stated by Mr. Leavy, who apparently thinks that there is not sufficient evidence of a new plate (generally called III.) being brought into use at the end of 1854 or in January, 1855.

In this connection it may be pointed out that the dates of issue of the stamps from the various plates of the 10c. value given on p. 24 of the book are mostly not very consistent with the dates of manufacture of the plates given in the preceding text.

It is to be noted that Mr. Leavy has endeavoured, for the first time and with a certain amount of success, to describe by drawings nearly all the different retouched stamps, and all credit is due to him for the great pains he must have taken to make the drawings of retouches which are reproduced. But, for plating purposes and ready differentiation of the retouched stamps (many of which are very similar to one another, although they occupy a different place on the plate), drawings are of comparatively little use. The only satisfactory method of illustration is the photographic one, by which every small line is reproduced with absolute fidelity. Further, the whole stamp should be illustrated, not only one corner, as in many cases there are slight retouches or defects in other parts of the stamp which help to distinguish it from its neighbours on the plate.

In the illustrations of the retouched 5c. stamps of the 1867 issue, the retouched lines have apparently been simply inked in on a

photograph, which is a very unsatisfactory and far from accurate method of illustration.

There are other points to which criticism might be directed, if space permitted.

In conclusion, it is to be hoped that Mr. Leavy's book will lead more collectors in America to study Dutch stamps, and to give to the philatelic public the results of their studies.

The last word has by no means yet been said, at least, as to the first three issues of Holland.

D. C. GRAY.

STANLEY GIBBONS CATALOGUE, PART II.*

Received too late for review in last month's *Journal*, we find that the 1913 green catalogue has undergone a considerable amount of revising.

With few exceptions the old imperforate stamps either remain stationary, or else show the usual steady advance, which is as it should be, for we do not believe in the ruthless slaughter which has taken place in a few instances, or the "sky high" advances which have occurred in many of the old German and Italian stamps. If a big Government remainder, as has been the case with early Danish stamps, comes on the market and is acquired by dealers at a reasonable figure, we think it quite right to reduce quotations, especially as we believe that the present slump is only a temporary one.

Wholesale reductions have, however, taken place elsewhere, with, we think, absolutely nothing to justify them. A marked drop has occurred where the early "silk thread" issues of Switzerland are concerned, and, we should like to know why this is so?

To take a few countries in their alphabetical order, we note that the 1892 to date issues of the Argentine Republic are now set out in their various perforations, consequently collectors who take Gibbons as their guide will have another seventy-six varieties to collect. The German Kohl catalogue has listed these perforations for years.

Bosnia, always giving trouble, has again undergone tribulation; we are told that the list has been made simple. From a brief review of the new classification, the simplification seems to have taken the form of listing 182 varieties of the stamps prior to the plasters of 1906, against the 172 of last year's list! We heartily sympathise with those of our readers who will consider it their duty to buy revised Bosnian sections for their Imperial albums.

So much has been written about the 100 reis stamp of Brazil, 1894, of recent months, that we are not surprised to find that Gibbons now lists the five types of head. Unfortunately, the five illustrations are practically useless for identification purposes.

We also find the 1890 issue elaborated. Specialists of Egyptian stamps will find that a great deal of spade work has been done with the stamps of this country, especially the third type; they will now be able to sort out their Alexandria from their Boulac prints. Needless to say the prices for this issue, having to be divided by two, have now, in some instances quadrupled. The early stamps of Hayti have received a shock—Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg is, we are told responsible for increasing the list of varieties of the first type, from twenty-three to thirty-six! The same well-known collector, has, if we mistake not, also galvanized many of the early Mexican quotations especially the lithographed Maximilian's which would in a used condition now cost fifty shillings more per set.

Mr. A. H. Ahrens has given a hand with the multitudinous emissions of Nicaragua, while last, but not least, we note that the prices for Russian stamps have been revised, and in most instances reduced. This only applies to the recent issues, as, up to 1883 the prices remain stationary, excepting the imperforate of 1857, which has, and rightly, risen from 16s. to a £1.

Those of our readers who have not yet purchased their new Gibbons should do so at once; it still remains the world's premier catalogue and a wonderful half-crown's worth of philatelic information.

PHILATELIC RAMBLES.*

BY JULIAN PARK.

Ninety copies of this dainty little publication have, we are informed, been printed, and we have to thank Mr. Park for one copy, which is, by the way, numbered 19. Mr. Park has written five delightful essays, four of which have already, in various publications seen the light of day, while the fifth, entitled "The Story of Trinidad" deals, in a fascinating fashion with the history of the small island of Trinidad, five miles long, and two wide, which is found off the Brazilian port of Bahai. The story of J. A. Harden-Hickey, the romantic adventurer who styled himself Prince James I. of the principality of Trinidad has been written before, but Mr. Park weaves such a lot of treasure hunting, and other romantic incidents into his story that we almost forget the "Prince James" is really known to philatelic fame, by reasons of the labels which he issued for his tiny "principality." Unfortunately our gallant Prince forgot to provide a Post Office or even a "population" to deal with his labels.

The strict "philatelic rambles" deal with two journeys made by Mr. Park, first to the Argentine Republic and afterwards to Chili, and our author touches, in a masterly fashion, on various philatelic matters, mostly of an extraneous nature.

* Published by Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, W.C.
Price 2/6.

* Printed for private circulation by Mr. Julian Park, 510,
Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, U.S.A.

We learn for instance who many of the heroes were who figure on the Argentine stamps, while such stamps as the "A R" labels of Chili, and the postage dues, come in for a good deal of descriptive writing.

The remaining two essays deal respectively with the Crawford philatelic library and "The Dalton Local," the latter being, as Mr. Park modestly describes it, "an attempt at philatelic fiction."

We congratulate Mr. Park on his tasteful little book, also those of his friends, who, like ourselves, have been favoured with a copy.

ROMAN STATES.

BY L. W. FULCHER.

We are glad to note that Mr. Fulcher has reprinted, in handbook form, his series of excellent articles, which have, of late months, been appearing in the *Philatelic Record*. This work deals with very interesting, but neglected stamps, and we feel sure that those of our readers who are on the look-out for pastures new would do well to invest, while there is yet time (as there is only a limited number printed), in a copy of this, the latest of scientific guides. Mr. Fulcher deals exhaustively with the various issues, and does not overburden his writings with a lot of extraneous matter.

City of London Philatelic Society.

THE 85th monthly meeting was held at 14, Broad Street Place, E.C., on January 8th, 1913. The President, Mr. Westcott, occupied the chair.

The following new members were elected:

Mrs. K. E. Brand.
Mr. Charles Greenwood.
Mr. F. C. Graham.
Mr. E. M. Gilbert-Lodge.
Mr. M. Oppenheim.
Mr. R. Roberts.
Mr. G. G. Timpson.
Mr. C. Warbrick.

The programme of the evening was a Display by Mr. H. L. Hayman, "Things that you don't often see" and "Errors and Curiosities." Mr. Hayman very much regretted he was unable to give his display, "Stamps of the Levant," as promised, but same was not arranged in time for the meeting. Mr. Hayman passed round a set of the new Commemorative Chinese stamps, stating that these were likely to turn out rare, and afterwards kindly presented them to the Society for their collection.

The first part of Mr. Hayman's display, "Things you don't often see," consisted of several rare and fine stamps on entires. The following are a few of those shown: Three

copies of the Post Paid Mauritius, strip of four 1st issue blue Van Dieman's Land, Cape of Good Hope woodblocks, Naples ½t. blue, Saxony 3 pfeny red (S.G. No. 1. a fine pair), France, a block of ten 1 fr. (first issue), Bolivia strip of six (S.G. No. 1) and several other very rare and interesting items in perfect condition.

The second part of Mr. Hayman's display "Errors and Curiosities" was one of the most marvellous displays one could wish to see, and probably unique. Mr. Hayman passed round 2,000 stamps, which he said was only a part of his collection of "Errors and Curiosities." The stamps shown were mostly in pairs and blocks, which included the normal and error varieties. Most of the catalogue varieties were shown, even to the rarest, but to give a description of the stamps, would be a matter of impossibility; special mention must, however be made of the fine copy of the wood block Cape of Good Hope error, and no doubt a large number of the other stamps shown were of equal, and in some cases, greater rarity. The display caused great interest among the members and was very much appreciated. Mr. A. J. Sefi proposed a vote of thanks, and Mr. G. A. Higlett seconded same, which, on being put to the meeting, was carried with acclamations.

Mr. Hayman kindly brought with him Mr. Percy Ashley, who gave an address to the meeting on "Errors of Literature." Mr. Ashley pointed out what a difficulty it was to get printing done correctly in a great many instances, and said a great number of errors are unexplainable, and quoted numerous humours instances as to certain errors which had occurred, and pointed out to the members that the errors in philately were not always done on purpose, and must be in a great many cases unavoidable.

Mr. Ashley's address proved of great interest to all those present. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. J. A. Leon and seconded by Mr. J. P. Smart and carried unanimously by the meeting.

I am pleased to say there was another good attendance, 34 members and visitors being present, and all those who were there had a most enjoyable evening.

Next month, on February 12th, we have two Displays "British Africans" by Mr. T. G. Arnold, and "Georgian Issues" by Mr. J. A. Leon, B.A. I hope there will be another good attendance as both the displays are being given by members, and I should be pleased to welcome any visitors who would care to honour us with their presence.

DUNCAN PRINGLE, *Hon. Secretary*,
38, Grassmere Road, Muswell Hill, N.



Current Chatter.

By ANGUS MCTAVISH.

The *Publishers* of the *P.J.G.B.* have received the following letter from the Hon. Sec. of the Brighton Juniors:—

In commemoration of the hundredth meeting of the Brighton branch the members thereof have arranged a dinner for Thursday, January 30th, 1913, at the Old Ship Hotel, Brighton. The tickets are 3/6 (drinks extra, McTavish), and Postal Orders for that amount from those who wish to be present should reach the secretary—103, Western Road, Hove—not later than the 26th. Time 7 for 7.30 p.m.

Does this mean that it is *only* the McTavish who has to pay extra for drinks or does the rule apply to all visitors?

One of our small American exchanges in chronicling the new Bosnian stamps, says:

We notice that a change in spelling has been made. "Bosnien-Hercegovina" replacing the former spelling as used on the 1906 set. The wordmanship is of the usual high class, characteristic of the country.

Why continue to harp on the Bosnian dialect, which is nothing to the wordmanship of the editor of the *P.J.G.B.* when his publisher flukes the pink and the black down.

In the same publication, a philatelist advertises for "pairs, strips, blocks, shades, and original covers of anything in Thum and Taxis."

I wonder what he would swop for a couple of second-hand finger stalls, and a taxi hooter?

The *S.C.F.* is publishing an excellent dictionary of terms likely to be of interest to stamp collectors.

The following extract refers to a well-known shade of yellow—once applied to one of the early Maltese stamps:—

"Canary-yellow, a pale yellow resembling that of the canary as usually seen in captivity."

In the hope that the *S.C.F.* will find them useful I append a few more definitions for their dictionary.

(1). Moss-green. A luke warm green similar to the well-known tame moss of the proverbial rolling stone.

(2). Drab. A well-known drab like all other drabs.

(3). Claret. A pale blue, resembling that of the 1s. 6d. a bottle variety, as distinct from the rich warm tones of the real 1s. 9d. vintage.

(4). Chestnut. A sympathetic brown, approximate to the delicate brown of the greengrocer's stock before it is sold to the Italian street vendor.

(5). Pale orange. A cold orange resembling that of the small boy who had eaten too many during the Xmas vacation.

(6). Pale chocolate. As above, but substitute chocolate for orange.

(7). Solferino. I await the *S.C.F.*'s S's.

The *Australian Stamp Journal* reprints the following:—

"I recently discovered something that is worth knowing to collectors. I had a packet of 1,000 hinges, and the weather was wet, and they stuck together, notwithstanding they were placed in an envelope in a tight box. I thought I should have to throw them away, but an idea struck me. I put them in the refrigerator and froze them, and was then able to take them all apart, and never lost one."—E. J. Post in "Mekeel's Weekly."

The anxiety must have been immense when Mr. Post commenced to count the last dozen or so. I hope this will be a warning to those careless dealers who think that a bundle of 999 mounts is worth the same price as a packet of 1000.

Mr. Post's idea, however, is not *quite* original, because I have for many years been in the habit of saving up my accidentally-got-damp mounts, putting them in a "glad eye" box and periodically taking them to be massaged. If this has not had the desired effect, I have wrapped them up in cotton-wool, attached a mustard plaster, and kept them in bed for a fortnight.

At present I don't know whether I should make most money by inventing a pocket refrigerator; or rain, whiskey, liqueur, or other kind of wet-proof mounts. Suggestions cordially invited and respectfully ignored.

The editor of the *P.J.G.B.* tells me that several hundred of his subscribers have been subscribing for ten or more years. Considering that I have been McTavishing for five long years, without a holiday, this says a lot for the nerves of many of the subscribers to this journal. I think the editor only told me this in lieu of raising my 1/- a month to the long-promised 1/3 anyway it cheered me up and I went straight home and wrote a book entitled "Angus McTavish abroad—being the peregrinations of a peripatetic philatelist." This classic, if I can find a bold enough publisher, will irradiate the world in a few weeks' time; it will contain 40,000 or 50,000 thousand words—including some very long ones—and will mainly consist of hitherto unpublished matter. One or two articles, mostly those dealing with rural subjects—such as fishing, have already appeared in the lay press, as no true stamp collectors ever have time to read anything but philatelic papers and handbooks, this inclusion of somewhat extraneous matter will be appreciated.

Those of my readers who nurture the faint hope that I shall be unable to find a publisher will be disappointed to learn that I shall possibly have to be my own publisher. In the meantime take me seriously for once, and drop me a P.C. hooking a copy. If you survive a reading of "McTavish Abroad" you won't regret it, because any Life Insurance Co. will take you on at a reduced premium.

The Stamps of France, 1849-1875.

G. A. HIGLETT.

A Paper read before the City of London Philatelic Society, on December 11th, 1912.

(Continued from page 234.)

1852. PRESIDENCY.

In December, 1851, Prince Napoleon dissolved the National Assembly, and was given full powers, along with the Presidency of the Republic, and in January, 1852, a law was passed ordering the effigy of the President to be put on the coinage and postage stamps instead of that of the Republic.

M. Barre, the engraver to the Mint, produced the design, which has his initial, a tiny letter B, underneath the bust. The rest of the design remained as before.

The rapid development of political events stopped the preparation of any other than the two values in most common use for the local rate postage and for simple letters. In August, 1852, the two new stamps were issued:

- 10 centimes, in yellow-bistre.
- 25 centimes, in blue.

There are no varieties, beyond shades of colour.

These stamps were reprinted in 1862, along with the first issue.

A specimen is shewn with wide side margin having a frame line. In France they are worth, in this state, very much more than ordinary copies, being catalogued at 4 francs as compared with 20 centimes for the ordinary kind.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE 15 CENTIMES, GREEN. FIRST ISSUE.

On 1st July, 1853, the rate for local Paris letters was reduced from 15 centimes to 10 centimes, and the stamps of the first issue of 1849, 15 centimes, green, were withdrawn. The very restricted use of these stamps and this withdrawal have made it a scarce stamp, especially hard to get in fine condition or in pairs.

An entire is shewn franked with a 10 centimes stamp of the Presidency, posted in Paris on 4th November, 1853, after the rate had been reduced from 15 centimes to 10 centimes.

1853-1860. EMPIRE ISSUE—IMPERFORATE.

On 2nd December, 1852, the day of the proclamation of the Empire, the legend "Empire Française" was ordered to be substituted for "République Française" on the coinage, and the same change had to be made in the postage stamps.

During 1853, four values appeared:—

- 10 centimes, bistre.
- 25 " blue.
- 40 " orange.
- 1 franc, carmine.

The paper is tinted, as before, and the 1 franc value contains the "Tête-Bêche" variety.

1854. REDUCTION OF POSTAGE.

On 1st July, 1853, the rate of postage was reduced from 25 centimes to 20 centimes for simple letters, thus making the 25 centimes stamp unnecessary, and for letters of 15 to 100 grammes the rate was reduced from 1 franc to 80 centimes, making the 1 franc stamp unnecessary. These two values were accordingly withdrawn, and replaced by new stamps of 20 centimes and 80 centimes of similar colours, making the whole current series to consist of four stamps: 10 centimes, 20 centimes, 40 centimes, and 80 centimes.

"Tête-Bêche" varieties are to be found of the 20c. and 80c. stamps.

STAMPING OF LETTERS.

The majority of letters still continued to be posted unstamped. It was considered impolite to stamp letters, as it suggested that the receiver had not sufficient funds to pay the very trifling postage charge. At last business houses took it up, and sent out letters announcing that on account of the reduction of postage they proposed to stamp all their letters, and begged their correspondents to grant them the same favour.

1854. 5 CENTIMES STAMP.

It was soon found that a 5 centimes stamp was needed for making up certain amounts for foreign postage, and for a new rate for printed matter, and this value was issued on 4th November, 1854. Let us recall that although Great Britain was the founder of penny postage, it took her sixteen years after this to establish halfpenny rates and introduced the halfpenny stamp.

PRINTED MATTER RATES.

At this time newspapers were taxed according to the size and number of their sheets, and this tax included postage. The labour involved was enormous, as it called for the opening of all packets of printed matter, as newspapers or magazines, counting the number of leaves, measuring the size of each, working out the superficial area, and then reckoning the tax to be paid thereon.

1856. 1 CENTIME STAMP.

On 1st August, 1856, a new rate of 1 centime for each 5 grammes of printed matter up to 50 grammes was introduced. Fifty-six years have since rolled by, and Great Britain has

not yet introduced anything below the half-penny rate, although some of our more enterprising Colonies have a farthing rate and a stamp for the same.

For some extraordinary reason, it was not until three years later, on 17th October, 1859, that the creation of the 1 centime stamp was authorised, and even then the 1 centime stamp, olive-green, was not actually issued until 1st March, 1860. This completed the series of the Empire non-laureated type.

In 1860, the 5 centimes stamp was altered in shade to a lighter yellow-green, as in artificial light it was confused with the 20 centimes, blue; and the 80 centimes, originally deep carmine on yellowish paper, was printed in lighter shades, and finally in 1860 became a rose on white paper.

It may be seen by the stamps exhibited that there is quite a large range of shades, and that these are materially increased by the varying tints of the papers upon which they are printed.

OBLITERATIONS.

In 1857 the postmark of an Anchor in a lozenge of spots or points was appropriated to the obliteration of foreign letters brought by French mail packets.

In 1860 the obliteration of the dated stamp was ordered to be used on printed matter, and afterwards this came into general use.

While on the subject of obliterations, it may be noted that all sorts of proposals were submitted to the postal authorities for ensuring the effective cancellation of postage stamps, to prevent their fraudulent use a second time.

One suggestion was that the stamps, after printing, should be cut into vertical strips, and then across the back of every stamp should be fastened with the gum a silk thread that was longer than the width of the stamp, and would leave ends projecting. Then the post office official would have to take up one end of this projecting silk thread, and pull it, cutting the stamp into two parts and so cancelling it.

Another was that the upper part of about one-third, and the lower part of each stamp, were to be gummed, leaving the central third part ungummed. Then the official was to be provided with a long stout needle, to be inserted underneath this centre, and with it rip up the stamp.

Another was for an obliterator having sharp cutting points and to be generously inked, which would pierce through the stamp and allow the ink to flow into the holes. The official note about this was "What would happen to the letter and its contents?"

But the most brilliant idea of all was for some fulminating powder to be applied to the back of every stamp, so that when struck with a handstamp, it would explode and blow the stamp to pieces! If there were only enough fulminant, it would also blow the

letter to pieces, and perhaps the official and the post office itself, but that would have been a mere incident! There can be no doubt that the stamp would have been most efficiently cancelled!

The specialised French catalogues, which quote prices for the different shades of colour, give one a fair idea of the comparative scarcity of particular shades, and in some cases there are very great differences, as:—

The 5c., green, is quoted at 40 centimes, and the dark green shade at 75 centimes.

Of the 10c. stamps, the bistre shade is the cheapest at 2 centimes, and the yellow citron shade is the dearest at 75 centimes.

The varying shades of the 20c. stamp range from 2 centimes to 10 francs.

The 40c., orange, is quoted at 5 centimes, but the same stamp on yellow tinted paper is 80 centimes.

The 80c. stamp ranges from 50 centimes for the rose shade to 2 francs for the gooseberry red (groseille) shade.

1860. INCREASE OF WEIGHT ALLOWED FOR MINIMUM RATE.

In June, 1860, the weight allowed to be sent by post as a simple letter was increased from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 grammes, say from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.

My memory carries me back to the seventies, when letter scales were provided with $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce weights, and the scales at all post offices were so provided, and I remember paying postages to certain foreign countries at rates per third of an ounce.

REPRINTS OF 1862.

In 1862, Mr. Rowland Hill was forming a collection of postage stamps, and asked the French Government for specimens of all the stamps issued in France. It was agreed to supply him, and at the same time to form a national collection of all postage stamps manufactured in France. No copies of the early issues had been preserved, but the old plates were still in stock, and 20 sheets of each value were printed, except for a few, such as the Napoleon non-laureated 1 franc, of which three and a half sheets still remained on hand.

A sheet of every value was sent to Mr. Hill. In this series of Reprints, the 20c. of 1849 was reprinted in blue as well as in black, although it had not been issued in blue.

The colours generally are much brighter than the original issues, and there are differences in the gum, etc.

REPRINT OF 1863.

When the early stamps were thus reprinted for Mr. Rowland Hill, and they did not reprint the 1 franc, carmine, of which three and a half sheets remained in stock, these three and a half sheets did not meet the requirements, as ten sheets of every value were called for by the Post Office authorities.

Therefore, in February 1863, this stamp also was reprinted.

1863. STAMPS OVERPRINTED "SPECIMEN."

As various foreign governments were beginning to ask for stamps in order to complete official collections, already commenced with the official reprints of 1862, in the year 1863 all the current values were overprinted with the word "Specimen" for the purpose of this supply.

A set of these first reprints of any postage stamps is exhibited.

1859-1863. POSTAGE DUE STAMPS.

In 1859 France introduced the first Postage Due stamps, an example followed by many other countries.

Bear in mind that it was not obligatory to pay postage in advance, and if paid in advance it might be by cash. Great difficulties arose in the proper checking of postages so collected. Rural postmen might receive letters unstamped, with cash for the postage, and deliver the letters on the same round. These Postage Due stamps were invented to meet the needs of the case, and the public was forbidden to pay tax except as denoted by these stamps, and no postman was to collect amounts not denoted by these stamps duly cancelled, under severe penalties. It is not suggested that these regulations were strictly adhered to later on, when further complications arose, and amounts were due for which no stamps were available.

These Postage Due stamps are therefore just as much postage stamps as those more particularly so-called.

The first was introduced hurriedly by lithography, and was issued in January, 1859. It was of 10 centimes value, in black. It was in use for a short time only, and was then replaced by a similar stamp produced by typography. Stamps can at first be produced more quickly by lithography, but for more expeditious printing the typography is resorted to. The new typographed stamp appeared in June, 1859.

When the rates of postage were altered, a new value of 15 centimes was prepared to take the place of the 10 centimes, and this was issued on 1st January, 1863, in the same type, and typographed.

1859-1862. PERFORATED SERIES.

Stamps had been perforated in England since 1854. The convenience of this was apparent, and towards 1860 numerous roulettes and perforations began to be privately made use of.

SUSSE PERFORATION.

In 1860, Messrs. Susse Frères, of Paris, brought out a perforating machine, and having failed to get the government contract for perforating the stamps, they did it free for all customers, being themselves paid by the

2% commission then allowed to vendors of postage stamps. They did a large business, which was probably the cause of the commission being reduced to 1% in December, 1861. All the values then being issued were perforated by the Susse machine, which is still in existence.

I presume it is almost needless here to utter a caution about French imperforate stamps, used, which are very cheap, perforated later on by the Susse machine and offered for sale as genuine Susse perforations.

In 1861, the government decided to adopt official perforation for all postage stamps, but it was not until early in October, 1862, that the six values then current were actually issued, perforated $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ by a comb machine.

(To be continued).

Fifth Philatelic Congress of Great Britain.

TO BE HELD IN EDINBURGH, ON THE 23RD, 24TH, 25TH APRIL, 1913, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SCOTTISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY, EDINBURGH, THE JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND, GLASGOW, AND THE DUNDEE AND DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT: The Right Honorable The Earl of Crawford, K.T., President of the Royal Philatelic Society.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

The Right Honorable The Lord Provost of Edinburgh (Robert Kirk Inches, Esq.)
The Right Honorable The Earl of Rosebery, K.G., K.T.
The Right Honorable Herbert Samuel, M.P., H.M. Postmaster-General.
The Right Honorable Sydney Buxton, M.P., H.M. Ex-Postmaster-General.
Sir Edward Pigott William Redford, C.B., Ex-Secretary for Scotland to the General Post Office.
M. P. Castle, Esq., M.V.O., J.P., Vice President Royal Philatelic Society.

CHAIRMAN: W. Norfor, Esq., C.A., President of the Scottish Philatelic Society.

HON. SECRETARY AND TREASURER:

R. W. Findlater,
30, Buckingham Terrace, Edinburgh.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

A. G. Ingrin, Esq., President, Junior Philatelic Society of Scotland, Glasgow.
David Dickson, Esq., President, Dundee and District Philatelic Society.
R. Borland, Esq., Hon. Sec., Junior Philatelic Society of Scotland, Glasgow.
J. W. Christie, Esq., Hon. Sec., Dundee and District Philatelic Society.
A. L. MacGregor, Esq., W.S., Hon. Chairman and Hon. Secretary ex-officiis.

The Committee have taken for the holding of the Congress and Exhibition, The Royal Arch Halls, Queen Street, Edinburgh. The Halls are centrally situated and within a few minutes' walk of the Balmoral Hotel, the headquarters of the Congress. The Lower Hall will be used for Congress purposes, and the holding of the Stamps Auction in aid of the Congress Funds. The Upper Hall, with roof light, will be utilised for the holding of the Exhibition. Ample space is also provided for committee rooms, cloak rooms, and stalls for dealers, should the same care to come north. The whole accommodation being self contained will greatly add to the social intercourse of the Congress. The holding of the Exhibition, the first of its kind attempted in Scotland, and on a small scale, should in the opinion of the Committee, greatly help to stimulate Philately in Scotland.

The Exhibition will be held concurrently with the Congress, but will remain open one extra day—*i.e.*, Saturday, the 26th April, and thus give Scottish collectors from a distance, who cannot get away during the week, the chance of visiting same.

Special terms have been arranged with the Balmoral Hotel, Princes Street, for the accommodation of delegates and friends visiting the Congress.

The Committee would be greatly helped in its work by the various Societies, who intend taking part in the Congress sending in the names of their Delegates at as early a date as possible. All papers or motions should be submitted to the Congress Committee two months before the commencement of the Congress. It is hoped to arrange for Delegates to visit the Forth Bridge, and also for parties to be conducted over the city, visiting the principal points of interest. A banquet will also be held on the evening of Friday, April 25th.

To enable the Committee to carry out these arrangements, they appeal to all interested in Philately to send in donations at an early date.

South African Stamp Exhibition.

TO BE HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NATAL.

Durban, about the first week of July, 1913.

MR. NORMAN WELSFORD, P.O. Box 588, Durban, kindly sends us particulars of the forthcoming South African Exhibition.

He tells us that this will be the first Philatelic Exhibition of note to be held in South Africa, and the Executive Committee have decided to spare no expense to avoid the affair developing into a "one-horse show." Funds are therefore required, and donations will be welcomed.

The Committee are in communication with several Insurance Companies, and hope shortly to be able to quote a reasonable rate

for fire and burglary. Arrangements are being concluded to have special police guards on duty day and night during the time the Exhibition is open, whilst members of the Committee will always be present. All exhibits will be shown in locked glass cases.

Entry forms and all particulars can be had on application to Mr. Welford.



January, 1913, Report.

List of Officers and Committee, 1912-13.

Hon. President: H. R. OLDFIELD.

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.)

The following is now proposed in accordance with the above: Emile Widler, Shanghai, China; proposed by A. B. Kay, seconded by T. H. Hinton.

NEW MEMBERS.

Alexander J. Séfi . . . London.
Arthur E. Beach . . . "
C. J. Dietrich . . . Liverpool.

NOTICES.

The fourth meeting of the season was held at Essex Hall, on Thursday, 9th inst. Present: J. C. Sidebotham (chair), W. Schwabacher, W. Schwarte, A. B. Kay, Wilmot Corfield, Guy Semple, J. B. Seymour, J. E. Joselin, P. L. Pemberton, F. F. Lamb, H. A. Tanner, W. S. King, A. E. Beach, Cecil Warbrick, Visitors, H. Ahrens, J. W. Jones, and the Hon. Sec. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. H. Ahrens gave a display of his highly specialized collection of the stamps of Nicaragua. The more recent issues, from 1901 onwards, well illustrate the troubled postal history of this country, in a long succession of makeshift issues and surcharges, on various revenue, railway, and other stamps, pressed into postal service. Mr. H. A. Tanner, in proposing a hearty vote of thanks, expressed the pleasure this display had afforded him, as a resident in South America, and collector of the stamps of that part of the world. This was seconded by Mr. Schwarte, and supported by the President, who congratulated Mr. Ahrens on the amount of work and study put into the collection, and the well-earned award it had received, and the vote was carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be held at Essex Hall, on Feb. 13th, at 7.30 p.m. (Committee 7 p.m.), when Mr. L. W. Fulcher will give a display and paper on "Roman States." All members and any visitors welcome.

EXCHANGE SECTION.

All communications on this subject to be sent to Mr. J. E. Joselin, 81, Bennerley Road, New Wandsworth, S.W. Sheets for packets by the 10th of each month.

The Hon. Sec. will be glad to receive nominations for membership, Subscriptions now due, and any donations to the Forgery Collection.

THOS. H. HINTON,

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Int. Phil. Union,
26, Cromford Road, London, S.W.
January 13th, 1912.

Correspondence.

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

Lakewood,
New Jersey, U.S.A.

DEAR SIR,

RECENT BRAZIL STAMPS.

I have read with interest the editorial in the November 20th issue of the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*; and I had not realized that so many collectors were now going in for single issue specializing.

I have a number of specialized collections which have never yet "seen the light of day"; but I am all the time inclined to collect stamps of fewer countries rather than more.

I have found a whole lot of new things in the stamps of Brazil,—things that have not yet been made public. I think Captain Napier is to be congratulated on discovering that certain of the watermarked stamps of 1905 Brazil that had been puzzling us for some time, were really printed on fiscal paper. I had already discovered these varieties, sorted them out by themselves as being different from the regular watermark; but I did not know that they were on fiscal paper. I have one variety not mentioned by Captain Napier, namely, the 500 reis on his fiscal paper.

I wish that my stamps of the first issue of Brazil might have been shown at the Exhibition with Captain Napier's fine collection of the first issue. While my collections of the stamps of Brazil are much more extensive than the collection of Captain Napier, our collections of the stamps of the first issue are about of equal importance. I have just about the same number of important pieces, such as blocks, etc. If the two collections could be put together, a great deal more plating would be possible.

I have certainly been doing a lot of interesting new work on the stamps of Argentine; and I find that I can plate the 1862-4 Arms issue.

I greatly appreciate your magazine, because it is always consistent, comes regularly and contains a great variety of interesting items.

With regards,

Yours truly,

CHARLES LATHROP PACK.

7, Rydal Road,
Streatham, S.W.

December 27th, 1912.

DEAR SIR,

NEW ZEALAND 3d. IMPERFORATE.

After reading Mr. Edwards' letter in your last number, re the New Zealand 3d. deep mauve, imperf., I also looked at my collection, and can confirm what Mr. Edwards found.

My copy is also cancelled heavily with heavy bars and the letter C in centre. It is the only stamp with this cancellation among my specimens of the imperf issue, but among the perforated stamps, watermark large star of 1863-66. I find the same cancellation on the 2d. deep blue, Gibbons No. 81, the 3d. deep mauve No. 84, the 6d. red-brown No. 87, and also on No 99a 6d, pale blue of 1871, and No. 101, 2d. of 1872.

No doubt many others may be found among these issues but the cancellation being so extremely heavy and unsightly, collectors will naturally reject these stamps, unless they make a speciality of Postmarks. Among the

imperfs. I have two or three with dated post-marks but these are all 1862 and 1863.

My remaining shades of the 3d. value, imperf. are cancelled with the thin bars and a number or a letter in the centre.

Yours truly,
KARL WIEHEN.

DEAR SIR,
THE WORLD'S MOST INTERESTING STAMPS.

I am reading with great pleasure your articles on the "World's Most Interesting Stamps," from which I have gathered many useful hints. In the main I think the majority of collectors must agree with your condemnation of speculative and commemorative issues, but as a general collector with a *penchant* for twentieth century colonials I should like, if you will kindly allow me, to register my humble protest against your contempt, so frequently expressed, for all stamps issued during recent years. Before your views on this subject can be generally accepted we must get rid of the old-fashioned notion that philately consists in collecting all postal emissions (or as many as we can get) and substitute the one that stamps must attain a certain age before they are fit to be handled by decent folk. This seems to me to traverse the very motive of stamp collecting.

Our ranks are recruited from youngsters who start with what they can get most easily, namely, current and recent issues. If these beginners are told that the majority of these stamps are "rubbish" or "abortions" they may take these strictures seriously and go in for some other hobby which has not such artfully concealed pitfalls for the unwary.

For myself I collect for pleasure, and finding it in stamps of any age and any country, I am content. I would venture with all deference to suggest that some of the World's most interesting stamps are neither pretty line-engravings nor ugly lithographs, and have been issued since the first issue of Papua.

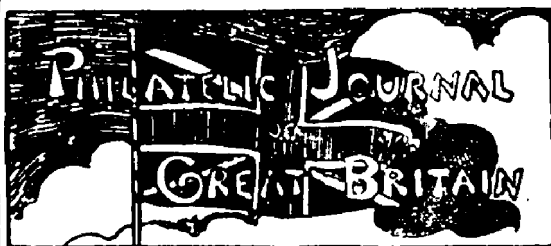
Hoping such heresy may be pardoned.

Yours faithfully,
R. JACKSON PHIPPS.

ACCORDING to Mr. R. Adams in the *Timbre-poste*, the new issues during 1912 were distributed as follows:—

Europe, 238 stamps	Africa, 313 stamps
Asia, 148 "	America, 247 "
Oceania, 55 stamps	

In the total of 1001, which only includes standard varieties, without reference to water-marks, perforations, etc., the following items are the most noticeable: Great Britain and Colonies, 274; France and Colonies, 180; Portugal and Colonies, 125; Italy and Colonies, 96; Nicaragua, 67.



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AGENTS WANTED for the Sale of the "JOURNAL" in London and Large Towns at Home and Abroad.

All communications to be addressed to—

P. L. PEMBERTON & Co.,

68, High Holborn, London, W.C.

THE 2 francs Postage Due of France has been withdrawn. The only reason for its use was as a fine imposed on letters and packets containing correspondence, or messages exceeding the legal limit of five words, which the senders franked at the reduced rate for circulars, etc., in the hope that they would get through unnoticed. This severe penalty, which has been imposed for three years, has now been abolished by a law dated 24th December, 1912.

Recent Find of Rare Stamps

THE following information is from the *Daily Telegraph* of Jan. 9th. Mr. Melville, who contributes the weekly chapter of stamp news, is to be congratulated on the way he handles his subject, making our hobby of interest to collectors and non-collectors alike.

"Two months ago I noted the rumours of a great find of old and rare stamps which was reported from Philadelphia. These first rumours do not appear to have been exaggerated, and Mr. A. F. Henkels, president of the Philadelphia Philatelic Society, is my authority for some interesting figures of the numbers of the rare St. Louis stamps of 1845-7 contained in the lot. It may be recalled that the 'find' originated in the purchase of a large quantity of waste paper at a cost of £10. The purchasers were the Hemingway Paper Stock Company, of Philadelphia. A few ounces of this huge quantity of old paper are now in process of negotiation with a New York stamp syndicate at a figure named at £20,000 (\$100,000).

The 'find' comprises many other valuable items besides the rare St. Louis stamps, but these latter predominate, and incidentally connect this latest romance of waste paper with that of the Louisville Court-house in 1895, when the St. Louis stamps found included the following quantities of the three denominations:—

5 cents	..	..	..	75 copies.
10 cents	..	..	..	46 copies.
20 cents	..	..	..	16 copies.
Total	..	..	..	137 copies.

In the recent discovery the number of 5 cents stamps is small, but the numbers of the two higher denominations is larger than in the 1895 'find.' Mr. Henkels states from a memorandum furnished him by Mr. Hemingway that there are in the latest lot:—

5 cents	..	..	..	6 copies.
10 cents	..	..	..	79 copies.
20 cents	..	..	..	20 copies.
Total	..	..	..	105 copies.

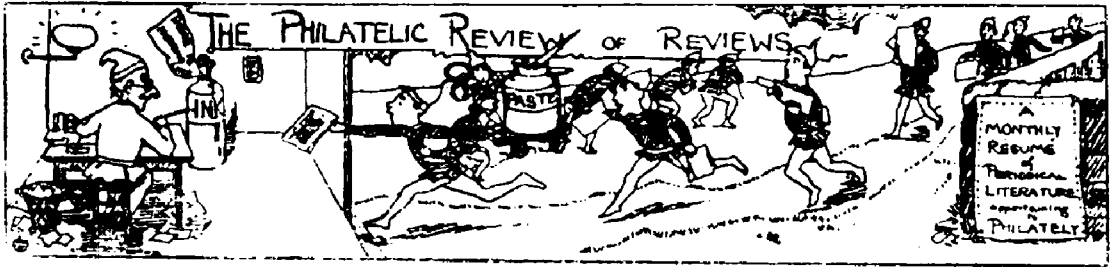
The St. Louis stamps bear the Missouri coat-of-arms, and were engraved by Mr. J. M. Kershaw at the instance of Mr. Wimer, the postmaster of St. Louis, in 1845. At that time the United States Government had not adopted the adhesive postage stamp for the prepayment of postage, and during the period 1845 to 1847 several postmasters in the United States took upon themselves to issue postage stamps to accommodate their customers. These were sold to the public at a premium over face value, and when affixed to letters posted within the sphere of the postmaster's

duties were accepted as representing the prepayment of the postal charges.

The St. Louis stamps were first known to stamp collectors about 1863, and for many years afterwards their authenticity was keenly debated amongst enthusiasts, the 20 cents in particular being especially under suspicion, there being but three (latterly four) copies then known. But the find of 1895 provided final and conclusive evidence of the authentic character of all three denominations. No other very rare stamps have been discovered in quite the same way as these of St. Louis, and it is worth recalling that the veteran dealer, Mr. J. W. Scott, formerly of London, now of New York, purchased in 1869, a lot comprising fifty of the 5 cents, 100 of the 10 cents, and the three copies of the 20 cents; a parcel of twenty of the 5 and 10 cents was afterwards bought from Washington, and another parcel of twenty-five of the 5 and 10 cents was subsequently bought in New York. Some old copies, but very few, have been found, but in 1895 the largest lot of all was unearthed, to be almost equalled in value by this latest discovery in Philadelphia.

The issue of postage stamps by the United States Government in 1847 put an end to the use of the St. Louis stamps, but what happened to the Post Office residue of these interesting mementoes philatelists have not succeeded in learning. They may have been destroyed in 1847, or at a later date, when the Post Office building was demolished. Or, and this is not less probable, they may have been among Mr. Wimer's household effects which were lost in the sinking of a steamer on the Mississippi during the war. There is also the possibility that they were amongst the postmaster's private papers which were seized by the Government at the time of his arrest as a suspect Confederate in 1865. But neither the balance of unissued stamps nor the plate from which they were printed has been discovered.

The postmasters of several other American cities of the period 1845-1847 are now remembered only by the stamps they issued in advance of the Government issues. Most of these stamps are to be numbered among the historic rarities. There is a man living to-day whose love-letter posted from Alexandria, Virginia, in November, 1847, bore what is now the only known copy of the 5 cents bluish stamp issued by the postmaster of that city, an item on which he spent 2½d. in 1847, and for which, if it were still his to ask it, he might get £1,000 to-day. These 'postmasters' stamps may well keep the collectors who have the opportunity of delving into old American correspondence, on the alert, for the chance of a 'find' of a rare example from Alexandria, Annapolis, Baltimore, Brattleboro', Millbury, New Haven, or St. Louis is one that most collectors would be content to get once in a lifetime."



JANUARY 20, 1913.

Philately at Home.

The *Monthly Journal* for December is a splendid production, containing, as is usual, a splendid complement of sound articles.

Mr. C. J. Phillips contributes a short, but capital article dealing with the 25c. stamp of the 1872 issue of Mexico. Mr. Phillips illustrates one very marked retouch, but fails to mention that there are others, almost as strongly retouched. M. L. Hanciau completes his article relating to the 1855-1876 stamps of the Spanish West Indies. Captain C. W. G. Crawford writes about the Perforations of the 1898-1910 issues of China. A well written editorial, a budget of topical and other notes, list of New Issues, instalment of Mr. D. B. Armstrong's "Philatelic Itinerary of the World," and, last, but not least, the completion of Dr. Marco del Ponts' masterly article dealing with the Rivadavia stamps of the Argentine Republic.

We have made so many extracts from this, during its course through the pages of our leading contemporary, that we almost blush, were such a thing possible, for the generous way we have helped ourselves. The following relates to reprints.

When we published our articles on the postage stamps of the Argentine Confederation, we stated that our Post Office had never had any of its stamps reprinted. In making this statement we were unaware that there had been an exception to this rule. This had occurred in the case of these very Rivadavia stamps. Let us see how it was.

Dr. Ramon J. Carcano, Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, thought, with good reason, that, if it were possible, the postage stamps ought to be printed in the country, and as the firm of Messrs. J. H. Kidd and Sons, of this city [Buenos Ayres], had shown him some good lithographic work, and had made an offer to him on favourable terms, he accepted it, and ordered the postage stamps required for the year 1888,

signing a contract to that effect on the 22nd of September, 1887.

All collectors know the result; it was simply deplorable. The renewal of the contract was, consequently, impossible.

The South American Bank Note Company then came forward, and offered to produce stamps engraved on steel, but, before this proposal was taken into consideration, an old head official of the Department, Don Juan D. Garcia, remembered the plates of the Rivadavia stamps, and suggested to the Director-General the idea of making use of these for producing a new issue. In order to ascertain whether these plates were in fit condition to be used, one of the 5 centavos plates was sent to the Company referred to, who, after printing several sheets in divers colours, which were forwarded to the Post Office, reported that they were unfit for use.

These impressions were printed on smooth, white, machine-made paper, of two distinct thicknesses:—

On somewhat thick paper.

5 centavos, carmine.
5 " green.
5 " blue.
5 " black.

On thin paper.

5 centavos, bright gooseberry colour.
5 " bluish black.

Impressions may exist in other colours, of which we have not been able to obtain copies.

This is the history of the reprinting mentioned above, done, as may be seen, solely for the purpose of testing the condition of the plates. The scarcity of specimens leads us to suppose that only one sheet was printed in each colour, but as we have no other information on the subject, we can say no more upon this point.

This was the only official reprinting; but it seems, unfortunately, that there was another, unauthorized. When speaking of the plates of these stamps, in Chapter II. (*G.S.W.*, Vol. XII., page 175), we stated that some of them had been abstracted from the Post Office many years ago. Where did they go? We know not; but, in the collection of Señor Miguel Gambin, there were two pairs of stamps, 10c. and 15c., which were sent to him from Paris, and which, without the slightest doubt, were reprints with a forged watermark. When, where, and by whom were they made? are questions which we are quite unable to answer. We can say, however, that judging from the specimens mentioned above, the only ones that we have seen, they would not readily deceive an experienced collector, but one who was not sufficiently experienced might easily be taken in by them.

The December number of the *Philatelic Record* contains the final instalment of Mr. F. J. Peplow's capable article dealing with the Postage Stamps of Buenos Aires.

Students of these interesting stamps will do well to read Mr. Peplow's paper. Mr. Fulcher also completes his contribution dealing with the stamps of the Roman States. We are pleased to note that this painstaking philatelist has published the result of his studies in book form, insuring for it a greater permanency than afforded through the pages of a popular monthly.

Our contemporary also contains the usual brief notice of new issues, reviews, notes, etc. From a report of the October 18th, meeting of the Manchester Philatelic Society, we cull the following relating to early New Zealand stamps.

A display of the stamps of New Zealand with notes was given by Mr. Benjamin Goodfellow. 1d. and 2d., printed on white paper, and two values, 2d. and 1s., on blue paper: the 1d. is an exceedingly rare stamp, and the 2d. on white paper a most difficult one to determine, it being exceedingly hard to distinguish it from the 2d. blue of 1862 (S.G. No. 44). In Mr. Goodfellow's opinion it is hopeless to try to judge this stamp by artificial light, the colour being the best test, the first issued having a slight trace of cobalt in the blue, and being of a little finer impression.

In 1856 the same three values were printed in the Colony from the same plates, and are distinguishable by being printed on distinctly blue thick paper, the 1d. and 1s. both being scarce stamps. The same year saw another issue, which included a 6d. value and changes in the shades of the others, and it is on this and the following issues that the first of the many difficulties regarding the perforations of the New Zealand stamps arise. They are found with pin perforations, serrated perforations, rouletted, and perforated 13, being unofficial and unauthorised perforations. In respect of the stamps perforated 13, this perforation was the result of an order given on his own authority by the postmaster of Dunedin, in the district of Otago, and whenever specimens are found with the postmark peculiar to Otago or with the name "Dunedin" it is safe to say that the perforation is 13. The official perforation which was made in the Government Office at Auckland, is generally speaking a true 12½ (though it sometimes approximates to 13), and is the perforation generally found on the issues of 1863 to 1865. In 1860 a 3d. value was added and the stamps printed on what is known as "pelure" paper. 1862 saw another issue printed at Auckland, in which there was a variety of shades to each value, and it is here the 2d. deep blue, Plate I. is often mistaken for the 2d. of 1855. The issue was at first imperforate, afterwards rouletted and serrated perforation. Reference was made to the recent discovery by Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg of what is called a re-entry on the plate. The first impression from the die was in a wrong position, probably from a slipping of the plate, and the workman evidently tried to erase the impression and struck another impression over it, but the printing shows a faint from the first striking, notably under the letters N and D of "New Zealand," and also above the word "Postage," and in the bottom tablet of value. The position of this stamp on the plate has not yet, so far as the reader was aware, been located.

The December number of the *London Philatelist* contains some very interesting reminiscences contributed by Mr. A. C. Emerson.

This gentleman has been collecting and

dealing in stamps since 1860, and the following extract will make many of our readers feel sad:—

I used to go on "Change" in Birchin Lane, in 1862, and well remember meeting there the late Dr. Viner. It seems but yesterday that I saw the British Guiana provisional, 1862, 2c., yellow, shown on "Change." They came over here on newspapers. I also recollect selling a 74d. and a 10d., Canada, found in the office where I was then employed, for 2s. 6d. the pair, and I considered it "good business"! I sold a set of 105 unused local Americans for 1s. each in good faith, but I have now no doubt the whole were forgeries. In 1877, the purchaser of the Government remainders of Prince Edward Island stamps, Mr. W. J. Hobkirk, placed in my hands for sale 6,000 full sets of thirteen varieties, and 30,000 sets with one or more values short. The 1d. value was the first to run out, and soon after the 6d. value was exhausted. I sold the whole lot, but, if I remember rightly, it took me about ten years to clear them all. The agreement with the owner, dated January 24th, 1877, is before me, and I find that I had to pay him 1s. per set and *get what I could out of the sale*. The late Mr. Julius Goldner was my principal buyer of these stamps.

For many years I imported, under the name A. Churchill, used British West Indian stamps in very large quantities, paying 2s. 6d. per 100 for ½d. and 1d. values other than Jamaican, and 4s. per 100 for 2½d. and 4d. values, including plenty of 4d. lithographed Nevis, finding buyers immediately at 4s. and 7s. per 100 respectively. Pin-perf. Barbados were hardly noticed in those days! I well remember finding in a parcel of Barbados ½d. and 1d., at 2s. 6d. per 100, three fine *pairs* of the 1d. on half 5s. stamps. At first I did not notice the surcharge, seeing only that the "five shillings" at bottom had been cut off, and I nearly threw the lot into the fire.

Mr. T. W. Hall, with a short instalment concludes his paper dealing with the stamps of the Danish West Indies. A good editorial, a batch of "Occasional Notes," Reviews, Correspondence, chronicle of New Issues, etc., complete our brief review. From Mr. Castle's editorial notes we extract the following:—

The financial aspects of Philately fully endorse the hopeful state of things. Nothing has been more remarkable than the manner in which large and important collections have changed hands of late years. Immense sums have been paid, and vast collections have been absorbed, by eager collectors in an incredibly short time. It may in truth be said that at the present time no collection is too vast to be acquired and satisfactorily dispersed by the dealers within a short space of time. The demand for many classes of stamps—notably the old issues of Europe and the British Colonies—has long palpably exceeded the supply, and, despite the inevitable corresponding increase of prices, the sales are more rapid than ever. The stamp trade, moreover, seems unanimous in declaring that never has the demand been more brisk or the volume of business so large. This is all for the best, as the confidence begotten of financial security is one of the most powerful factors in the constitution of the ambitious collector. For all these reasons we should therefore as collectors, relegate to the background all saddening reflection at this holiday season, and, in the time-honoured dictum, "rest, and be thankful."

Mr. Castle's opinions should carry weight.

The most interesting contribution in the December number of the *Stamp Lover* is the completion of Mr. L. W. Crouch's paper dealing with the postage stamps (1887-98), of Hayti. We also find the concluding chapter of the same authors' "Postage Stamps of Honduras."

Other juniors, to the number of five, also help to swell the literary contents of the Junior official organ, for we find that Messrs. R. E. Wall, D. A. West, P. L. Bowdler, A. R. Maisey and E. J. Ashenden, have contributed the papers they read on "Beginners' Night." All of these make good reading. A couple of pages of "Onlookers' notes, list of New Issues, J.P.S. Notices, etc., complete an excellent number of our contemporary.

From Mr. Crouch's Haitian article, we venture to extract the following:—

We now come to the first of the Arms type issue, and I can unhesitatingly say that the 1891 issue is second only in point of interest to the Liberty Head stamps. In the catalogue this series seems very straightforward, but in reality it affords most interesting problems of plating and manufacture.

With regard to the name of the printers I regret I am unable to give any definite information. Undoubtedly, they were produced in Paris, but by whom I cannot say. I will, however, throw out a slight suggestion on this point when I come to deal with the paper on which they were printed. Mr. W. Ward in a short article on "The Black Republics," published in Volume VII. of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* states definitely that they were printed by Messrs. Waterlow, of London. This must be incorrect, as the perforation is certainly not Waterlow's, the paper is very unlike any used by that firm besides having been made in France (as to which more anon), and the manner of production is totally different from any known method of Waterlow's.

I will now deal with the mode of manufacture and will take it step by step. I should say at the outset that these stamps were recess-printed, but the manner of the production of the plates was not the usual one employed.

First the die was engraved on steel, shewing the complete design except the figures of value, the value tablets in the top corners being left blank. From this die a small plate of ten impressions was taken in two vertical rows of five by the usual methods of steel plate manufacture. Each of these ten impressions had a small distinguishing mark, which was doubtless quite unintentional and resulted from the application of each impression on the plate by means of the roller. These marks consisted of often minute dots and scratches which should have been removed from the plate. This small plate of ten impressions was the matrix from which all the printing plates originated, and this point can readily be proved by finding the small distinguishing marks occurring on the sheets of each value in alternate vertical rows, thus the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th and 9th stamps in the 3rd horizontal row of every sheet of all values shew a large dot like a hyphen between the Q and U of "REPUBLIQUE."

Now to return to the construction of the plates. The small plate of ten stamps was reproduced five times to create a plate of 50 impressions in five rows of ten. The first plate made differed from all the others, and was ultimately used for the 2 centimes value, the figures of value being engraved in the value

tablets by hand. But before this was done, this plate in its turn was used for producing a second plate. That this was so may be noted from other marks peculiar to certain stamps in the sheets of all values; for instance, there is a large dot between the E and N of "CENT" on the third stamp in the fourth row, there is a stroke across the left limb of the second U of "REPUBLIQUE" on the tenth stamp in the third row, there is a large dot just off the right end of the T of "CENT" on the third stamp in the fifth row, and a large dot attached to the line over the T of "CENT" on the tenth stamp in the fourth row. Those are only the most prominent varieties, but as a fact nearly every stamp in the sheet has some little distinguishing feature, apart altogether from the above-mentioned distinguishing marks which have been inherited from the small plate of ten. All values of this issue can then be plated comparatively easily, especially when in strips or blocks, though some of the marks are minute.

As I have said, the first full-sized plate to be made was allocated to the 2 centimes. This plate differed from all the others, for in producing a second plate for one of the other values, two flaws or breaks appeared in the second plate; the first plate does not show these two defects. The defects are as follows:—the left hand value tablet on the seventh stamp in the third row is broken opposite the C of "CENT," and the same tablet on the fourth stamp in the fourth row is also broken but lower down below the label inscribed "CENT." It is evident that this defective plate was used for producing the remaining three plates necessary to complete the set, as these broken value tablets are to be found on the 1 centime, 3 centimes, 5 centimes and 7 centimes, but not on the 2 centimes, which were, as I have stated already, printed from the first full-sized plate made.

One of these broken tablets was evidently noticed on the 1 centime plate as it is clear that an attempt was made to retouch the seventh stamp in the third row and to repair the damage. I show the retouched variety and a normal stamp with complete tablet side by side, together with an enlarged drawing which I hope will explain the retouch clearly. To support my remarks relating to the peculiarities of the plates of this issue, I have complete sheets of the 1c., 2c. and 3c. Please note the absence of the broken tablet varieties in the 2c. sheet, the presence of both in the 3c. sheet, and the presence of one on the fourth stamp in the fourth row and of the other retouched on the seventh stamp in the third row on the 1c. sheet.

The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* for December 21st, contains an illustrated interview with Mr. B. D. Pope, of Bath, a lengthy instalment of Messrs. Bishop and Creeke's "Dictionary," a most interesting and topical article, contributed by Mr. R. E. R. Dalwidge, entitled "The Postal Agencies of the Powers in Turkey," and the usual complements of odds and ends. Mr. Dalwidge's paper will be appreciated by those collectors who are interested (and who is not?) in the present near Eastern question.

We extract a few particulars relating to the least well-known agencies:—

The Greek Office (established 1834). We have no definite information available as regards this Agency, nor do we know at which towns post offices were opened. Current uncharged Greek stamps were employed, which can only be detected by the postmarks

and cancellations. Subsequently the Greek Agency was suppressed, and no office now exists.

The Egyptian Office (established 1866). The Egyptian post offices in Turkey have an extra special interest, as this is the only case of a non-European foreign office in the Ottoman Empire. The offices were opened in 1866, and current unsurcharged Egyptian stamps were employed. The business done was not at any time very great, excepting around the year 1870, when it appears that the offices flourished—more especially those at Constantinople and Meteline.

Offices were established at the undermentioned places:

Beirut.	Constantinople.	Salonica.
Chios.	Meteline.	Smyrna.

and we believe, two other towns.

The Italian Office (established 1873). The Italian post offices were opened in Turkey some time in the early seventies, and presumably the ESTERO (foreign) adhesives were employed; the postmark being the only guide to show where they had been in circulation. After some years the Italian offices were all closed, and it was not until 1901-02 that Italy again opened offices in *Albania*, and in a few Turkish towns in 1908. The Albanian series were overprinted ALBANIA, with the values in the Levant currency.

Italy possessed the following offices:—

Constantinople	Scutari (Albania)
Durazzo (Albania)	Salonica
Janina (Albania)	Smyrna
Jerusalem	Valona

Upon the outbreak of the Turco-Italian war, Italy closed all her post offices in Turkey and Albania.

A fortnight later we find an illustrated interview with Captain C. P. Rogers, a lengthy chapter of "Dictionary," the first instalment of Mr. G. Milne's paper entitled "The Picture Gallery of Philately" and a short note relating to Falkland Island stamps used in South Georgia, an island under the British flag, lying 800 miles east-south-east of the Falklands. Editorial notes, list of new issues, etc., are also to the fore.

The January number of the *Philatelic Circular* contains its usual allowance of readable matter. Mr. H. S. Hodson continues to discuss the "alphabets" on the line-engraved stamps of Gt. Britain, we also find the always reliable chronicle of Georgian issues, Market Notes, Reviews, etc. From a column of auction notes we venture to extract the following:—

I mentioned, a month or two back, the rumour of the 8/- Gibraltar multiple having sold for 80/-. On tracking down its source, this turned out to have been just a little exaggerated, but it seems as if the last multiple set is likely to be very good, for at Plumridge's sale of 12th December, it topped the record. A block of four, 1/- on green, used, made 21/-; it was a fine block on piece of original, registered postmark, but looked rather of the postmarked to order tribe. The 2/- on blue, pair, postmarked as above, fetched 30/-. The 4/-, a single copy, made 32/-, and the much debated 8/- used, reached 60/-. The £1 stopped at 63/-, and was, I should think, cheap, judged by the other prices. Who is it that pays these fearsome prices for stamps just obsolete? The 1/- on green was easily obtainable, while current at 9d., used, and there were plenty about. Does the burning of remainder justify a sudden rise to 5/3? I should hardly think so,

and presume these prices were paid by a collector. A dealer would have no end of difficulty in squeezing a profit on them, out of the ordinary collector, but the lucky seller is on velvet when he gets these prices. How he must pat himself on the back if he took stamps out of a Club packet at about 10% over face a few weeks ago.

There was a block of six, Great Britain, £5 orange, anchor wmk., used, offered at this sale, which quickly ran up to £27, and a pair of same stamps made £6. There was some excuse for the high price for such a block must be a scarce piece, probably unique, even pairs being few and far between.

The December *West-End Philatelist*, besides several readable notes, contains a further instalment of Mr. A. J. Séfi's "Postage Stamps of Malta," in which he deals with the 5/- stamp of 1886, and the issue of 1899. We also find an interesting and valuable souvenir in the nature of two plates shewing photographs of the original plate of the 1d. and 2d. Post Office Mauritius stamps.

Recent numbers of the *Postage Stamp* have all contained their regulation quota of readable articlettes and pars. The first number for the year contains a capital *résumé* of 1912.

The December number of the *Stamp Collector* contains a further instalment of Mr. C. H. T. Hayman's "Chili, 1853-1883." We find a very readable chapter dealing with English stamps, and their postmarks, used in Chili. Mr. W. Oakley likewise contributes another chapter of his paper relating to the "Postal Issues of the United States of America. Mr. Heginbottom also writes under the heading "Australasian Stamps." We also find an interesting account of a recent meeting of the Birmingham Society, when Mr. T. W. Peck read a paper entitled "Perforations," the usual budget of "Notes" and a remarkable editorial, entitled the "Ethics of Journalistic Criticism."

This takes the nature of a rambling tirade against the methods of the *P.J.G.B.* in its review columns, and, also, apparently in its "Current Chatter." Our space is too valuable to reproduce but a short instalment of our contemporary's "much-to-do-about-nothing."

Our contributor is naturally very indignant at the opprobrium so tactlessly levelled against him, and his letter of vigorous protest to the Editor of the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* lies before us as we write. The impertinent attack upon our colleague is as strongly objected to by ourselves. We likewise resent the attitude adopted by our contemporary in arrogantly assuming to itself the prerogative of saying in what manner, and with what matter, we shall cater for our

readers. Will they allow us, or any other Journal, to dictate what their policy and method shall be? Certainly not. Then the same liberty they claim for themselves we claim for our own and all other Journals. The *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* is not the only pebble on the beach.

What a storm in a small tea cup; and all because our tame correspondent (McTavish) thinks that such facts as "The College of Pharmacy is also affiliated to the Melbourne University" and that "Clergy of any denominations and convicted felons, are excluded from the Legislative Council and Assembly of Australia" are not essential to any article purporting to deal with postage stamps.

Philately in the Colonies and Elsewhere.

The *Philatelic Journal of India* for December, although under the editorship of a new editor, Mr. W. Renouf, still relies on its faithful contributor, Mr. Jno. Godinho, for the majority of its articles. The following brief article, from the pen of this energetic gentleman, will interest those of our readers who collect Portuguese Colonial stamps.

A complete list of errors and varieties of the provisionals of July and August, 1912.

July Provisionals.

- I. 1 real, grey, perforated with inverted surcharge.
- II. 1½ on 2½ reis, chestnut " "
- III. 3 on 2½ " " " "
- IV. 6 on 9 " lilac " "
- V. 6 on 9 " " " "

Republica.

August Provisionals

- I. 1 real on 1 tanga. red, with inverted surcharge.
- II. 1½ on 9 reis, lilac, with inverted surcharge.
- III. 2 reis on 4 tangas, blue " "
- IV. 3 " on 2 " brown " "
- V. 3 " on 2 " " " "

Republica.

VI. 6 reis on 4½ reis, green, with inverted surcharge. In this printing there has occurred a monstrous error of type VI., viz., inverted surcharge double. Type III. has also been noticed with a double surcharge, one below the other. A few sheets of 1½ on 9 reis, show a section without any vertical perforation, and the 3 reis on 2 tangas, brown, has been noticed with a double vertical perforation throughout the sheet.

There are two kinds of the 3 reis on 2 tangas, brown, and 6 reis on 4½ reis, green, with and without *Republica*. In the latter form, these are scarce, as it is said that only fifty sheets of each of the above were surcharged. Fifty sheets give a total of 1,400 stamps for each of the above values.

Another curiosity in the July surcharge of 2 reis on 2½ reis, chestnut, is that a packet of fifty sheets of the provisional issue of 1902, of 2½ on 6 reis, green, Gibbons No. 324, was included in the lot to be surcharged in order to make up the total number of stamps authorised. Hence we have the surcharge of

2 on 2½ on 6 reis. It is stated that 1,400 stamps, or fifty sheets, were thus impressed.

At the moment of closing this article, I am informed that there is still one more type to be recorded, viz., Gibbons No. 325, 2½r. on 9r., which, with this surcharge, becomes 2r. on 2½r. on 9 reis.

2nd November, 1912.

The November number of the *Australian Stamp Journal* is almost entirely devoted to its editor's three weeks trip to Melbourne and Adelaide and the collectors and collections he "inspected" during the course of his tour. The story of this great "trek" is, however, so entertainingly written that we feel regret when we arrive back again in Sydney with Mr. Smyth.

Recent numbers of the *Philadelphia Stamp News* have all contained a good deal of interesting matter, and our contemporary undoubtedly holds the premier position as America's leading stamp paper.

The principal article is Mr. R. E. R. Dalwigh's "Postage Stamps of Egypt."

The following brief extract will doubtless interest many of our readers:—

In the year 1821, an Italian of the name of Carlo Meratti, established a system for the conveyance of letters between Cairo and Alexandria, also from the latter place direct to Europe.

The name of this early service was the "POSTA EUROPEA"—which will be more fully described under the heading of "Officials."

Carlo Meratti died in 1841, but his post lived on and was thenceforth under the control of Tito Chini and Giacomo Muzzi. About twelve years later, Chini applied for and was granted the privilege of opening out new conveyances for letters besides those between Cairo and Alexandria, for a period of ten years. Communication was accordingly opened between the following towns and a postal system established:—

Atfe	Galiut	Samanud
Benha	Zagazig	Suez
Birket-el-Sab	Kafr Zayat	Tanta
Damanhour	Mansura	Zifta
Damiata	Michalla	

From all accounts the above service was a source of no little profit to the owners until it was brought to an end in 1864 or 1865. The ten years agreement with the Egyptian Government was broken before its expiration, as the Government in 1864 decided to take over the control of postal affairs themselves. Giacomo Muzzi had the title of Bey conferred upon him, and was also appointed to be the first Director General of Posts under the Vice-regal regime, a post which he successfully held until 1876.

THE MODERN POST OFFICE.

The following short account of the post office at Port Tewfik may prove of interest as illustrating the working of a modern office in Egypt. Mr. T. Barrow, the postmaster at Port Tewfik has kindly sent us the following interesting particulars:

"The new Post Office of Port Tewfik, of which I am the first Postmaster, was opened on December 15th, 1910. The old office consisting of one room only, doing local work only, was closed on that date and the work transferred to the new. This new office, which replaces also the old Suez office, is (besides the local work) occupied with transit work principally: that is, all correspondence received from Greece, Turkey and Syria are forwarded here to be sorted and

made up into closed mail bags for India, Far East, China and Australia, and is put on board the different mail steamers outward bound.

The office is situated at Port Tewfik at the Suez end of the Suez Canal, and all the steamers passing through the Canal can be seen from the office window.

"The Suez office,—which, since the transfer of this Foreign Branch of work of my office, has been reduced to local work—was built in the year 1850, and is therefore an old building which will be pulled down during this year (1911) and a new office built in a more central position."

The *Australian Philatelist* for Nov. contains a good deal of capital matter, chief of which is Mr. Basset Hull's admirable article dealing with pen-cancelled Tasmanian stamps. Mr. D. B. Armstrong's instalment of his "Australian Stamps used Abroad," however, runs it very close. The former contribution is in the nature of a supplement to "Vandemonian's" excellent paper which was published in the October *A.P.* The following lengthy extract will be of value to all collectors of Australian stamps:—

Prior to November, 1853, prepayment of postage was optional in Tasmania, and the bulk of letters posted were marked with the sum payable as postage on delivery. From the 1st November, 1853, prepayment was made compulsory, and postage stamps were provided.

As soon as the adhesive stamps were ready, an effort was made to provide cancelling stamps, but it was late in October, 1853, before the principal towns had been supplied, and for several years afterwards many of the smaller towns had not received obliterations, and in these cases the postmaster, who never had much mail matter to handle, wrote the name of the office and the date of posting on the letter. This inscription was, after the issue of stamps, generally written so as to extend over, and consequently cancel the stamps. An official circular of instructions issued to all postmasters on 25th October, 1853, contained the following:—

"Each postmaster is to write carefully on the face of every letter put into his post office, the name of his office, with the date on which each letter may be posted, until stamps are provided with moveable dates, which will be done as soon as possible, in order to decrease the postmaster's trouble in carrying into effect this instruction."

Notwithstanding the subsequent issue of dating and obliterating stamps to most of the post offices, it was not long before representations were made to the postmaster by the head office, that stamps had been frequently allowed to pass without being duly obliterated. The Postmaster-General enjoined great care in the obliteration by means of the numbered stamp, and he added: "In the event of any postmaster being out of printing ink, the postage stamps are to be obliterated with a common pen and ink, thus." (Then follows a rough "criss-cross" mark).

This "pen and ink" cancellation is of very frequent occurrence, especially on the 4d. of 1853, and the star watermarked 4d. of 1855. It is sometimes accompanied by the office number in addition, and the form of cancellation as sketched on the circular to postmasters is generally very closely copied.

As described by "Vandemonian," and also in my work on the Stamps of Tasmania (1890), the name of the post town and date in figures, or date alone, is also very often met with, and this latter form of cancellation (date only) is often mistaken by collectors for an obliteration denoting fiscal use. This conclusion is quite erroneous, as it was not until October, 1863, that

the Stamp Duties Act came into force. That Act imposed duties on certain documents, such as cheques (1d. duty), bills of exchange, fire insurance policies (ad valorem duties), &c. &c. These duties were paid or denoted on the documents by means of the then current postage stamps, supplemented by the 3d., 2/6, 5/- and 10/- stamps of George and Dragon type, issued during 1863-5.

Collectors should, therefore, bear in mind the following important facts:—

1. All Tasmanian stamps bearing pen cancellations of date prior to 1st October, 1863, were postally used.
2. All the 1d. blue and 4d. orange of 1853; 1d., 2d. and 4d. of 1855-7, with watermarks "star," no watermark, or watermark figure of value inverted, with pen cancellation of any nature, were postally used.
3. The majority of the imperforate 1d. red-brown, 2d. bottle green, 4d. deep blue, and all the 6d. English prints with pen cancellation of any kind were postally used.
4. All Tasmanian stamps bearing a date in pen and ink, handstamp or otherwise, after 1st October, 1863, may safely be regarded as fiscally used.

Number Three of *Philatelic Opinion* is duly to hand, and we find it full of good things. Mr. B. W. H. Poole has long had the gift of making his articles both instructive and interesting, and we feel sure that his new paper will meet with a very kindly reception both in the States and in this country.

We find continuations of Mr. Poole's "De La Rue Plate Flaws" and "Bolivar," together with a contribution dealing with the Lima Oval overprint of Peru; and the "Story of the Month."

From the first mentioned article we make a short extract:—

All the postage stamps used in the island of Dominica were engraved and printed by De La Rue and Co. and those showing the portrait of Queen Victoria—in use from May 4th, 1874, until October 31st, 1890—were all printed from the same head-plate. This was composed of sixty impressions, arranged in ten horizontal rows of six, and showed the design complete with the exception of the words denoting the value. The value, inserted in a space provided for the purpose at the bottom of the design, was printed at a separate operation from duty-plates also composed of sixty impressions. There were six of these duty-plates, one for each denomination, and two of these provide interesting flaws or varieties.

Some time between the printing of the 4d. blue stamps issued in 1879, and the printing of the same value in grey, in 1886, the duty-plate must have received a severe blow resulting in the compression and malformation of the letters "CE" of "PENCE" on the sixtieth stamp (the sixth on the bottom row). The variety is quite distinct and occurs on all sheets of the 4d. grey.

The other variety occurs on the 1d. value the first stamps in the third and fourth rows (Nos. 13 and 19 on the sheet), showing the "O" of "ONE" distinctly larger than on the other 58 stamps on the sheet. I have only seen this variety on the carmine stamps first issued in 1887, but it is possible it may exist on the stamps printed in lilac as well. If the variety does not exist on the earlier varieties, we can only presume that, just prior to the printing of the supply in carmine, the "O" on these particular stamps was retouched for some reason or other.

Number One of *Philatelic Opinion* is not yet to hand.

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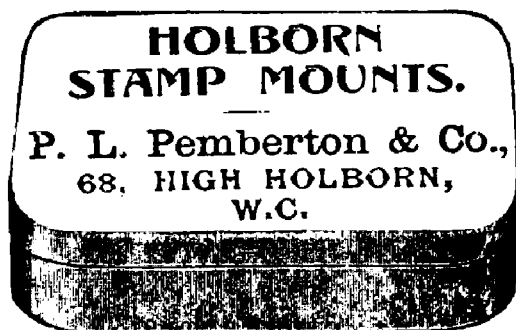
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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Editorial	25
New Issues and Varieties	26
Monaco—An Unnoticed Rarity	28
City of London Philatelic Society	29
New Zealand 3d. Deep Mauve, Imperforate	30
High Prices at Auction	30
The Stamps of France, 1849-1875	31
Death of the Earl of Crawford	34
Correspondence	35
The 25 Cent Mexico of 1868	35
Current Chatter	36
The Stamps of Greece	37
International Philatelic Union	39
Review of Reviews	40
New York Exhibition News	48

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1 candarin, green.

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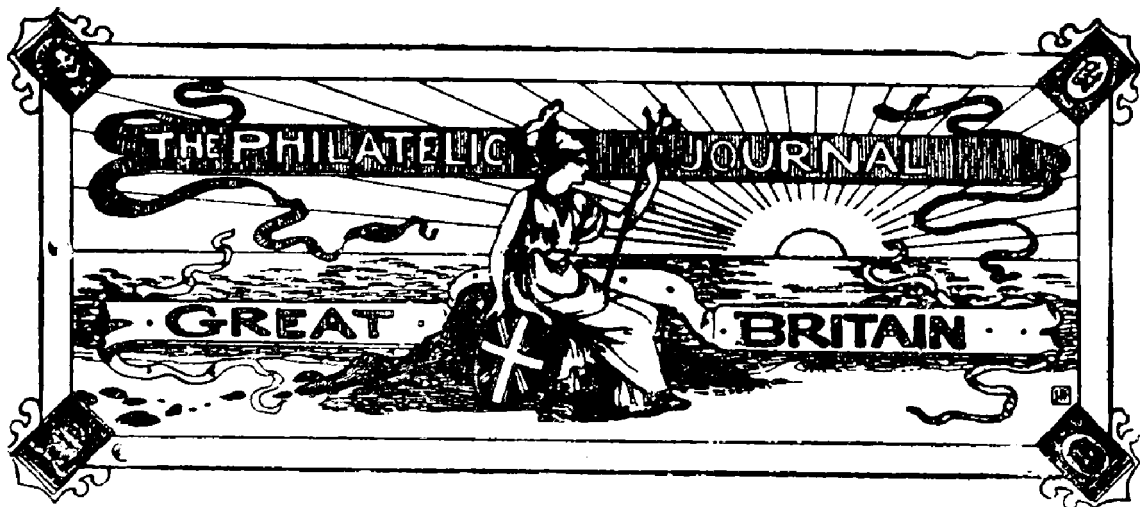
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" "	East Indies.
" "	N. America.
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Captain F. F. FREEMAN,
17, New Oxford Street,
— LONDON, W.C. —



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. ♦ ♦

THERE are few, if any, collections in existence in which some of the specimens could not be replaced by finer copies; while there are many, very many, where it is hard to find immaculate copies of any but the very commonest stamps.

This neglect of condition is due in nearly every case to the absurd idea of sacrificing every other consideration on the altar of completeness, with the result that any kind of copy,

provided some of the perforations, or margins, are intact, and that portions of the design can be seen, is accepted, sooner than leave a blank space on page so-and-so of the album. Many collectors thus slip into slipshod methods of collecting until they lose all idea of what a stamp collection should be like, and likewise seem to lose all their faculties of discernment, because in course of time constant handling of "heavily" post-marked copies makes them unable to appreciate anything but a poor copy, with the result that if an exceptionally fine specimen does fall their way it is rejected because it is so vividly shows, by contrast, the poverty of the album.

There are, strange as it may seem, a few collectors who, with the exception of the commonest Continentals, are content to collect damaged or heavily obliterated

specimens, this love of the unpicturesque is, however, but merely a subservance of the beautiful to the greed of gold, inasmuch as the collector is so impregnated with the fear of paying even a fair price for his specimens, that he goes to the other extreme and accumulates, with the idea that he is making a sound investment, miserable specimens of stamps, which are not worth a fraction of the quarter or fifth catalogue prices he so cheerfully pays. To these collectors the awakening comes when they wish to realize, unless of course they find, as sometimes happens, another wallowing enthusiast who jumps at the opportunity of laying up riches! Methinks these pseudo idealists would receive a galvanic shock if they could be made to realize that many damaged stamps are not worth, unless indeed they be heirlooms, the paper they are printed on, while, that many stamps in fine condition are worth double and treble catalogue quotations. Collectors such as these are however the exception, acting as sign-posts to point the way, not to, but from the joys of philately. There are nevertheless thousands of collectors who might well improve their collections by simply weeding out a number of poor specimens, this operation, sometimes a little painful in the initial stages, is one that pays in the long run, especially if the

collection has to be sold; as to dealers and collectors who are constantly handling stamps, it becomes second nature to distrust many good looking copies simply because they are cheek by jowl with damaged stamps. We feel sure that the

majority of collectors, especially in these days of specialism run riot, would do well to overhaul their collections and purge them of those second and third class copies while it is yet possible to obtain superior specimens.

New Issues and Varieties.

(We shall be glad to receive any new issues or new varieties from our readers for description in this column. Letters should be addressed to

THE EDITOR OF THE PHILATELIC JOURNAL OF GREAT BRITAIN.

c/o MESSRS. P. L. PEMBERTON & Co., 68, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.)

BRITISH EMPIRE.

Australian Commonwealth. We are indebted to Mr. Fred Hagen and to Mr. J. H. Smyth for a first sight of the new Commonwealth stamps. The 1d. value, the only one yet issued, was put on sale on January 2nd; there will be fourteen other denominations ½d. to £2.

The design for this stamp has been so much criticised that there is no need for us to refer to it at length, and in general appearance the design is, to our way of thinking, decidedly pleasing but we think that its very simplicity and lack of ornate design will render it easy of forgery. Tasmania, the sixth state in the Commonwealth is pictured as a small, but true, representation of an ace of hearts! Why, we wonder?

British Solomon Islands. The *London Philatelist* says:—

"We have seen four values of a new set printed from the new De La Rue 'Postage' key-plate with the large head of King George."

The values appear in figures in plain labels each side at top; "Postage" each side under the head and "British Solomon Islands" on plain band at foot.

Adhesives. Multiple wmk.

½d., green.
1d., red.
3d., purple on yellow.
11d., dull purple and red.
? £1.—Ed., P.J.G.B.

Cayman Islands. The *London Philatelist* says:

"We have seen four more values of the Georgian set."

Adhesives. Multiple wmk.

½d., brown, white tablet.
1d., scarlet, lined tablet.
4d., black and red on yellow, white tablet.
6d., dull and bright purple, lined tablet.

Cyprus. The *London Philatelist*, our most up-to-date contemporary for new issues, says: "We have seen the new 2 and 12 piastres of the Georgian set."

Adhesives. Multiple wmk.

2 pi., blue and purple.
12 pi., red-brown and black.

Grenada. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us the values up to the one shilling of the new stamps. The stamps are rather startling having the value and name in colour on a plain ground—the latter at the bottom of the stamp.

Adhesives. King George. Multiple wmk.

½d., green.
1d., red.
2d., orange.
2½d., blue.
3d., purple on yellow.
6d., lilac and purple.
1/-, black on green.
2/-, purple and blue on blue.
5/-, green and red on yellow.

India. The *London Philatelist* says:—We have seen the 2 as. 6 p. in a new design. The portrait of the King has been partly redrawn, the outlines of the face being more clearly defined, with alterations in the jewels and other details of the crown and robes, which are made clearer and more distinct. An oval band surrounds the portrait, with "India Postage" in white letters on solid colour in the upper curve of the band, and the value in words in similar letters in the lower curve, divided by a tablet at foot containing the figures "2 as. 6 ps." in white on colour. The four corners of the stamp are filled in with ornaments of leaves, and the colour is a bright blue.

New Zealand. The *Australian Philatelist* says:—

"We have been shown the current ½d. King's Head with mixed perforations. Several correspondents have informed us that the New Zealand Government Life Insurance will revert to the use of insurance stamps again on the 1st January."

St. Vincent. We are indebted to *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* for the following:—

"We learn that this country has been supplied with the new stamps of King George. The set up to the 1/- value bears the portrait of King George, and are printed by the

copper-plate process; the 2/-, 5/-, and £1 are of the existing arms design, printed in two colours on white paper."

Sierra Leone. To the sets of small George heads already listed we have to add the 1/-, 2/-, 5/-, 10/-, £1, £2, £5 stamps, all similar in design to the large sized label we chronicled last month.

Adhesives. King George. Multiple wmk.

- 1/-, black on green.
- 2/-, purple and blue on blue.
- 5/-, green and red on yellow.
- 10/-, green and red on green.
- £1, purple and black on red.
- £2, purple and blue.
- £5, green and orange.

Straits Settlements. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles three more King George stamps, namely the 3, 4 and 8 cents.

Tasmania. The *Australian Philatelist* chronicles the recently issued provisional, 1d. on 2d. with compound perforations, $12\frac{1}{2} \times 11$.

Trinidad and Tobago. From stamps received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. it would appear that the wee island of Tobago has again come to the fore. The 1d. and 2½d. values are printed from, so says *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*, a new keyplate, together with a new set of overprint plates. We also learn that the ½d., 4d., 6d., and 1/- stamps have appeared, in addition to the two values received from Ipswich.

Turks and Caicos Islands. In addition to the values listed last month, we now learn from *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* that the following values have been issued.

Adhesives. King George.

- 6d., lilac.
- 1/-, yellow on white paper.
- 2/-, red on green paper.
- 3/-, black on red paper.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Belgium. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have sent us a specimen of the new 10c. stamp. This value now bears the large head of King Albert, similar to the current 25c.

China. Our publishers have shewn us a used copy of the 5 cents mauve, overprinted by the Shanghai Commercial Press, in red (Gibbons type 39). This should come into the catalogue between numbers 229a and 229b. The stamp was found among a large number of the ordinary variety.

We have also been shewn some 20c., 30c., and \$1 overprinted roughly, apparently with a handstamp, in black, with characters resembling type 42, but somewhat smaller. All the specimens are used, but, unfortunately, in no case is the postmark legible, so we are unable to say whence they come.

Referring to the stamps listed last month, we now learn from the *Monthly Journal* that

these are intended for collectors, a following extract will show:—

"The following is an extract from the official notification announcing the issue; in the last paragraph Mr. Piry completely gives away the situation, showing plainly that the stamps are only intended for collectors and not at all for postage:—

"The whole of both issues will be distributed at one and the same time to Head and Sub-Head Offices for sale at all postal establishments; in no circumstances will any additional quantities be printed.

"Unsold balances at subordinate establishments on 30th April, 1913, will be returned to the respective Head Offices, where they will be on sale till 31st July, 1913, after which date they will be withdrawn and destroyed.

"Commemoration stamps will not therefore be obtainable at any postal establishment after 31st July, 1913.

"As the issue is a limited one, the stamps will be sold concurrently with the ordinary surcharged stamps now in use.

"It is expected they will be distributed for sale on or about the 15th December, 1912.

"T. PIRY,

Postmaster-General.

"DIRECTORATE-GENERAL OF POSTS,

"PEKING, 11th November, 1912."

"Captain A. E. Stewart informs us that the set of provisionals listed in our Catalogue, purporting to have been overprinted at Tientsin (Nos. 230 to 239), are bogus, and that no such overprint was ever issued under postal authority; this overprint is in blue.

Greece. Samos. The *Monthly Journal* says:—

"According to our information, two issues of stamps have taken place here, the island having declared itself annexed to Greece. The first issue is said to be of a provisional nature, and to have been in issue for one week pending the arrival of a more complete series from Athens. This latter is a lithographed set comprising five values."

Lemnos. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., write as follows:—

"We are enclosing you a specimen of the 5 lept. The following is a full list of the values issued:—1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40 and 50 lept.; 1, 2, 3, 5, 10 and 35 dr. All are surcharged on the 1911 issue of Greece with the exception of the 20 lept., which is on the 1901 issue. The overprints are all in black with the exception of the 5 lept. which is in red."

Hungary. Mr. W. T. Wilson has very kindly shewn us a specimen of the new 16 filler stamps, same design as other low values.

Adhesives.

16f., green and black.

Italy. Islands in the Aegean Sea. The following extract is from the *Monthly Journal*,

needless to say, we heartily agree with our contemporary as to the stamps being totally uncalled for:—

"We hear that the current Italian stamps of 2c., 5c., 10c., 15c., 25c., 40c., and 50c., have been overprinted for the following islands: Calimno, Caso, Cos, Karki, Leros, Lipso, Nisiros, Patmos, Piscopi, Rodi, Scarpauto, Simi, and Stampalia. This makes thirteen sets of seven stamps, a most unlucky number! The *Gazzetta dei Filatelisti* (Milan) remarks the absurdity of issuing the "stamps" now that the islands are theoretically returned to Turkey. We regard them as the worst kind of speculative issues, and cannot recommend them to collectors. We suggest that the best way to treat them would be to put them on a par with those stamps of the United States which a few years since had the name of the town of issue printed upon them. They were not admitted to the Catalogue.

Libia is also to have its own set, but happily only one.

Nicaragua. Mr. Ahrens has shewn us specimens of the new official stamps. The following description is from a recent *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*.

"The stamps have been printed by Waterlow from the same plate as the regular sets, but all in the same colour. The overprint "official" is in heavy condensed Gothic caps, the letters being spaced to make a longer line on the 35c. value.

Official Stamps.

1c., 2c., 3c., 4c., 5c., 6c., 10c., 15c., 20c., 25c., 35c., 50c.,
1p., 2p., 5p., all dull blue.

Russia. Mr. E. Michelson, of St. Petersburg, has very kindly sent us a nearly complete set of the new Russian stamps. The *Monthly Journal* contains such a capital description of these new varieties that we feel we cannot do better than extract it in full.

"The issue of the previously announced "Romanov" series took place on January 14th (January 1st, Old Style), and a very handsome set is added to the Russian pages of our albums. The kopeck values are surface-printed, the line-engraving process being used for the rouble values. The 70 kop. shows the first Romanov Czar, Michael Feodorovitch, who attained the throne in 1613. On the 1 kop. and 4 kop. appears Peter the Great, 1689-1725, founder of Petersburg (which has nothing whatever to do with St. Peter). The 14 kop. shows probably the most interesting figure in Russian history, Katherine II., who attained the throne by deposing her husband, Peter III., on the 9th July, 1762. Her son, Paul (35 kop.), was murdered by some of his nobles on March 23rd, 1801. On the 15 kop. Nicholas I., whose death during the winter of 1855 inspired one of the most famous of Teniel's *Punch* cartoons; he was succeeded by his son, Alexander II, 1855-81 (2 kop.), who met his death by the explosion

of a bomb beneath his carriage whilst driving along the Nevski Prospekt in Petersburg. Nicholas II. appears on the 7 kop. and 10 kop., and on the 5 roubles.

1 kop., orange (Peter I.).
2 kop., yellow-green (Alexander II.).
3 kop., rose-carmine (Alexander III.).
4 kop., rose (Peter II.).
7 kop., brown (Nicholas II.).
10 kop., blue (Nicholas II.).
14 kop., blue-green (Katherine II.).
15 kop., pale brown (Nicholas I.).
20 kop., olive-green (Alexander I.).
25 kop., chocolate (Alexei Michaelovitch).
35 kop., dull green and slate (Paul I.).
50 kop., black and brown (Elizabeth).
70 kop., brown and green (Michael Feodorovitch).
1 roub., deep green (The Kremlin, Moscow).
2 roub., red (The Winter Palace, Petersburg).
3 roub., slate (Castle of the early Romanovs).
5 roub., brown and black (Nicholas II.).

Russian Levant. From Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. we have received twelve of the above stamps overprinted with paras and piastres.

Adhesives.

5 para	on	1 kop.
10 "	"	2 "
15 "	"	3 "
20 "	"	4 "
1 piastre	on	10 "
1½ "	"	15 "
2 "	"	20 "
2½ "	"	25 "
3½ "	"	35 "
5 "	"	50 "
7 "	"	70 "
10 "	"	1 rouble.

Uruguay. Mr. A. H. Davis, writing from Buenos Aires, on Jan. 8th, says:—

"Owing to the recent reduction on postage from Uruguay to Argentina from 5c. to 4c., a new value has become necessary and I enclose sample of the new stamp issued on 1st inst.

Adhesive.

4c., pale orange.

Monaco: An Unnoticed Rarity.

THE 10 CENTIMES BROWN POSTAGE DUE STAMPS.

BY THE REV. G. E. BARBER, M.A.

UP to the year 1905 the Principality of Monaco, whose post offices are managed by treaty by the French Government (just as those of the Principality of Liechtenstein are by the Austrian, and those of the Republic of San Marino by the Italian Governments) for its Postage Due Stamps made use of those of France, which have therefore a special interest and value up to that date when obliterated with the postmark of the Principality at either of its two post offices, Monaco and Monte Carlo.

In the year 1905, Monaco very logically and reasonably decided to issue her own Postage Due Stamps. As she had issued her own Postage Stamps for a good twenty years by this date, no one can accuse her of being

in too great a hurry to increase the number of postal values. Monaco has never been guilty of issuing speculative or unnecessary emissions; and many far greater states might well have followed her most excellent example. In issuing her Postage Due Stamps, Monaco confined herself to six different values, 1c., 5c., 10c., 15c., 30c. and 50c., and in deciding the colours of this issue, she chose the very sensible plan of making the colours match exactly those of the postage stamps of the same values, the 30 centimes "Chiffre-Taxe" stamp taking the colour of the 25 centimes postage stamp, as that value nearest to it.

In the year 1908 this reasonable and very sensible rule was suddenly broken in one instance by the appearance of the 10 centimes Postage Due Stamp of Monaco in brown, the colour of the French Postage Due Stamp of that same value.

There can be little doubt that the printing in brown was more or less of a mistake on the part of the printer. At the same time that this brown 10 centimes stamp was issued there was still (and is still) in use the 15 centimes postage stamp brown on yellow; and confusion must have been caused thereby. Moreover, there was no attempt to co-ordinate the other "Chiffre Taxes" of Monaco to their French sisters.

As a final and decisive proof of this "printer's error," the next printing of the 10 centimes Postage Due stamps of Monaco in 1911, reappeared in the original rose-red of the 1905 emission and is still current and likely to remain so. Now, it is very important to observe that the emission of the 10 centimes chiffre-taxe of Monaco in brown was in no sense whatever a speculative error. The stamp merchants and collectors of Europe have remained quite unconscious of there being anything peculiar in this issue. It was taken for granted, as remarked in the "Revue Philatélique Française" of June 30th, 1909, that it had merely been issued in the same colour as the French stamps and presumably permanently so. It has hardly been realized yet that the present issue, 1911, is again in the original rose-red. Messrs. Whitfield King, for instance, in their new 1913 catalogue price the brown 10 centimes rarity at 2d. (!!!) and the current rose-red at 4d. (!). Messrs. Stanley Gibbons price the brown 10 centimes in their 1913 catalogue at 3d. (!). Messrs. Senf, at half a mark, and Messrs. Yvert & Tellier, a little nearer the real value, at one franc.

As a matter of fact only 30,000 of these brown 10 centimes stamps were issued, and they all bear the millésime date 8 (1908). Of these somewhat more than half were, in the natural course of events from the change of colour, sold to stamp merchants and collectors.

The remainder, about 14,000 or so, have been used up in the normal correspondence in the Principality, and the stock at the post office was entirely exhausted in December

1911, and was replaced by the rose-red issue with the millésime date 1 (1911), in, by the way, two quite distinct shades, rose-red and pale-rose. It is hardly necessary then to point out that the brown 10 centimes stamp is likely to become quite a rarity, and collectors would be well advised to acquire it before its catalogue value goes up never to come down again (the stamps of Monaco never can come down again in value when once their price goes up; there are no remainders anywhere, and no dealer, not even the large stamp merchants, possess any considerable stocks of even the lower values of these stamps).

It is improbable that more than, at most, 20,000 of these stamps exist in a condition available for collections. As for collectors of stamps with their millésime dates one must observe that not more than 600 millésime numbers were printed (there are three of these in a sheet of 150 stamps) and that probably not half this number exist now. The writer of these lines has already seen a pair of these stamps with their millésime numbers sold for 20 francs, a notable increase on the 1913 catalogue values at Ipswich or in the Strand, or even at Paris or Leipzig.

The Postage Due Stamps of Monaco, as of France, are by no means either uninteresting or unartistic; and collectors might do worse than turn their attention to the 10 centimes brown Postage Due stamp of Monaco.

City of London Philatelic Society.

THE 86th Monthly Meeting was held at 14, Broad Street Place, on February 12th, 1913. The President, Mr. Westcott, occupied the chair.

The following new members were elected—
Mr. Harry Shacke,
Mr. H. J. Viseck, } Subject to
Mr. F. P. Carr. } refs.

The first part of the programme of the evening was taken up by Mr. T. G. Arnold, who showed his superb collection of "British Africans." The display consisted of practically all stamps in the finest possible used condition and was very much appreciated by the members. A vote of thanks was passed by Mr. Kerrison and seconded by Mr. Higlett.

The second part of the evening was occupied by Mr. J. A. Leon, B.A., who gave a display of "Georgian Issues to date." All the well-known Georgian stamps issued to date were shown, also practically all the varieties of the British stamps of this issue, highly specialised. The display evoked a great amount of interest, and was very much appreciated by the members. Mr. Westcott proposed a vote of thanks and Mr. Higlett seconded same.

Next month we have a display with notes by Mr. J. E. Heginbottom, B.A.; English (Medium to later issues with Officials); also

Forgeries and Reprints by Mr. A. J. Séfi. Both these names are well known to our members and sufficient to guarantee their displays being of interest.

Next month I hope to give a definition of the "Competitive Display any Single Issues Specialised," to be held on April 9th, and to give members an idea of what is meant by this.

I am pleased to say that there was a good attendance of members and visitors, 34 being present. The attendance at the meetings this year have increased about 50% above those of last season, and I hope that they will continue to be as good for the remainder of the season.

DUNCAN PRINGLE, *Hon. Secretary*,
38, Grassmere Road, Muswell Hill, N.

New Zealand 3d. Deep Mauve, Imperforate.

I SHOULD like to add my support to the contentions urged regarding this stamp by your correspondents, Messrs. W. D. Ulph (Oct.), W. B. Edwards (Dec.), and K. Wiehen (Jan.), which would, in effect, take this stamp out of the list of the imperforate issues of 1862, and make it an imperforate variety of the 1863-6 issue (S.G. No. 84). My own collection, and my experience, confirm this contention; and although, so far, the evidence appears to be mainly circumstantial, I think it all points in favour of the conclusion above mentioned, and against the contention of Mr. Paris, who regards Mr. Ulph's specimen dated in 1867 as a belated copy of an earlier issue.

The following are some points from my own collection which may help others to arrive at a solution:—

I have an unsevered imperforate pair of the above stamp, postally used, with a margin of nearly 2 m.m. between the stamps, and this pair together with another copy with margins large enough to show the adjoining stamp on either side at distances of 2 and 1½ m.m. respectively, seem to me to sufficiently dispose of doubts, which I have heard raised as to whether this stamp ever was a genuine imperforate issue. The postmark on my unsevered pair is indeterminate in character, but apparently of the thin line variety prevalent among early issues, though in use in 1870 as proved by an original envelope in my collection.

Of three other copies of 3d. deep mauve, two have a very heavy cancellation which seems to consist of a central letter (or figure) with 7 bars of a thickness of almost 2 m.m. each.

The remaining specimen also has a thick bar cancellation, but the bars are not quite so

thick as the last and there are traces of both a letter and figure in the central portion.

There were several types of thick bar cancellation, but I can find no evidence of the use of any of them earlier than the year 1866; although I have a specimen of the imperforate 3d. lilac (S.G. 47) cancelled with 9 bars of medium thickness—rather more than 1mm. each—enclosing a single numeral of similar thickness. There is nothing to show the date when this stamp was used.

All my copies of the perforated 3d. deep mauve (S.G. 84)—14 in number—are perforated 12½ and several of them have the thick bar cancellation. I have not seen any copy perforated 13 by the Dunedin machine. One of them is clearly postmarked "Dunedin Oct. 19. 67", and also shows traces of a medium thick bar cancellation. Another used pair has the letter "C" enclosed in 7 bars of medium thickness with a postmark showing the word "Christchurch" but the date is undecipherable with certainty; I think however it is one of the early 1870's.

A similar cancellation appears on a specimen of the 3d. lilac (S.G. 83), dated "Christchurch, Jy. 72" the heavier bar cancellation enclosing the letter and numeral "N" appears on a pair of the last named stamp dated "Nelson Fe. 19. 72."

Other instances of these heavy postmarks on dated copies are as under:—

	C		
2d. pl. 11.	(S.G. 81)	in 7 medium bars,	Oct. — 67
	21		
ditto	ditto	1 in 9 medium bars, Auckland.	Au. 30. 69
3d. yellow	(S.G. 86)	medium bars, Wellington.	No. 6. 67
6d. red-brown	(S.G. 87)	0 in 7 medium bars, Dunedin.	Oct. 15. 66
1½ green	(S.G. 90)	medium bars,	De. 20. 66
6d. blue	(S.G. 99)	medium bars, Auckland.	Se. 26. 73
	C		
2d. vermilion	(S.G. 101)	— in 7 medium bars, Hokit.	No. — 73
	21		

In the 1871 and '72 issues, both the medium and the very thick bar cancellations are, of course, quite common.

BEN GOODFELLOW.

High Prices at Auction.

MR. E. M. GILBERT-LODGE, whose auction sales at the Salisbury Hotel have already proved a great success, tells us that the following prices were realised at his January 23rd sale.

	£	s.	d.
Great Britain, 1d. black, 1840, used strip of five ...	1	17	6
Do., 1/- green and carmine, mint, Board of Education ...	11	0	0
Do., 5d. Board of Education ...	2	6	0
Do., 2½d. do. do. ...	1	10	0
Mauritius, 1848, 2d. blue, S.G. 24 ...	5	0	0
Do., 1859, 1d. deep red, a pair ...	7	0	0
Do., 1859, 1d. vermilion ...	2	4	0
N.S.W., Sydney View, 1d. red, S.G. 15	2	17	6
Do., do. 2d. blue, S.G. 21	2	10	0
Tasmania, 1853, 1d. blue, unused ...	4	4	0

The Stamps of France, 1849-1875.

G. A. HIGLETT.

A Paper read before the City of London Philatelic Society, on December 11th, 1912.

(Continued from page 11.)

1ST JANUARY, 1863. POSTAGE DUE RATES.

At the end of 1862, 10% of the whole of the correspondence of the country was being posted unstamped, and to bring about an end to this, on 1st January, 1863, all unpaid letters were taxed at 50% more than ordinary prepaid rates.

This called for the creation of a Postage Due stamp of 15 centimes, to replace that of 10 centimes.

At the same date the rate of postage on simple letters from Paris was reduced to 10 centimes for up to 10 grammes in weight.

1863-1870. LAUREATED ISSUE.

The war against Austria having terminated in favour of France, with the cession to France of Nice and Savoy, and the Emperor having been in personal command of the army, or nominally so, he thereby became entitled, according to ancient custom, to have the head crowned with the victor's laurels.

In June, 1861, the postage stamps were ordered to bear the laureated head of the Emperor. Some extraordinary delays took place in the preparation and issue of the new type. This new series consisted of three varieties of type:—

1. For the lower values, with large figures of value and with very small pearls round the central medallion.
2. For values from 10c. to 80c., similar to the previous issue, but with the new type of head.
3. For the new 5 francs value, a large oblong design. In this new high value, the value was surcharged at a later printing, as the same design was intended to serve for 10 fr. and 20 fr. values, which, however, were never produced. The figures of value may be found of different shade from the rest of the stamp.

In order of date, the issues were:—

2 centimes,	red-brown,	1st January, 1863.
4	" grey,	unknown.
20	" blue,	4th April, 1867.
30	" brown,	unknown.
10	" bistre,	November, 1867.
80	" rose,	February, 1868.
40	" orange-red,	August, 1868.
5 francs,	lilac,	November, 1869.
1 centime,	olive,	May, 1870.

It is curious that the 5 centimes value was never issued in this type, although it was prepared, and proofs exist.

The non-laureated type continued to be printed until the new plates were ready, and they were never withdrawn, but the stamps continued to be issued from stocks. Consequently, after the great war, and before the Republic type was issued, the stamps of 5 centimes value remained of the old non-laureated type.

The 5 francs value had such a small sale that at one time the Government contemplated withdrawing it, but the big banks and others protested, and with good reason. A packet was known, with 100 5-franc stamps, addressed to the Comptoir d'Escompte from a French post office abroad, and one can see the absurdity of having to find room on the cover for 625 stamps of the next lower value, 80 centimes, and pity the poor office boy who had to do the licking. The wholesale licking of Health Insurance stamps was then an undiscovered art.

The new value of 30 centimes was created specially for a sample post rate. It shows a vertical stroke in the value label, due to the small value plug inserted in the Die not quite fitting the space it had to go in.

One of the most striking of the minor varieties is the 20 centimes, blue, with a horn on the Emperor's nose, arising from an accident to the plate. Several copies are shown of this variety, "Napoléon à la corne." It was made a great deal of by the Republican party, and those acquainted with the French language will understand the significance of the "Empéreur cornu."

POSTMARKS.

Stamps with Italian postmarks are to be found of this period. When Nice and the Savoy were taken over by France, French stamps were used for postage, but until the new obliterating stamps were supplied, the offices continued to use the old Italian obliterators. A stamp is shown with the obliteration of "Nizza Maritima," which afterwards became "Nice."

PRINCE IMPERIAL ESSAY.

In 1869 the Emperor was in a very bad state of health, and was taking steps to secure the succession of his son to the throne, and a die was secretly made in London bearing the effigy of the Prince Imperial, from which proofs in various colours were made. It was probably intended to serve as a speedy means for substituting the portrait of his son in place of that of the Emperor, in the centre of

the stamps, on the Emperor's death. It is known as the Prince Imperial essay.

1870.

On 19th July, 1870, war was declared against Prussia. On 2nd September, 1870, the Emperor and army at Sedan surrendered to the Prussians, and on 4th September, 1870, a Republic was proclaimed.

1870. SIEGE OF PARIS ISSUE.

On 18th September, 1870, Paris was surrounded by the investing German army, and the next day no letters could pass through. But the Post Office still continued its functions, although letters for the outside world could only be despatched by balloon post.

The Mint began to prepare stamps from the old plates of the first issue of 1849, and from October to December 1870 three values were issued:—

10 centimes,	bistre.
20 "	blue.
40 "	orange.

They differ from the stamps of 1849 in being perforated. As they continued to be issued for some years, a good variety of shades is to be found, as well as the "Tête-bêche" and "wide 4" varieties. For the other values the Empire stamps continued to be issued.

These three stamps are separately listed in the French catalogues as "the siege of Paris issue," but in Stanley Gibbons & Co.'s catalogue, they are listed along with the other values issued later on.

A pair of 40 centimes value is shown, with both varieties of the "wide 4," once on one stamp, and twice on the other.

1870. BORDEAUX LITHOGRAPH ISSUE.

The capital being surrounded, and the plant for producing stamps being all in the Paris Mint, the rest of the country still under French control found its supply of stamps cut off, and, in consequence, stamps had to be provisionally made elsewhere, and so the Bordeaux lithographed series came into existence.

At Bordeaux was an old Mint, and this was re-opened for the making of coinage and postage stamps.

On 23rd October, 1870, the manufacture was authorised by the Minister of Finance, then stationed at Tours, and in the meantime the Empire stamps were being used up, and were to be used until exhausted. Some time after mid-November, 1870, these lithographed stamps were issued for use.

These Bordeaux provisionals present almost innumerable features of interest, and are worthy of a paper to themselves. I can only briefly mention a few points connected with them.

The 20 centimes stamp was the value most urgently needed, as this paid the postage on simple letters. After several failures in attempting other methods of production and

reproduction, the design was drawn on lithographic stone by a Monsieur Dambourgez (I am not using bad language), and this constituted Type I. of this value. It differs slightly in design from the later types, especially in the central medallion being 1mm. distant from the top inner frame line instead of close thereto, and the face being shaded with dots instead of lines, etc., It was not entirely successful, and another clever artist was found at Bordeaux, Monsieur Yon, and his design was accepted and proceeded with, thus constituting Type II. of this value. Then it was decided that the inscription and value should be made clearer, and this was done, and so Type III. was produced. The so-called Type IV. is only a variety of Type III., and the two kinds are found together in the same sheet, and specimens are shewn "se tenant" in a pair.

The artist engraved his own name in minute letters on the vine leaf above the bunch of grapes, and with a glass this may be found, on the 5c. and 10c. especially.

The whole series consisted of nine values, and the Postage Due stamp of 15 centimes was also produced by lithography.

It was officially ordered that a secret mark be included in the design, as an additional safeguard against forgery. The first issue of stamps of Greece, manufactured in Paris in 1860, appears to have the same sort of secret marks as were adopted for these, and something of the same sort also appears in the Austrian issue of 1867-1877.

The issue presents many minor varieties.

It is almost needless to say that Paris cancellations are not found except on stamps used after the siege was over. They were not demonetised, and postmarks may be found right up to the 20th century.

On 18th March, 1871, orders were given to stop the manufacture. The whole of the engraved stones, plates, and other materials were destroyed, and several years later, the stock of these stamps transferred to Paris and remaining on hand, was all burnt.

1870-1871. "ALSACE-LORRAINE" ISSUE.

Mention should be made of the so-called "Alsace-Lorraine" issue of stamps. The Prussian army of invasion was accompanied by a fully equipped postal service of officials, and provided with postage stamps prepared in advance, to be used in the provinces to be conquered and occupied by the Prussians. It is an example of German thoroughness. They took possession of French post offices, wherever possible and advisable they enrolled the French postmen in their service, took over the entire postal administration, and collected the important revenue to be derived from postage on letters.

The stamps had values expressed in French currency, and were of the same colours as those values of the French stamps.

They are found obliterated with various French obliterations, and with German obliterating marks also.

1871. THE COMMUNE.

During the days of the Commune in Paris, in April and May, 1871, when stamps were badly wanted, a discovery was made of a stock of 10 centimes Empire laureated stamps and plates of other values of the laureated and Republic types. The 10 centimes laureated stamps were issued for use, and the plates were used for printing other values. Altogether about 14,000,000 stamps were printed of all values, except the 1 centime, of which a stock was also on hand.

Some of the paper used was thinner than usual, and the penetration of the gum gives some specimens a peculiarly transparent and vitreous appearance at the back.

There were being issued at this period, the 10c., 20c. and 40c. of the Republic type, and all others of the Empire type.

1871-1875.

After the war and the commune, it became necessary to increase taxation in all directions, and postage rates were raised. On 1st September, 1871, the rate for simple letters was raised from 20 centimes to 25 centimes, and for local letters from 10 centimes to 15 centimes.

In consequence of these changes new values were required, and these were printed from the old plates of 1849 type:—

15 centimes, bistre.
25 " blue.

Five values were now being produced from the old plates of 1849, viz.: the 10c., 20c. and 40c., used during the siege and now continued to be used, and the new values of 15 centimes and 25 centimes.

At the same time the Postage Due stamp of 15 centimes was replaced by a new series of three values:—

25 centimes, black.
40 " blue.
60 " yellow.

After all these troublous times, the Paris Mint was for a long time scarcely able to keep pace with the demand by working day and night continuously. But even then, the lower values ran out, and it again became a question of printing from plates of the Empire stamps, and as the new plates of the Republic type could not be ready for some time, this was authorised and carried out.

In the case of the 5 centimes value, no plates had been made of the laureated type, and so the old non-laureated type was brought into use again. The daily consumption of this value was about 1,800 sheets, and in December 1871, as the stock of the greenish tinted paper for this value ran out, the use was authorised of the azure tinted paper intended for the 1 centime stamps, as being the shade most

nearly approaching the correct tint. Specimens are shewn of both kinds.

About the same time, towards the end of 1871, a stock of 10c. Empire laureated stamps in bistre was surcharged with figures 10 in blue, but they were never issued for use. A copy is, however, shown properly franking a letter to Switzerland at a much later date.

It was not until late in 1872 that the new stamps of the Republic type were actually issued.

As there was a stock of the Empire 5 francs stamps sufficient to last for many years, no preparations were made to produce this value in the new type.

The lower values, 10c., 20c., 40c. and 50c., were all issued in 1872, and in the same year the 30c. and 80c. stamps were issued in a corrected type with larger figures of value.

In January, 1873, the 10 centimes stamp, of the old type with small figures, was issued in a new colour, brown on rose, to distinguish it from the 15c. bistre.

In June, 1874, the 15c. bistre was issued with the larger figures of value, and finally in March, 1875, the 10c. brown on rose, was also issued with larger figures.

In 1876, in making up a plate of the 10c. brown on rose, a mould of the 15 centimes value was inserted in error, and this value may therefore be found in an error of colour, brown on rose, instead of bistre. When the error was discovered, the sheets were withdrawn, and probably only about 300 sheets containing this error were sold. The two values in a pair constitute one of the great rarities of French stamps.

CHANGE OF TYPE.

In 1875, when the Republic was under the Presidency of Marshal MacMahon, it was decided to abolish the type giving the effigy of Liberty.

They manage these things differently in France, and as the foremost word of the motto of the Republic is the proud boast of Liberty (Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité), it appears to have been considered quite appropriate to abolish the head of Liberty from the stamps. It may be that they had inherited from the first revolutionary Republic the love of taking off heads.

Mr. Maury writes as follows of this change:—

"Everything that was Republican was looked upon with an evil eye by the majority of the men in power in the singular Republic of that day: the postage stamp with the 1848 type excited the derision of the reactionary press, the stamp was called 'à la Marianne' and this was found appropriate, 'spirituel'; people were recommended to put it upside down on their letters, etc.; it was discovered that the figures of value were too small, that the portrait printed badly, that it was easily counterfeited, in fact, the effigy of Liberty was condemned, and it was settled that its

successor must be of a design having no political significance."

It was no doubt a case of giving a dog a bad name and then hanging him, and as a more fitting emblem of the up-to-date Republic, Liberty was abolished, and two old pagan deities were brought in in its place. Mercury and Venus, re-named as Peace and Commerce, superseded the design of the first issue of 1849. The words of the motto remained unchanged, although Liberty herself disappeared; but it is not suggested that thereby it was intended that for the future Liberty was to be a thing of words only.

Having brought this rough sketch of the stamps of France to the end of the issue of stamps of the type first adopted in 1849, it must be closed before it attains an inordinate length. The later stamps would require a paper equally as long as this to deal with them even as crudely as the earlier types are thus dealt with. An article of mine on the French stamps of the 20th century appeared in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, about a year ago, so there is no need for me to refer to these.

I cannot close without full acknowledgment of my indebtedness to M. Maury's great work, which is so full and so moderate in price, that no collector of the stamps of France can afford to do without it.

Death of the Earl of Crawford.

It is with very great regret that we have to announce the death of the Earl of Crawford which took place on January 31st. Lord Crawford was sixty-six years of age, and was for many years a member of the Royal Philatelic Society, succeeding H.M. King George as President. His Lordship was frequently in the chair at the Society's meetings and was wide world known for his scientific philatelic research. A year ago, owing to ill-health, he disposed of all of his stamps to Mr. W. H. Peckitt, with the exception of his Great Britain and U.S.A. These collections are briefly referred to in a recent number of the *Daily Telegraph* to which paper we are indebted for the following information.

"Undoubtedly the greatest of Lord Crawford's stamp collections is that of the issues of the United States. It is a great compilation in sixty albums, in which one may read as in a vast book, the history of each stamp in curious detail; the notes are full, and the subject is explained with a profusion of illustrative specimens. In many instances his lordship was able to show the development of the various designs from the first pencil sketch, and from that point he proceeded to show the examples of engravers' proofs, in various stages of the work, to the complete die stage, the colour trials, and the issued stamps.

From this stage the collection contained a wonderful wealth of material, showing the various printings of the stamps, illustrating their use in the post, and concluding with the posthumous impressions or reprints, which in many cases in the United States series are of a high degree of rarity.

Lord Crawford's collection of the stamps of Great Britain, though of less dimensions than the United States collection, is not of less importance historically. It is contained in about forty volumes, fully annotated, and arranged with the individuality which made Lord Crawford the leading influence in modern philately. In this collection one gets many glimpses of the scientist at work on the difficult questions of the blued papers of the early recess-printed stamps, and the methods of the cleaners, who gave the early authorities much trouble by removing postmarks, so that the stamp might do service a second time. Herein, too, may be seen the most remarkable sheets and part-sheets of the early stamps. The "V.R." 1d. black stamp of 1840 is shown in a nearly complete sheet (219 out of the 240 stamps); the ordinary 1d. black is also shown in a large block (175 stamps), and the 2d. blue of 1840, "without white lines," is shown in a part sheet of 168 stamps.

As in his other and varied interests, Lord Crawford entered into philatelic research with a keen personal interest, and found that it gave scope to his undoubted literary and scientific abilities. Of titled and wealthy stamp-collectors there have been many, some of whom have been content with associating their name with the pursuit and paying others to do the work. Lord Crawford's collections, however, were the outcome of his own labours, and displayed his individuality in a manner which has influenced the whole world of stamp-collectors. He found a keen pleasure in the work, much of which was done on board the *Valhalla* during its long voyages.

The Earl of Crawford was an enthusiastic yachtsman, but he made his yachting cruises distinctly scientific. He owned the *Consuella*, 546 tons, and the *Wanderer*, 708 tons, and in 1901 he purchased the well-known square-rigged ship, the *Valhalla*, 1,490 tons. In this ship he has made extensive voyages, and in 1905 he raced for the German Emperor's Ocean Cup, and won the third prize. One of the cruises of the *Valhalla* extended over a period of nearly two years, and on this trip the Earl took with him several naturalists and other scientific workers. The results of this voyage, from the point of view of the collector, were the most valuable accomplished by British enterprise since the famous voyage of the *Challenger*. Lord Crawford's gifts to the British Museum included hundreds of specimens of birds, fishes, reptiles, insects, skulls, and skeletons, many of them gathered in remote regions of the Pacific and Indian

oceans, out of the beaten track of vessels. His lordship was a trustee of the British Museum, and was connected with a number of learned bodies.

Lord Crawford's health had for some time past been indifferent, and for several years it had been his custom to winter abroad, on account of rheumatic affections, in the Valhalla, which, however, he sold some four years ago to a wealthy American. At Haigh Hall, Wigan, his lordship, who was a famous bibliophile, housed literary treasures which make one of the finest private libraries in the world. In the Upper House he sat as Lord Wigan."

His library of philatelic publications, kept in Cavendish Square, is the finest in existence, and we hope that it will be possible to keep it intact. The Earl was for many years a subscriber to the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*. In conclusion we may safely add that the greatest blow that philately has yet suffered has been the death of the Earl of Crawford.

Correspondence.

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

38, Grasmere Road,
Muswell Hill, N.

February 14th, 1913.

DEAR SIR,

With reference to your Editorial Notes in the January issue commenting upon the dullness of certain Philatelic Society's meetings.

In referring to same I hope you do not class the City of London Philatelic Society's meetings amongst these. I am pleased to say that our meetings are always merry and bright, and even visitors are made to feel at home in a very short space of time. If stamp collectors find that the meetings they attend are as you state, I am sure they would be welcomed to our meetings and would thoroughly enjoy themselves. I think that our attendances prove this, as we have had an average attendance this season at our meetings of 33 members and visitors, and I think there is no Philatelic Society in Great Britain which can show such a large percentage as 25% of their members at their meetings, and also considering that quite 50% of our membership is spread all over the world, which goes to prove that our members appreciate our meetings and enjoy themselves.

Yours faithfully,

DUNCAN PRINGLE,

Hon. Sec. City London
Philatelic Society.

P.S.—In fact when a certain person, well known to the Editor of the P.J.G.B., attends our meetings it is sometimes difficult to keep the members in order, and the Secretary has

made up his mind that when this person attends in future, he shall sit next to him for the whole of the meeting, for the well-being, good conduct, and reputation of the Society.

If the "certain person" referred to is An--s McTA--ISH I admire the secretary's courage.—Ed.

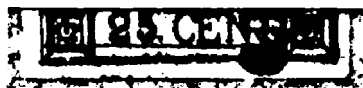
The meetings of the City of London Philatelic Society are always most enjoyable, and the very reverse of dull.—Ed.

The 25 Cent Mexico of 1868.

ANOTHER RETOUCHE VARIETY.

BY P. L. PEMBERTON.

IN this journal for March, 1912, I described five different retouches on the 25 cent Mexico of 1868, thick figures type. I have since found another and very prominent retouched variety. I had always suspected that the stamp catalogued by Gibbons as No. 130c, namely the 25c., thick figures without period would, when it turned up, prove to be a retouched variety and that the missing stop would be due to the same cause as the 12c no period variety of the same issue (a stamp, by the way, which is not mentioned by Gibbons, though in my experience, it is much less rare). At the time I wrote the article I was a little sceptical of the existence of the 25c. without stop, as I had examined some thousands of copies without finding it. During the past twelve months I have examined as many again and my search has at last been rewarded by finding this *rara avis* in a selection sent to me from Germany, where it was included among the thin figure type.



TYPE 2. NORMAL.



TYPE 2. RETOUCHE.

The stamp is of type 2 (see *P.J.G.B.*, March, 1912, page 47) the distinguishing characteristic of which is a blot on the top of the second diagonal of the M of MEXICO. The normal stamps of this type have a numeral 5 with a small body; in this retouched variety the lower part of the figure, the stop and the back of the C must have got rubbed off the stone and the retouch consists in redrawing the body of the 5 and the back of the C, the period being forgotten. The 5 is redrawn with much too large a body,

resembling that of the thin figure type, while the back of the C is brought rather too far down and does not fit exactly into the portion of that letter which escaped the original damage.

The stamp is dated '68 thus pointing to the extreme probability of its belonging to the first transfer.

The inexperienced collector would naturally include this stamp among the thin figure series, by reason of the shape of the 5 and the absence of the stop, but the blot on the M at top shews at once what it is.

Current Chatter.

BY ANGUS McTAVISH.

Major Evans, writing about the forthcoming Edinboro' Congress, says:—

"The 'Land o' Cakes' has a hospitable sound, and the Dew of the Mountains is still, we believe, to be found by those that seek it—just to wash down the cakes."

This will be good news for those Margate Congress visitors who had to take tea with their cakes at afternoon-tea time.

I am told that "Everybody's Dewing It" will be transferred to Edinboro' town during Congress week.

In preparation for my projected visit to Princess Street, I spent Burns' birthday, or at least portion of it, at the Albert Hall, and had a real good night. By 11.30 p.m. I could make a noise like a spavined, asthmatical bagpipe, while no fewer than five separate Scots mistook me for a brither.

It may not be generally known that all Congress Delegates from London will be expected to wear kilts. This rule also applies to Manchester.

A writer in the *Monthly Journal*, discussing the early Diligencia stamps of Uruguay and the early stage coaches, says:—

"At the side of the coach rode a man on horseback, to encourage the horses by shouting at them, and when necessary a whip."

I suppose that when the horses were sadly down in the dumps, and needed cheering up, the man got off his mount and lit a fire underneath them.

The worst of receiving new books for review is that one has at least to read the title page to find out what they are about. This troublesome little formality has, however, been omitted by the S.C.F., for I find there the following review of Mr. Leavy's recently published book dealing with the stamps of Holland:—

"This is a most useful and comprehensive hand book, containing many special drawings of retouched plates."

The nasty sting is that it is reviewed as "The Postage Stamps of Hamburg."

No wonder authors rush into print.

Many moons ago, in Dec. 1909, to be exact, I contributed a short article, entitled "The Stamps of Persia" to the *P.J.G.B.* I was rather pleased with myself at the time; especially I think on account of the following paragraph:—

"For instance, we are told that in Persia exist at the present moment the wells that were built on the great trade route that traverses the land of the Shahs, a route that was hoary with age, centuries before the city of Babylon came into being."

Sounds very nice doesn't it? In fact, a Mr. G. G. Duncombe liked it so much that he appropriated it, together with the rest of the article, and had the cheek to read it as an original contribution before the Brighton Juniors, during December, 1910, entitled a "Ten Minutes Paper."

I suppose it was the sad picture of a poor old route, so extremely hoary, that it could hardly stagger along, that appealed to Mr. Duncombe's vivid imagination.

In the *Stamp Collector* for January, Mr. Herbert Ford, prints a paper, entitled "Notes on the Stamps of Persia," being his "Notes" read from his album leaves when he exhibited his stamps before the Birmingham Society. The following extract seems kind of familiar:

"Indeed it is stated that wells exist to this day which were built on one great trade route—a route which was hoary with age centuries before the great city of Babylon came into being."

Truth must, after all, live at the bottom of a well.

The following extract from Mr. Shoemaker's "The Heart of the Orient" explains how No. 1 extract came to be paraphrased. I don't think so much of the second and third efforts, they are not so picturesque.

"The greatness of Egypt began in the reign of Sweeney, 4000 B.C., when he laid out the route to the copper mines of the valley of Moghara in the peninsular of Sinai. There exist to day the wells built on the route from Ur to Sinai, before Babylon came into existence. The career of Babylon opened with Saragon, B.C., 3800, and Bactra was hoary with age even then."

In one of the American stamp papers I note that at the forthcoming New York Exhibition:—

"The crowd will be cut out on the opening day. Monday will be reserved for members and foreign dignitaries the crush will have to be eliminated while President Wilson is opening the Exhibition."

Quite right, I never could stand a crowd, while I always eliminate a crush immediately I see one.

The new Australian Commonwealth stamp is a hobby-dazzler—have you seen one? especially wee little Tasmania, which looks as if it had been dropped by the Kangaroo. McGummary, when he saw one of these new labels, wanted to know why the ace of hearts had got the chuck from Australia.

The Stamps of Greece.

By P. L. PEMBERTON.

(Continued from page 8.)

THE SURCHARGED ISSUES OF 1900.

Owing to the demand for stamps of higher denominations than 1 drachma and the difficulty of obtaining even passable impressions of the current 20 lepta, an order was placed in London, for a new set of stamps to include, in addition to the values already in use, the denominations 3 and 30 lepta and 2, 3 and 5 drachmæ. It was found that the preparation of these stamps took much longer than had been anticipated, and the breach was filled towards the end of the year 1900, by the issue of a number of obsolete stamps with new prices marked very plainly in the centre of each. Doubtless there was a pressing demand for some of these provisionals, but I think it is equally certain that being disappointed with the result of the Olympic Games speculation which had been expected to bring a certain sum into the Treasury, but which fell short of that ideal by a considerable amount, an effort was made to make up the deficit. To a great extent, therefore, this issue must be looked upon as of a speculative nature, yet it served a useful purpose to philately by using up a large stock of certain old issues which would otherwise have flooded the market as remainders.

The following is a list of the stamps which comprised the issue, with the numbers which are reported to have been printed of each.

20l. on 25 lep. (2nd type),	950,000.
30l. " 40 " (1st "),	180,000.
40l. " 2 " (" "),	180,000.
50l. " 40 " (" "),	170,000.
1 dr. " 40 " (2nd "),	140,000.
2 dr. " 40 " (" "),	100,000.
3 dr. " 10 " (1st "),	80,000.
5 dr. " 40 " (" "),	75,000.

All these stamps appeared imperf. as well as perforated 11½, and the 2 dr. on 40 lep., Athens print, perf. 13½.

THE OVERPRINTS ON THE SECOND TYPE.

The first of the series to appear were the three values surcharged on the stamps of the second type, viz., the 20 on 25 lep., 1 dr. on 40 lep. and 2 dr. on 40 lep. The surcharge on the 25 lep. was ΑΕΗΤΑ—20 in two lines, the numerals appearing underneath. On the 40 lep. the surcharges were ΔΡΑΧΜΗ—1 and ΔΡΑΧΜΑΙ—2 respectively. There are no prominent varieties of type on any of these three values, but there are a few minor varieties due to broken letters and faulty printing. The lowest value provides us with inverted, and also double and treble surcharges, in addition to varieties in which the surcharge is very much off centre or slanting.

The stamps used for converting into 20 lepta were the obsolete 25 lep. blue in various shades. For the 1 dr. the 40 lep. purple, Athens print, was employed, and the same stamp was also used for the 2 dr., but in this case the great majority of them were perforated 13½. In addition to the Athens printed 40 lep. a comparatively small number of the Belgian prints were used for the 2 dr.

The following is a list of these stamps:—

A. Surcharged in black on stamps of the second type, Athens print.	
20 lep. on 25 lep., blue, imperf. and perf.	11½.
20 " " deep blue " "	" "
20 " " pale blue " "	" "
20 " " ultramarine " "	" "
1 dr. on 40 lep., purple " "	" "
2 dr. " " " and perf.	13½.
B. Surcharged on stamps of the second type, Belgian print.	
2 dr. on 40 lep., purple, imperf and perf.	11½.

OVERPRINTS ON THE FIRST TYPE.

Within two or three weeks of the issue of the stamps just described, namely, in Oct., 1900, there appeared a series of similar surcharges on stamps of the first type. Owing to the sheets being different in size and form from those of the second type the setting was quite different, consisting, as it did, of 150 surcharges in fifteen rows of ten. In this series the uniformity which characterized the earlier surcharges was not maintained. The main varieties are ΑΕΗΤΑ for ΑΕΗΤΑ and two varieties of Ο in the numerals, which occur on all the three lepta values, and a marked difference in the spacing between the word and numerals, which occurs on all values.

Unfortunately no one seems to have noted, at the time the stamps were in use, the position of the varieties on the sheet, and entire sheets are now very difficult to find—if indeed they exist at all, as they all appear to have been cut up for the purpose of separating the main error ΑΕΗΤΑ. I am therefore unable to give a description of the setting, or even to say whether there was more than one for each value. The largest block I have is one of fifty of the 30 on 40 lepta; this consists of five horizontal rows of ten with margins at each side, which I have some reason to believe are from the middle of the sheet (Nos. 51 to 100). In this block numbers 1 and 2 in each row have a wide O, which occurs also on the 9th in the first row; the 6th and 10th in the fourth; and the 4th and 10th in the fifth rows; in all fifteen with wide O and thirty-five with narrow O in the block of fifty. This proportion (rather more than two to one), just about

represents the relative rarity of the two types of O.

As regards the spacing, the normal distance between the word and the tops of the numerals is from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3mm.$, but there is a variety in which the figures are much closer to the word, the space between them being only $1\frac{1}{2}mm.$ In the block of fifty of the 30 lep., to which I have already alluded, all stamps in the second horizontal row are of this variety: there were certainly one or more similar rows of ten on each sheet.

I am unable to say what position the error AEMTA occupied on the sheet, or whether it was in the same position on each value. The only varieties worth noting in the 3 and 5 drachmæ are the wide and narrow spacing.

It is possible to get the following sets of these stamps.

1. Wide spacing, normal, 30, 40 and 50 lep., 3 and 5 dr.
2. Wide spacing, wide O, 30, 40 and 50 lep.
3. Narrow spacing, normal, 30, 40 and 50 lep., 1 and 2 dr.
4. Narrow spacing, wide O, 30, 40 and 50 lep.
5. Error AEMTA 30, 40 and 50 lep.

This list is doubled by the fact that all the stamps occur both imperforate and perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$, while the more thorough collector could complete a set or sets in perforated pairs or blocks, imperf. between either vertically or horizontally—curiosities which are by no means uncommon.

Other varieties, such as inverted or double surcharges are as follows:—

Double Surcharge.

30 lep. on 40 lep.
40 " 20 "
50 " 40 "
5 dr. on 40 "

Inverted Surcharge.

30 lep. on 40 lep.
40 " 2 "

In addition to these, which were undoubtedly issued, there are some exceeding scarce errors which are not known used, and which were no doubt found on proof-sheets and at once corrected. Among such varieties are the following:—

- 40 lep. on 2 lep. T of AEMTA inverted.
04 in place of 40. 40 inverted.
3 dr. on 10 lep. Overprint indigo. And many others.

I will now turn to the stamps on which the surcharges were printed. Considering the large numbers which were issued it is somewhat astonishing that a greater variety of shades and printings were not used.

The 40 lepta which was converted into 30 lepta was the mauve stamp of 1882, on cream paper without figures at back. This is found in both the light and dark shades.

The 2 lepta overprinted 40 lep., was mostly

of printing M, but also exists in printing H. Dr. Socolis once told me that of the latter only two sheets were printed and that these went to the post office at Lefkas. I believe Dr. Socolis procured the major portion of these 300 stamps, and was offering them, in 1901, at 20/- each.

The 40 lepta overprinted 50 lep. was the rosy-buff stamp of 1876 with figures at back, printing P, but it also occurs, though very rarely, on the pale shade, printing Q.

The 10 lepta overprinted 3 dr. belonged to the 1881 to '86 period, on cream paper without figures at back. Printings U and V are almost equally common in this.

The 40 lepta overprinted 5 dr. was a much earlier stamp, generally printings K and L, on thin transparent paper with figures at back.

Many forgeries of these overprints exist and the greatest care should be exercised in purchasing the rarer surcharges, especially the inverted ones.

THE A. M. SURCHARGES.

At about the same time, either late in October or early in November, 1900, appeared a special set of stamps bearing, in addition to the surcharge of the value, the letters A.M., which stand for two Greek words AXIA METAAIKI signifying "value in gold." Owing to the considerable depreciation at that date of the Greek coinage the Government had already been forced, since the 1st Jan., 1893, to sell the 25 lepta stamps (which were used for simple letters going abroad) at 30 lepta each, in order to recoup itself against loss in settling its accounts with foreign countries. The A.M. stamps were at first only intended to be used on parcels going abroad, and were sold only for gold or its equivalent in paper money at the current rate of exchange. Greek merchants found that it was cheaper to buy the new A. M. 25 lepta for gold than to pay 30 lepta each for the ordinary 25 lepta stamps, and they were allowed by the Government to use them on their foreign letters.

The stamps issued bore surcharges in the same type as before, the only difference being the addition above, of the letters A.M. For the two lower values the 40 and 25 lepta stamps of type 2, Belgian print were used. For the 1 dr. the 40 lepta of the first type was employed. These were all of printing M on thin transparent paper with figures at the back. For the 2 dr. the 5 lep. green on cream without figures at the back (1881-86) was used, Printing Y.

All these stamps were issued both perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ and imperf.

Early in 1901 the Olympic Games stamps were pressed into service and overprinted A.M. and new values. The type of the surcharges was the same as before, though the spacing was different, and they were all printed in red. The set was as follows:—

- 5 lep. on 1 dr., blue.
 25 „ on 40 lep., pale violet.
 50 „ on 2 dr., bistre.
 1 dr. on 5 dr., green.
 2 dr. on 10 dr., brown.

The only type error of any importance in this set occurs on the 1 dr., there being one stamp on each sheet in which the third letter of the word is Δ instead of A.

There are numerous minor varieties of type, due to misplaced letters and so on, especially on the 5 lep., but there is nothing of any importance.

The 5 and 25 lep. are known with double surcharge, and there is a very curious error on the 40 lep. which is sometimes found over-printed 50 lepta in black and 25 lepta in red.

Another variety of the 25 lepta on 40 lep.; which is only known unused, is doubtless an essay. In this the numerals are entirely different in shape; the top of the 2 finishes in a ball and the flag of the 5 is deeply curved and is thick at the end. There are also differences in the letters A.M. and the word.

(To be continued).



February, 1913, Report.

List of Officers and Committee, 1912-13.

Hon. President: H. R. OLDFIELD.

Hon. Vice-Presidents:

W. DORNING BRICKTON. H. L. HAYMAN.
 MAJOR J. DE C. LAFFAN. DR. E. F. MARY, M.A.

President: J. C. SIDEBOTHAM.

Vice-Presidents:

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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, Wallbrook, 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 MEMBER.

Emil Widler, Shanghai, China.

NOTICES.

The fifth meeting of the season was held at Essex Hall, on Thursday, 13th inst. Present: J. C. Sidebotham (chair), W. Schwabacher, L. W. Fulcher, Guy Semple, A. B. Kay, J. B. Seymour, J. E. Joselin, J. Wagenhauser, W. S. King, Wilmot Corfield, H. A. Tanner, J. W. Jones (visitor), and the Hon. Sec.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the President referred in feeling terms to the great loss to Philately by the death of the Earl of Crawford, and it was moved by Mr. Joselin, seconded by Mr. King, and carried unanimously, that a sincere vote of sympathy and condolence with the Royal Philatelic Society in the loss of their President be passed, and the Hon. Sec. be instructed to forward the same.

The question of appointing three delegates to the Edinburgh Congress was postponed to the next meeting.

Mr. L. W. Fulcher then gave a display of his very complete and highly specialised collection of the Stamps of the Roman States, including many complete sheets of the originals and also the various reprints. A short paper preceded the display which was written up and arranged in Mr. Fulcher's usual well-known painstaking manner.

A hearty vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. Joselin, seconded by Mr. Seymour, and supported by the President, concluded a pleasant evening.

The next meeting will be held at Essex Hall, on Thursday, March 13th, at 7.30 p.m., when a display, "Generalia," will be given by Mr. Wilmot Corfield. All members and any visitors, welcome.

EXCHANGE SECTION.

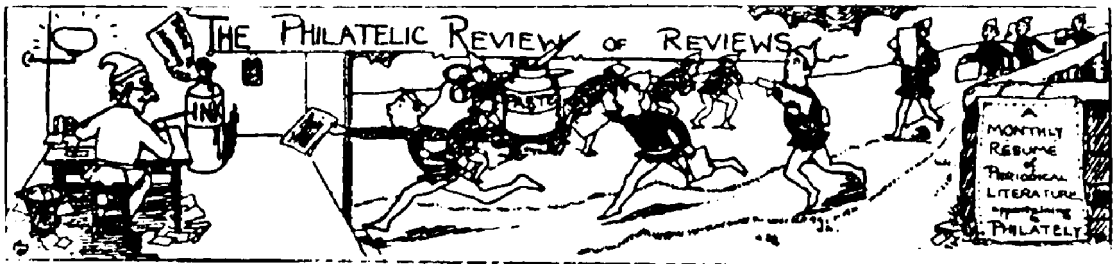
The Exchange Superintendent (Mr. Joselin) again reminds members that sheets should reach him by the 10th of each month, as failure to do this seriously delays sending out the packets.

The Hon. Sec. acknowledges with thanks further donations to the Forgery Collection from the President and Mr. Schwarte, and hopes other members will follow their example. Will also be glad to receive and acknowledge any nominations for Membership and Subscriptions due on January 1st last.

THOS. H. HINTON,

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

February 16th, 1913.



FEBRUARY 20, 1913.

Philately at Home.

THE principal item in the January number of the *Monthly Journal* is the first instalment of Monsieur Hancianu's article entitled, "Uruguay Early Issues 1856-1877." This writer always makes his articles of interest to general collectors, so we need not apologise—unless it be to the publishers of the *M.J.* for the length of the following extract:—

It was not until July, 1859, that a very necessary reorganization of the Post Office was begun. Before that period the service of conveyance of correspondence in the interior of the country was done by contract. We find that in 1856 the work was entrusted to Senor A. Lapido under the title of Contractor for Stage Coaches and Mails. He was charged, under agreement, with the conveyance of all the official letters enclosed in leather bags, whilst those handed over to the mail coach office were put in a tin box. Private correspondence was also accepted, but this was a contravention of the postal privileges, and was done with a view to increasing the profits of the undertaking. In his Report, dated February 6th, 1859, published in the form of a pamphlet in 1860, Senor Prudencio Echeverriarza, the Postmaster-General of Uruguay, gives a whole chapter to the subject of the *Diligencias* (Stage Coaches). Unfortunately in spite of this promising title, the more interesting details are wanting. It is true that the Minister (to whom the Report was addressed) and the Postmaster General himself would have known all about this institution; anyhow, this is what was said about it:

"DILIGENCIAS.

"The Postmaster-General, following the practices and customs of other countries older than our young Republic, considers it to be for the public convenience to make regulations for the service of the *Diligencias*, in order to avoid any misunderstanding. He thinks it his duty to do this, whilst respecting, as has been done hitherto even to an exaggerated extent, the right of every person to devote himself to such work as suits him best.

The object of the Stage Coaches is the conveyance from one place to another of people on business; the interest of the masters or proprietors of the coaches not being always in accordance with the convenience and the safety of the travellers, unduly high charges may give rise to inconvenience, and thus it may be necessary for the Government to take steps to obviate this.

"Since the introduction of the Postage Stamps the Stage Coaches have been able to convey letters prepaid, and they are bound, on their arrival at any

place, to give notice to the Post Office in order that notice may be given to the public and that the letters may be delivered to the addressees.

"The following are the observations which I think it necessary to lay before you, with a view to enabling the Department to completely fulfil the great office that has been entrusted to it, and attain to the height to which the Government has raised the Republic.

"Your Excellency very well knows what great progress the State has made in this direction during the past year, and how the labours of the chief Government tend to ensure the future of the Republic, the great increase of business and the general requirements of the present state of affairs necessitating an indispensable increase in the staff of this Department. Its work includes the service of the English mail-boat, the mails for the interior, and the steamers to Buenos Ayres; we have, besides the *Cumilla*, two other Brazilian steamers, and for the interior the *Sycée* gives us an almost daily service: we shall also soon have the steamers of the *Messageries Imperiales* of France and the steamer *Salto*. All this work is carried out at fixed hours, so that it is impossible to provide for it without increasing the number of employes. I think it my duty to make these observations in order that you may understand the increase in the work of the General Post Office Department.

"The reforms which the Chief Government has introduced in all branches of the service have convinced me of the necessity of presenting this Report, and if it receives the approval of Your Excellency, I shall have fully carried out my duty, which was to communicate to you the results of my experience and knowledge.

"Etc., etc., etc.,

(Signed) "PRUDENCIO ECHEVERRIARZA."

We may add, on the authority of Dr. Wonne, that these Stage Coaches (*Diligencias*) were, as elsewhere, big public conveyances, on four wheels, drawn in this case by six horses, arranged in a triangle; three attached to the coach, two in front of these, and the sixth as leader, mounted by a lad as postilion; at the side of the coach rode a man on horseback, to encourage the horses by shouting at them, and when necessary with a whip. On arrival at a Post Office the correspondence was delivered to an official, who immediately read out the addresses, in order that the packets might be delivered to the addressees that were present. It was a beautifully simple method, which was put an end to, however, by a postal notice of May 5th, 1856, which announced that letters would in future be delivered from house to house by employes of the Department specially provided for that service.

The departures of the mails were not particularly regular. Is it otherwise at the present day?

Another valuable contribution to the literature of philately, superbly illustrated, is Mr. H. R. Oldfield's first instalment of

his paper entitled, "Bosnia, The Issues of 1879 to 1900." His article will appeal to those collectors who take the stamps of this country as a subject for research.

A full-of-interest letter from Mr. Tamsen, referring to South African philately, one of Mr. W. T. Elliot's contributions relating to minute flaws to be found on Papuan Stamps, and the usual list of New Issues, Editorial, Notes, etc., complete a capital number of our leading stamp paper.

The following brief extract from Mr. Tamsen's letter will interest those amongst our readers who specialise in recent issues :

At the beginning of this year several values of the current Transvaal King's Head stamps, and also of the Postage Due stamps, ran out of stock : it was then decided to reprint all values from ½d. to £1, and now a large stock is on hand, estimated to last till the middle of next year, when the new stamps of the Union design are expected to be ready for issue. In the meantime the stamps of the other colonies have been more or less used up ; the stock of Orange River Colony was first exhausted, evidently having been the smallest, then followed Natal, and then the Cape. Nowadays one very seldom sees on commercial or bank correspondence any other than Transvaal stamps. On private correspondence now and then an odd value of the stamps of one of the three colonies is seen, but speaking generally all are obsolete. There is still a small stock of some of the values of the stamps of the various colonies on hand in the Stamp Office in Cape Town, an office specially created to supply collectors and dealers, and all orders received in the Union are executed from there.

In the January number of the *Philatelic Record* we find, instead of an editorial, an excellent philatelic review of the past year. This deals principally with the articles which have appeared in the philatelic press during the past twelve months.

Another contribution of note is the first instalment of Mr. B. T. K. Smith's article dealing with the stamps of Antigua ; this, as far as it goes is mostly in the nature of a compilation. It has happened several times lately that our contemporary's most interesting pages have been those devoted to "Notes and News" again we rely on these pages for the following extract relating to the Perkins, Bacon printed stamps of St. Vincent.

Exhibiting the stamps of this country before a recent meeting of the Manchester Society, Mr. J. J. Darlow said :—

The first issue of stamps for St. Vincent proper was in May 1861, and consisted of two values, 1d. rose-red and 6d. yellow green, engraved and printed in taille-douce by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., in sheets of 60 (six horizontal rows of ten). The head of Queen Victoria was engraved by Mr. Jeens, in the employ of Messrs. Perkins Bacon, from a drawing by F. H. Corbould, and the background was the one used by Humphreys for the 1d., 2d. and 3d. of New South

Wales, 1856. The paper was white to greyish wove, unwatermarked, and being hand-made varies greatly in thickness ; yellowish gum, perforation gauging 14 to 15½, fairly clean-cut in the earlier sheets, and ranging to very rough-cut in the later ones. All the catalogues give the first perforation as clean-cut, but no such thing as an absolutely clean-cut perforated 1d. or 6d. of the first issue is known.

The first consignment consisted of 167 sheets (10,020 stamps) of the 6d. value, in yellow-green, and 934 sheets (56,040 stamps) of the 1d. rose-red. This was the only printing of the 6d. yellow-green, the colour being changed in July 1862, to blue-green. Both values exist imperforate or vertically imperforate. Sometime between 1863 and 1866 a new guillotine machine gauging 11 to 12½ was used ; it is worthy of note that this is the identical machine which was on view at the Caxton Hall Exhibition of 1908, and it does not appear to have been either repaired or altered since its first use. The 1d. is also found perforated, compound of the two machines 11 to 12½ x 14 to 15½ and is rare. Copies of the 6d., which differ in shade from the former 6d., are also known imperforate. The 1s. grey, perforated 11-12½ is extremely rare, only three used copies being known, and very few unused ; of these latter Mr. Yardley exhibited a mint block of four at the Royal Society's meeting on April 18th, 1907.

The star watermark was introduced in June 1871, and used until December 1881. The stars known as the "small star" were six-rayed, 240 to the sheet, so that when printed in correct register one star fell exactly on the centre of each stamp.

Fifteen sheets (900 stamps) of the March 1875 consignment remaining on hand, they were utilised locally, each stamp being overprinted twice in red with the figure 1 and letter d, and perforated vertically down the centre, gauging an exact 12. This provisional was in use less than one month, no supplies were sold to dealers, and the remainders were destroyed on the arrival of a new supply of 1d. stamps.

The 5s., issued in June, 1880, was a very handsome stamp. The plate contained 20 stamps in four horizontal rows of five, and the paper being the same watermark as the other values, parts of more than one star fell on each stamp. Only one printing of 2,000 was made, and of these 1,200 were eventually overprinted "REVENUE," leaving only a possible 800 for postal use. The 6d. yellow-green, of June 1880, was divided vertically by a perforation gauging 12, as in the former provisionals, and each half surcharged ½d. in red, and issued in September. Twelve sheets (720 stamps) were overprinted, making in all 1,400 surcharges, most of which both used and unused have been saved for philatelic purposes. One surcharge on the right half of the stamp is found on each sheet without the fraction bar, and one surcharge, also on the right half, having the figure 1 with a straight instead of a sloping serif.

The supply of 4d. stamps running short in November 1881, twenty-one sheets of the current 1s. vermilion were locally overprinted 4d., the original values being cancelled by two thick bars all in black ; often these bars being printed very heavily were submerged into one. This has always been an exceedingly scarce stamp and has been freely imitated by the forger. The month following saw yet another provisional, twenty-seven sheets of the bright yellow-green then current being overprinted One Penny in words, and the original value cancelled by bars, all in black.

The *Record* also contains its usual Auction Report, Bibliography, New Issues, etc. ; all useful features, but deadly monotonous.

The January number of the *London Philatelist* contains the first instalment of Mr. E. D. Bacon's description of the

Earl of Crawford's collection of the 1895, Plate impressions of U.S.A. stamps on cardboard, also a good editorial entitled, "Continental Catalogues and Critics," wherein Mr. Castle mentions that an influential body of German philatelists has undertaken to publish a catalogue of stamps which can safely be relied upon by German collectors.

A great flutter in the philatelic dovescotes of Germany has been created by the last edition of Messrs. Senf's catalogue for 1913 (elsewhere referred to). Almost every journal and many societies have expressed their strong disagreement with many of the prices affixed by the Leipzig firm notably in the case of old German issues and European stamps generally. We have good reason to believe that this dissatisfaction is well founded, and that Messrs. Senf cannot buy or sell a large number of the stamps at the prices listed in their catalogue. The feeling of dissatisfaction has now culminated in a decision to counteract these fallacious pricings by the issue of an authoritative Standard Catalogue. We learn that a very influential society has been formed, comprising the leading German dealers and others, and that to this body will be handed over Messrs. Paul Kohl's Normal Catalogue with all rights, including the interest therein of the Dresden International Philatelic Society. The Associated Society of Dealers will issue the new Standard Catalogue, taking every precaution that its quotations shall be fair, impartial, and unswayed by any private interest. Five of the most competent judges in Germany are to be entrusted with the final revision, and no pains or expense are to be spared to make the quotations reliable and honest records of prices. It is interesting to learn that special quotations will be made for stamps on entire as regards German issues, and other innovations are forthcoming. It is obviously impossible to give the market prices of all stamps in every quarter of the globe, and this will be held to be beyond the legitimate functions of the new Society of Dealers. It can, however, clearly define the true value in Germany of all the principal stamps of the European and other countries that habitually change hands—further than that cannot be expected, nor is it to be desired. We cordially wish success to this new movement, which should be fraught with great benefit to German Philately.

Other features of the Royal Society's publication, are a very excellent list of New Issues, a lengthy budget of Occasional Notes, and some Reviews.

The February number of the *Monthly Report* is full of good articles; we find a short paper entitled, "The London District Post" contributed by Mr. W. V. Morton, the first instalment of Mr. W. A. V. Neill's "Notes on British Levant, 1911-1912," a continuation of Mr. Reichenheim's translation of "The Post in Times of War," the first portion of Mr. G. B. Bainbridge's notes dealing with the "Triangular Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope," the usual budget of readable "Philatelic Crumbs" and other matter. From Mr. Bainbridge's paper we extract the following:—

I cannot quite agree with Mr. Castle in thinking that the 1d. was engraved first. I would rather suggest that as the order was urgent when given to Messrs. Solomon, they employed two engravers, the better artist certainly being the engraver who executed the fourpenny value. These differences are pointed out in Mr. Castle's excellent article contained in the July number of the *L.P.* for the year 1907. This is, I think, the most likely, as the 4d. and 1d. were issued, according to Mr. George's article, on Feb. 23rd and 27th respectively.

I would also suggest that the present reprints may be a collection of the best stereotypes that could be found when the request was made by the members of the Postal Union for specimens of the Triangulars in 1883, the plate of the Perkins Bacon issue having been destroyed in 1865.

The discovery in the Customs House of the missing delivery from Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., and the distribution on April 19th, 1861, of 96,000 of each value of the English production, put a stop to the local effort, the last official delivery of the provisionals being on April 12th, 1861. The original plates from which Perkins, Bacon & Co. had printed all the Triangulars were handed to Messrs. De la Rue on Jan. 26th, 1863, who continued to print and deliver as required by the Cape Authorities.

The study of the engraved series is described in an article I read as "remarkably simple," and so far as the 1d., 6d. and 1s. values are concerned I agree, the colour in the majority of cases being sufficient to enable one to divide the P.B. and De la Rue issues, but I am of opinion that as yet there is no clearly defined line of demarcation in the 4d. value, and the colours and printings are very confusing. I have repeatedly found mistakes in selections submitted by the leading dealers. I have written a number of experts, past and present, on Triangulars, and I have got no further light upon the subject, and although my collection has passed through the hands of several experts you may possibly find a difference of opinion as to the placing of some of the specimens.

The first issue of the 1d. and 4d. engraved Triangular was for sale on Sept. 1st, 1853, the 4d. being for $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. local letter post, and the 1d. for newspaper post. It was on white paper watermarked by an anchor, the chemical action of the ink having the effect of the blueing of the paper, which are described in most of the catalogues as on blue paper. In my collection you will see the blueing in a variety of shades, from strong to slightly tinted stamps, some showing the cameo or ivory head appearance of our early penny English stamps. There is also a distinct printing on a white porous paper, showing the printing through the stamp.

I notice Mr. Castle speaks of the first issue as dull blue. I have, I think, evidence in the form of two blocks of fourpenny on original envelopes proving that light—almost sky blue—was at any rate in circulation on Sept. 16th, 1853, a few days after the first stamps were placed on sale in Cape Colony.

The record official notice states that the 6d. and 1s. values were on sale on Feb. 19th, 1858, the 6d. postage being for 3oz. to England, and the 1s. for Foreign Countries.

The 1d. post was introduced in 1864 between a few adjacent towns, but it was not until 1889, or 50 years later than Great Britain, that it became uniform in the Colony.

I have included in my collection a pair of what I believe to be the earliest proof of the 1d. in Black and White, of which I have made an enlargement, and comparing enlargements of subsequent issues with this there is clearly shown a great depreciation of the plate. This is the more noticeable in the 6d. and 1s. values, curiously the two values of which the smallest number were printed, and it is a remarkable fact that the late issue of the brown-red penny De la Rue 1864 printing retains nearly all the detail of the 1853 issue.

This is very noticeable in the block of four dated 1865 in the collection of my Triangulars on originals.

I have submitted other enlargements showing the same value in different conditions of the plate where the depreciation is distinctly interesting. I would point out the great difference is in the top corner ornaments, and in the engine turning between the words Postage Value and the outer edge, but I have not as yet been able, as I before stated, to find a dividing line between the P. B. and De la Rue issue.

We know some Triangulars were printed on the C.C. wmkd. paper by Messrs. De la Rue, who used this watermark for the first rectangular issue. They doubtless found the C.C. wmk. unsuitable, and continued printing the Triangulars on the same watermarked paper as Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. with the Anchor wmk.

Does not the fact that my Brown Red C.C. stamp bears the mark "specimen" rather contradict the suggestion that it was a printer's error?

The January number of the *Stamp Lover* is, with the exception of some random reminiscences of a philatelic veteran, and a very excellent list of new issues, almost entirely devoted to tiring accounts of what various collectors and dealers think of the "Ideal" label which the Juniors issued at the recent Exhibition. Mr. W. S. Lincoln's reminiscences, as is only to be expected from the well known doyen of the stamp trade, are full of interest. The following extract will, we feel sure, be much appreciated by our readers:—

When quite a lad, I was staying at Lille, and one day crossed over to a little town in Belgium. My pocket money was small, but to the surprise of my companions I invested in a whole franc worth of 1 centime Belgium stamps (portrait of Leopold). I can remember it now. It was a fine dark green colour, of course, imperforate. Fancy! a whole sheet of one hundred: alas! the cruel scissors severed them and they were distributed among my friends. Could they be restored, would anyone give me £20 for my one franc venture?

Of Ionian Island stamps, I imported a great quantity, and sold them at 1s. the set of three, my old advertisement shows me that. I tried to push this line very much. When I took the premises at High Holborn there were two ugly iron pillars, one in each window. These I covered with Ionian Island stamps and was often chaffed at my extravagance. However, it turned out all right in the end.

The Holborn house had stood for many years. From its windows its former occupants must have watched the great fire of London 1666, and later must have seen the crowd that went through the Old Turnstile and burnt the Sardinia Chapel in Lincoln's Inn Fields; also the burning of the Holborn Distillery and Newgate, so graphically described by Charles Dickens in "Barnaby Rudge."

The house next door was taken down, which rendered my front wall unsafe, so I had to rebuild it, but before taking it down, I had a drawing made of it, which may one time, when Londoners take more interest in their little village, be prized.

The two iron pillars, therefore, were no longer wanted, so I took off the Ionians, which had risen in price since I used them for wall-paper, and blessed the idea which prompted me to put them to that base use.

A curious customer I once had (I expect you will hardly believe me) was a blind man who had a little boy to lead him. He would ask for a certain stamp

and enquire when I found it, if it was a good copy, sometimes also adding, "I have one, but it is a bad specimen." He was a man of good education by the way he spoke, and remembered all the stamps in his collection. Of course, he must have had someone to tell him about them, but why he took so much interest I could not understand.

In the early 'sixties I went to Brussels to see Mr. Moëns. I was in constant correspondence with him, and had sent him many hundreds of francs. I went to the Galerie Bortier especially to see some grand things in the way of stamps; however, he told me that he kept very little stock there, if I would call the next morning he would have great pleasure taking me round Brussels. This promise he kept. He was a good walker and so was I; at that time there were no tramways. He showed me more of the interesting things in Brussels than I have ever seen since, in fact, it was a fortnight's sight-seeing condensed in one day, but the principal object of my visit, to see his stamps, he quite ignored.

Griebert's Philatelic Notes and Offers for January contains a brief continuation of its description of the exhibits at the recent London Exhibition, and a capable article, contributed by "Sphinx" dealing with the first issue of Egypt. "Sphinx" is not of the school of philatelists which takes things for granted, and copies other people's opinions, as the following extract will prove:—

All values, with the exception of the 1 piastre, were printed on white paper watermarked with a pyramid surmounted by a star. The 1 piast. is on unwatermarked paper of a surfaced nature. The perforation measures 13. All stamps were overprinted with a black Turkish inscription ["Egyptian postage stamp, Egypt"—and value].

Here I come to the first important question: What was the method of production of these stamps? Moëns tells us that "the stamps were lithographed, and the overprinting typographed." From other sources we learn that both stamps and overprints are lithographically produced!

So far I have never seen any challenge to either of these statements in the press, they have always been allowed to stand for what they are worth. I do not, at present, wish to flatly contradict either of the above two propositions, but I must say that a careful study of the seven values, gives one the impression that the 1 piast. is produced by a different process to the other six values.

My own opinion is that all values (except the 1 piast.) are lithographed—that the 1 piast. is typographed, and that the overprints are lithographically applied, except in two cases where they are typographically applied—in other words, that the seven values should be listed as under:—

5 paras,	lithographed—overprint lithographically applied.
10 paras	" " " "
20 paras	" " " "
1 piastre, typographed	" typographically "
2 piastres, lithographed	" " " "
5 piastres	" lithographically "
10 piastres	" " " "

From the above it will be seen that I maintain that the overprints on the 1 and 2 piast. are typographically applied. That the overprint upon the 1 piast. is typographed is true, without a doubt, as every specimen shows—almost without exception—the signs of typography. The 2 piast. is not always so clear; but, nevertheless, clear enough upon numerous specimens to endorse the theory put forward.

I have had an immense amount of correspondence

from some of the leading experts in the philatelic world upon the subject of the production of this issue, and the many contradictory ideas expressed, have made the task none too easy, especially as many of the collectors who were kind enough to give me their opinions, are thoroughly at variance with one another. However, in spite of all opinions expressed, I believe that the classification as given above is correct, and in my assumption I am supported by the well-known Italian expert, Dr. Emilio Diena.

We trust that "Sphinx" will continue his article on early Egyptian stamps in future numbers of our contemporary.

The principal items in the January *West-End Philatelist* are a short editorial, which we take the liberty of reproducing and a further instalment of Mr. Séfi's article dealing with the "Stamps of Malta." Mr. Séfi writes about the farthing stamp of 1901, and largely supplements his paper by a lengthy extract from a recent number of the *Monthly Journal* :—

A strong indication of the great interest now taken in stamps is the crop of Exhibitions which is coming up in different parts of the world. A few months back we had the Jubilee Exhibition, the medals from which have just been distributed. Our philatelic fare for the coming year includes important Exhibitions in Paris and in New York. Paris comes first, in the late spring, but almost at the same time another Exhibition will be held, in South Africa. The Edinburgh Congress will also include a display of stamps in the programme, but it will not be competitive. Though the spirit which produces Exhibitions is a very laudable one, it is sincerely to be hoped that the philatelists concerned will not let their zeal outrun their discretion. International Competitive Exhibitions are fine institutions, and do the hobby an enormous amount of good but they must not be too frequent. The most ardent devotee of stamp collecting will become tired and apathetic if he is continually receiving demands, upon his purse and his time, from projected Exhibitions in which he is unable to raise any sort of enthusiasm. Let there be plenty of Exhibitions, but let them be self-supporting and more localised, as it certainly appears to us that this constant appeal to a limited group of collectors and dealers is an unfair presumption on their goodwill and generosity. A great International Exhibition is a necessity, but not a yearly one, and it is our opinion that there should be a two or three years' interval between such events, and that such a period be covered by self-supporting local Exhibitions, which would give the small collector a much fairer chance, and tend greatly to raise the standard of the greater exhibitions.

The *Philatelic Circular* for February, contains a further instalment of Mr. H. S. Hodson's article dealing with the different "alphabets" to be found in the corner lettering of the line-engraved Stamps of Great Britain. We also find the usual careful list of Georgian issues, a short interview with Mr. Leon Adutt, Margate's worthy Mayor, Auction, and Market Notes, Reviews, etc.

From Mr. W. B. Edwards' always readable "Market Notes," we extract the following :—

The reader to whom I am indebted for my note in

last month's issue *re* the worries of dealers, tells me that large numbers of stamps for the French Offices abroad, Crete, Egypt, Turkey, &c., have been placed on the London Market, and they are now believed to be very clever forgeries. Many of the dealers, he says, have been landed with them. He also informs me that the Portuguese "Republica" Unpaid have received similar attention, not merely the overprint, but the whole stamp being forged, and postmarked "Lisbon Central."

The news of these forgeries, after the Transvaals mentioned last month, makes one think of the good old days when most stamps of any account were counterfeited. They were crude enough, perhaps, but good enough for the time, now something better is expected and the forger rises to the occasion. This reminds me of the tussle said to be always going on between the chemists interested in a certain Trade (with a capital T), the one side engaged in sophistication, the other in detection, the methods of both continually improving.

The only contribution of note in the January number of the *Stamp Collector* is Mr. H. Ford's paper entitled, "Notes on the Stamps of Persia."

This makes entertaining reading for those who are fond of history and philately combined, as the following extract will prove :—

In the days of Nebuchadnezzar (circa 600, B.C.) the "Post" were in a high state of perfection, and news was carried by swift messengers on horses and camels. We are told that Mordecai the Jew wrote letters in the King's name, sealed them with the King's signet, and despatched them to all parts of the kingdom. The tomb of Mordecai and Esther is still in existence at Hamadan, the Ecbatana of Scripture, and the capital of the Medes. In appearance it is like a large thimble on a square base. This land of antiquity should be a delight to the philatelist, for a study of its stamps, its history and its people, will prove wonderfully fascinating. In the early philatelic days it is true that a great many forged stamps were foisted on the public, but the student can easily distinguish these if he carefully studies the "head of glory" in the rising sun, with a genuine stamp, for although there are many other differences, this particular one is the most striking. The numerous surcharges and overprints, for which the impecunious economic condition of the country has been mostly responsible, has also tended to scare collectors, though this particular feature only adds zest to the ardent specialist, whilst for the general collector the difficulties are by no means insurmountable.

The land of the Lion and the Sun should be one of the most interesting countries in the world from a philatelic standpoint, though the history of its stamps discloses, as regards its first issues, a woeful tale of official incompetence, bribery, corruption, and public ignorance. In such a country, where the word of the Shah is the only known law, and despotic government has reached a low level with the nation's decay, nothing is done without bribery from the highest to the lowest. Indeed, the government of the country is so very unsatisfactory that, in view of its geographical position with regard to India, and the attitude of Russia in the Northern portion, it is not at all unlikely that during the next decade England may be compelled to assume a Protectorate over the southern portion of the kingdom. The philatelist need, therefore, wake up now, if he wishes to secure a collection of this country while prices are comparatively reasonable.

In 1868, Khan Mirza Ali Amine Dauleh, chief secretary to the Shah, and Controller of the so-called Postal Department, proposed that a deputation be

sent to Paris to visit the Minister of Posts, and make arrangements for a service in Persia on European lines. The deputation returned with 16 copper-plate dies, engraved by M. Albert Barre, of Paris, in movable blocks of four, representing four different values, for the purpose of printing the stamps. They also brought some perforated examples or proofs. The latter were printed in various colours on several varieties of paper. These were merely essays, and were never issued for any kind of postal service.

The January 18th and February 1st numbers of the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* both contain the usual complement of philatelic, and non-philatelic articles. Mr. F. S. Chilcott, publishing his paper read before the Liverpool Junior Philatelic Society, gives his readers some sound advice. The following extract could possibly be taken to heart, with good results we hope, by some of our readers:

It would not perhaps be out of place to say just a few words on what should not be placed in an album. Many collectors regard the stamp album as merely a receptacle for stamps, but photographs and illustrations go a long way towards adding interest to a collection; whilst forgeries and genuine stamps mounted side by side are always a source of great interest to one's non-collecting friends.

As regards the actual mounting: if a collector decides to specialise a country or group of countries, he may wish to transfer such a country or countries from his general album, either continuing his general collection in the printed album or disposing of it. In this case not more than eight or ten stamps should be mounted on one page, as, if an artistic appearance is desired, overcrowding must be avoided. Each single specimen, pair, block, or strip should be framed by a line one-eighth of an inch clear from the edge, as this frame serves to show up the stamps remarkably well. Floral and other decorations should be avoided as these tend to distract one's attention from the stamps. If, again, it is decided to transfer an entire general collection to a blank loose-leaf album, it is impracticable to limit one's self to mounting eight to ten stamps to the page, and in this case an average of 15 to 20 stamps per page does not present an unduly crowded appearance. Further, the writing up a collection is the best way of knowing one's stamps, as well as affording interest to others examining one's collection.

In our consideration of these various forms of collecting, however, there is one point which we must not omit to emphasize, and that is, that the collector should not be constantly changing his mind. Some collectors gather foreign stamps one season and colonials the next, after which perhaps the colonials are sold to purchase more foreign varieties. Many collectors, it is said, disposed of their Queen's Head collections, in order to form a King's Head collection a few years ago when the rage for King's Heads was at its height. A collector will never make headway by doing this. "Stick to what you have got, and follow up what you are doing!" is sound advice.

Our contemporary having worked hard at the Unused *v.* Used problem, has now dug up "Uniform Pricing for Exchange Clubs." Mr. W. Nichols who contributes a capital letter, is a strong partisan of the nett method.

Sir Thomas Bowring and Mr. John W. Christie are the Philatelists of To-Day.

Philately in the Colonies and Elsewhere.

Recent numbers of *Everybody's Philatelist* have all contained a good deal of readable matter. In the December copy we find a little article dealing with precancelled stamps, now very popular in the States, from which we should like to make a brief extract:—

The leading article in the October number of *Everybody's Philatelist*, "A Word About Precancels," by W. H. Stouffer, interested me keenly. It was good to see that another precancel enthusiast has volunteered to throw light on his chosen hobby through the philatelic press.

As to the age of the precancel idea, Smith & Duck's "Catalogue of the Precancelled Postage Stamps of the United States," January, 1904, states:

"The first known precancelled stamps were used by Wells, Fargo & Co., in 1851, values as high as ten cents having been overprinted in various designs. The same firm is reported to have also used the two and three cent 1861. In 1867-68, according to Mr. A. L. Jones, James Vick, the seedsman, of Rochester, N.Y., precancelled the two cent black with a circular hand-stamp. Strictly speaking, the Wells, Fargo & Co. stamps were not precancelled, as they were used in a limited number of towns in very small quantities, and not for the purposes for which these stamps are now authorized. As to the use of the two cent black, by James Vick, little can be said because of want of detailed information, but it seems to carry more evidence of legitimacy than does the W. F. & Co. issue.

Mr. Clarence G. Dalton has lately secured the two-cent brown 1869 and one-cent blue 1873 surcharged Jefferson, Ohio. Nothing can be learned as to the history or use of these stamps, but as they originate from a source that precludes possibility of fraud it has been decided to list them, and they will be found described in the body of the catalogue.

To Burlington, Vt., belongs the honour of the longest continuous use of precancellation, so far as known, the earliest stamp conforming not at all to the now-existing government regulations is the one-cent grey-blue, pre-engraved, Scott's No. 206, surcharged for use in that town, the overprint being the same as that on the 1887 and 1890 issues."

Other contributions are of interest, and we congratulate Dr. J. M. Holt (Astoria, Oregon, U.S.A.), on his paper.

The *Australian Philatelist* for December contains a lengthy account of the London Exhibition, and a full and varied budget of notes, mostly dealing with subjects likely to be of interest to collectors "down under." Mr. D. B. Armstrong concludes his article entitled "Australian Stamps Used Abroad." We make the following extract:—

TASMANIA.—A supply of the current 1d. pictorial stamp of Tasmania was carried by the recent Australian Antarctic Expedition, under Dr. Mawson, and was employed in franking a mail despatched from Macquarie Island, the last port of call. The letters were cancelled with a special distinguishing postmark, consisting of a large circular mark inscribed "Loose Ship Letter, Posted at Macquarie Island," at the top,

and "S Y Aurora," at the foot, with the device of a Penguin in the centre.

Tasmanian Stamp Used in Macquarie Island.
1905-09. 1d. rose.

NEW CALEDONIA—Under the terms of a Government decree of March 20th, 1903, a postal service under the direction of an agent of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs of New Caledonia, was inaugurated between Noumea and Port Vila, in the New Hebrides, in accordance with the postal regulations of New Caledonia. French postal agencies were established at Port Vila, on the Island of Efate, and Port Sandwich, on Mallicolo, making use of the regular current postage stamps of New Caledonia, which may be recognised as having been employed there by means of their cancellations. The Commerce and Navigation general French colonial type was at first in use, and afterwards various denominations of the 1905 pictorial series.

New Caledonian stamps without overprint ceased to be employed in the New Hebrides on the opening of the Condominium post office in November, 1908.

New Caledonia Stamps Used in the New Hebrides.

1892.	5 centimes,	pale green.
10	"	rose-red.
15	"	grey.
25	"	blue.
1905.	5	green.
10	"	rose-red.
15	"	bright lilac.
25	"	blue.

In view of the impending issue of special stamps for the Wallis Archipelago, an additional interest attaches to the stamps of New Caledonia, cancelled with the postmark of the sub-post office in this dependency, inscribed "Pl. Francois-Wallis," in a circle with the date in the centre.

The stamps of New Caledonia are also current in the dependencies of the Chesterfield, Fortouna, Loyalty and Pines Islands.

GERMAN NEW GUINEA. It is not generally known that the stamps inscribed, "Deutsch Neu-Guinea," do postal duty also in the adjacent German Australian possessions of the Bismark Archipelago, etc., and were also formerly current in the northern islands of the Solomon group, ceded to Great Britain in 1899.

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS. The newly issued stamps of this protectorate are employed by a post office recently established in the Union Islands, although it is uncertain if a special postmark is in use or not.

This completes the list of Australian stamps used abroad known to the writer, although others doubtless exist which have not come under his notice; it is hoped that the present article may be instrumental in leading to their discovery.

Recent numbers of the *Philatelia Stamp News*, especially those containing instalments of Mr. R. E. R. Dalwigk's, "The Postage Stamps of Egypt," have been full of interest.

Writing about the 1 piastre stamps of the first issue, Mr. Dalwigk says:—

This particular stamp appears to us to be typographed, but perhaps this is inaccurate? The paper is of a much stouter quality than that used for the other values—also it is unwatermarked and very highly surfaced. One thing is certain and that is that this denomination did come from Pellas Bros., of Genoa. The theory has been put forward that this stamp was probably the work of some other firm, an explanation which sounds quite probable, but which— from evidence we possess— is not true.

There are no copies known on watermarked paper, so it is safe to assume that the 1 piastre was printed

unwatermarked from the beginning of its existence. The point is— why did Pellas Brothers adopt different paper for this one stamp, was it that the ordinary "pyramid" paper had run short, at the time of printing, or was the whole thing a kind of experiment?

We are inclined to support our theory that this value is typographed, although the signs of typography are not very apparent in the stamps, owing, presumably, to the thickness of the paper. The proofs, however, show typographical characteristics. If this surmise proves correct, it is possible that the following may be an explanation of the mystery. Presumably the Egyptian Government were not disposed to finance any stamps except lithographs—or perhaps they were only conversant with lithography as a means of producing stamps, so accordingly they commissioned Pellas Bros. to lithograph Issue 1. Pellas Bros., on the other hand, may have suggested that lithography was not attended with the finest results, and so suggested producing one value (the 1 piastre) by another process as a trial.

That the 1 piastre is altogether clearer and finer than the other stamps is at once proved by comparison. The surfaced paper undoubtedly adds clearness, but it could scarcely account for the striking improvement.

Mr. John N. Luff, in an article on Egypt, describes all the values of Issue 1, as typographed. From a close examination of the set, there do not appear to be any signs to support this statement. Even the proofs we have seen (rather a considerable quantity) do not show any signs of typography, except of course the 1 piastre.

As has already been stated the overprint on this value (1 piastre) appears to be typographed, as is also the case on the 2 pastres stamps. There does not seem to be any explanation why the overprint is typographed instead of lithographed as on the remainder of the set. The signs of typographical overprint are not always obvious on the stamps, but the proofs are a conclusive argument.

It is curious that Mr. Dalwigk's views should so exactly coincide with those held by "Sphinx" who also writes on Egyptian stamps in the January number of *Griberl's Notes*. Perhaps "Sphinx" is Mr. Dalwigk's *non de plume*, in which case the milk in the cocoa-nut is accounted for, if, however, "Sphinx" is an independent writer, as we think him to be, it is a very odd coincidence that two students should practically simultaneously publish the same views.

The *Philatelic Journal of India* for January, shows a distinct improvement over recent numbers, while we also notice a change of printers, and a thinner and more suitable make of paper.

Our worthy contemporary contains quite a number of valuable contributions—notably a short note dealing with the 1872 issue of Mexico, by Mr. T. W. Wilson, and a lengthy, and exceedingly interesting article, from the pen of Mr. J. Godinho in which he points out the advantages that the stamps of the Native Feudatory States possess. The following extract may perhaps incline some of our readers

to the study of these much neglected issues:—

Surely, there are hardly any stamp issuing countries which can rival these Native States in certain aspects. For general poverty of design, of colour and of paper, and for rudeness in perforation, and these are all points of interest, they are unapproachable. They have not been called into existence to feed the philatelic market. Trained artists who marvellously blend colour and portrait on a tiny piece of paper, and great firms of world-wide repute for their skill in engraving, were not summoned to assist in their creation. They have been manufactured locally by crude artists to meet a purely postal need, and not as a philatelic speculation.

In taking a brief chronological survey of the stamps of the Feudatory States, we notice, that an obscure State, *Soruth*, lying on the confines of Kathiawar and Gujrat, was the first to issue postage stamps. Its philatelic existence dates from 1864. It has issued but seven distinct types in forty-eight years, and, throughout this long period, the set has been confined to two values only, the one anna and four annas. It has not issued a single provisional. It refuses to depart from its simple oblong design. Where is the country in Europe, in America, or even in the Far East, which presents such a high standard of philatelic virtue?

In 1866, both Jammu and Kashmir adopted the use of postage stamps. In twenty-eight years, they were content with nineteen different types. Again there is not a single provisional. Kashmir has a population of 3,000,000. So it is much to the credit of those who supervised the postal administration of the State that they were prepared for every sudden public demand.

It was in 1868 that the first stamp was issued in Bhopal, and during 44 years, it has had but 20 types of stamps, all regular, and without a single provisional. As a stamp issuing country, it has been singularly conservative. Old plates have been re-engraved, and re-touched till wear and tear have rendered them useless. Bhopal is administered by a Royal lady, called the Begum. Yet, with a woman at the head of affairs, there is an absolute absence of caprice, innovation and novelty. Another Muhammadan State next claims our attention. It was in 1869 that the Nizam put in circulation postage stamps in Hyderabad, Deccan. Hyderabad has had only six types in *forty-three* years. Among the Feudatory States, it was the first to issue a provisional. This occurred in 1900. The postage for certain classes of matter having been reduced, a stamp of $\frac{1}{2}$ anna was required. Pending the preparation of the new die by the local engraver, Abdul Ghany, a surcharge was imprinted on the $\frac{1}{2}$ anna vermilion; but so ample was the supply, that to-day, after a lapse of 14 years, it can be bought for 2d. abroad, and for $\frac{1}{2}$ anna in India. There is not the slightest taint of speculation in respect of this provisional. The population of the State exceeds 11 millions. In 1874, the Sikh State Jhind sought admission to the catalogue of stamps. For eleven years it had a postal existence of its own, represented by eleven types and no provisional.

The chiefs of Alwar and Nowanuggar introduced the use of postage stamps in their respec-

tive States in the same year, viz., 1877. Alwar can boast of the remarkable record of only one type in a quarter of a century. Nowanuggar produced four types in eighteen years. In both cases, the stamps issued were restricted to the lowest values.

Three Native States, Bhor, Faridkot and Sirmoor, began their philatelic existence in 1879. The exemplary State of Bhor has issued only three labels in thirty-three years. Its ideals of rectitude are so austere that it declines to sell stamps unless satisfied that they are required for postal use. This will explain why used and, notably unused, stamps of the Bhor State, especially of the latest portrait type, are so scarce in the market. This State has for so long persisted in this healthy policy of discouraging collectors and dealers, that some of our litterateurs have tentatively raised the query: "Are the so-called labels of Bhor postage stamps or not?"

Mr. Godinho touches lightly on the postal history of the remaining States and, in conclusion says:

We see these obscure Feudatory States of India, backward in general progress and civilization, leading a blameless existence from a philatelic point of view. They languish in obscurity and neglect, whilst collectors and dealers compete in a wild race for the stamps of countries which have wantonly violated the highest canons of philately.

The December number of the *Australian Stamp Journal* contains several capital articles, a plentiful budget of items of interest, an account of the London Exhibition, list of New Issues, etc., etc.

Under the heading "Good Stamps to Buy" we find a very readable contribution dealing with the stamps of the South Pacific Islands, the following extract shews the trend of thought displayed by our contemporary:—

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS.

So much has been said about the stamps of this protectorate since they were first issued only 18 months ago, that our readers scarcely require to be told anything more about them. It is a singular fact that while sets of the provisionals from 2d. to 1s. are to be had at fairly moderate prices, the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. values are much scarcer in proportion (quoted at 18s. the two in London). One reason is that the lower values were legitimately used more freely, and were absorbed; another reason is that the quantity supplied did not make provision for these stamps being used more largely than the higher denominations; a further reason is that speculators have probably bought up quantities of them with the idea of selling at a profit some day, for it can be seen at a glance that 120 of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps would cost only 5s. face value, whereas 120 of the 1s. would cost £6. There has been a good deal of gambling in connection with these stamps, and it is somewhat difficult to advise our readers what to do in regard to them. We would not advise them to put all their eggs in one basket, or, in other words, we would not advise our readers to put

all their available cash into the purchase of Gilbert and Ellice Island provisionals.

As to the Pandanus tree stamps, although the ½d. value is now obsolete (none are obtainable at Ocean Island), large quantities of these were put into circulation, and many speculators, endeavoring to profit by the demand for ½d. and 1d. stamps of the provisional issue, have taken "Time" by the forelock and laid in good stocks of the "Pandanus Pines," so that, in our opinion, it will be many a long day before they increase in value very much. The 1d., 2d., and 2½d. denominations are still obtainable at the Post Office.

We also venture to make an extract from the page devoted to "Commonwealth News":—

At the time our last month's number was issued the West Australian 1d. on 2d. stamps were actually on sale. These were seen by our Mr. Smyth when on his visit to the Commonwealth Stamp Printing Department on 31st Oct., but he was not permitted to publish the fact.

He saw a large stack of sheets of these stamps, but Mr. A. L. Johnston, of Perth, wrote us on the 18th ult. to the effect that the stock on sale at the G.P.O. was exhausted in three days. It was anticipated then that further supplies would come to hand, but up to the time of going to press we had not heard anything further regarding them.

Nor have we heard anything further regarding the South Australian 1d. on 2d. stamps. The fact remains that up to 9/12/12 we have not received any intimation that these stamps have been placed on sale, and as only three weeks will elapse until the Commonwealth series is available, it seems hardly probable now that they will be put on sale at all.

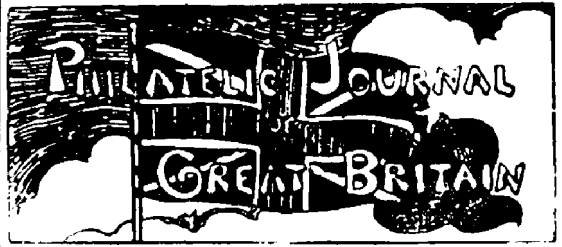
It is rumoured that the postal authorities have decided to use up the State postage stamps after 1st January for prepayment of telegrams. It is to be hoped this will be confirmed or that the stamps will be withdrawn immediately from sale and destroyed. This would prevent philatelic complications.

The fear expressed in many quarters that the introduction of 1d. postage would have a disastrous effect on the Revenue of the Post Office is dispelled in no uncertain manner. Month after month the receipts continue to increase.

New York Exhibition News.

THE prospectus of the 1913 Exhibition is now ready for distribution. The Secretary, Mr. John A. Klemann, 179, Broadway, New York, will be pleased to send copies to any applicant.

The *Philatelic Gazette* and the New England Stamp Company have both donated cups to be competed for. The Oesterreichischer Briefmarken Haendler Verein has donated a gold medal and the Ober Elsaessischer Philatelisten Club, a silver gilt medal for the same purpose.



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